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MEDIA RELEASE

TDA WELCOMES ALP COMMITMENT TO FUND 20,000 ADDITIONAL TAFE PLACES

TAFE Directors Australia today welcomed the joint announcement by the Leader of the Opposition, Simon Crean, the Deputy Leader, Jenny Macklin, and the Shadow Minister for Employment Services and Training Anthony Albanese, that a Labor Government would fund 20,000 new TAFE places.

TDA's Chair, Gillian Shadwick, said that "the ALP announcement is a very welcome recognition of the critically important role played by TAFE in developing the nation's skill base and providing Australians with employability skills."

"Lifting our skill levels is vital to Australia's future. Australia's skill levels need to be equal to the world's best if we are to support innovative world class industries, provide jobs for our people and achieve the standard of living to which we aspire.

"Australia will not be able to meet this challenge unless the TAFE sector is adequately resourced. Currently there are significant skill shortages. Yet there are just not enough TAFE places to meet demand.

"It is very pleasing to see that Labor is committing itself to fund much needed additional places. While the commitment only goes some way to meeting expected future demand and while other additional funding is desperately needed to strengthen and improve our vocational education and training system, the announcement is most encouraging".

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