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## **FOR MEDIA**

### **TAFE Directors Welcome ALP Commitment on Additional Training Places**

TAFE Directors Australia welcomed the announcement today that if elected the ALP will provide an extra 36,000 TAFE and training places by 2009.

The Chair of TAFE Directors Australia, Gillian Shadwick, said that “It is very encouraging to see the recognition of the crucial role played by TAFE in training Australians to meet the country’s skills needs. Producing highly skilled people is vital for Australia’s future. Additional places are urgently needed in TAFE if the current and future demand for training is to be met.

Industry groups and others have pointed to the severity and extent of the skills shortage problem being experienced in many industries. Proper provision also needs to be made for the future training needs of other industries right across the economy.

Australia needs a well designed, comprehensive strategy if the challenges involved in meeting our future skill needs are to be met. Strengthening TAFE, including through the provision of additional places, will be central to that. Investing in national skills development should be one of our highest national priorities.”

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