MEDIA RELEASE

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Bailieu’s closing down sale – TAFEs going, going, gone

Tony Abbott is backing the Victorian Liberal State Government’s secret plan to rip the heart out of the Victorian TAFE system, which has been exposed by the embarrassing leak of a cabinet-in-confidence document.

The leaked document reveals the Victorian Government is planning to sell-off Bendigo's Castlemaine campus, Central Gippsland Yallourn site, Kangan's Moreland campus and NMIT's Ararat campus.

Minister for Skills, Senator Chris Evans, said the truth about the Liberal State Government's $300 million cuts to Victorian TAFEs had been exposed.

"The State Liberal Government’s fire sale of campuses is the inevitable consequence of the Premier Baillieu Government's cuts to TAFE," he said.

"We now have three Liberal State Premiers slashing funding to our training system - all with Tony Abbott's blessing.

"Tony Abbott is standing firmly behind the Liberal Premiers who are systematically destroying our world-class training system."

Senator Evans said Tony Abbott must withdraw his support for Premier Baillieu’s cuts and demand that he reverse his decision.

"While the Gillard Government is making a record $9 billion investment in the nation’s training system, Tony Abbott and his Liberal colleagues are in the middle of the closing down sale of the century," Senator Evans said.

"This fire sale will see students miss out on going to TAFE and see employers unable to access the skilled workers they need.

"TAFEs are valuable education assets that sit at the heart of our regional communities. The Liberal Premiers are closing facilities that for many communities are the only places local people can get a vocational education or learn a trade.

"At the very time we need to grow Australia’s skill base, Tony Abbott is supporting policies that will reduce training opportunities for Victorians, especially those living in regional areas.

"The only two people who think these cuts are a good idea are Premier Baillieu and Tony Abbott."

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