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MEDIA RELEASE

FEDERAL LABOR TO CONVENE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ROUNDTABLE

Federal Labor's Social Policy Review will turn its focus to youth unemployment following the release of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's report 'Investing in Our Future – Getting our young people into jobs'.

Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Brendan O'Connor, said the Brotherhood's report highlights the increasing issue of youth unemployment since the Global Financial Crisis, and the need to do something about it.

"As the Brotherhood report indicates, there are now more than a quarter of a million young Australians aged 15-24 who cannot find work. More than 50,000 have been unemployed for more than a year" said Mr O'Connor.

"In spite of this, the Federal Government has no plan for jobs, and no plan to help young people get work. Their only plan for young people is to cut them off benefits completely.

"Labor believes we need to respond to the issue of youth unemployment by investing in young people, not cutting them off welfare. That is why we are going to bring together Australia's best minds to think through the best policies to support young people into work."

