

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue button-down work shirt, is smiling warmly at the camera. He is leaning over a red metal workbench. On the workbench, there are various items including a black container with a white lid, a stack of papers, and some tools. The background is a blurred industrial setting with warm lighting.

Labor

*A New  
Approach*  
**A HAND UP FOR  
APPRENTICES**

# A message from **LUKE FOLEY, NSW LABOR LEADER**

**To keep our economy strong and to ensure our industries grow, NSW needs a skilled workforce.**

We need more IT specialists trained to better connect us to the world, we need automotive repair experts to keep us moving and we need skilled construction workers to build around \$150 billion worth of public infrastructure over the next 10 years.

The Baird and Abbott Liberal Governments have hit apprentices hard with higher TAFE course fees, and cutting \$1 billion in skills programs.

Building a skilled workforce requires a Government that is focused on making sure training opportunities are accessible to all. Labor understands that investing in apprenticeships is an investment in the future. A highly skilled economy benefits all of us, while qualifications obtained by individuals increases employability, wages and the chances of promotion.

That is why a Foley Labor Government will invest to enhance our apprenticeship program, give apprentices a helping hand and build the skills we need to support our growing economy. That's on top of investing \$100 million to rescue our public TAFE system and reverse Mike Baird's TAFE course fee hikes which are pricing students out of further education.

The state's economy is built on people and our apprentice program will ensure continued economic growth for the year's to come.

Yours sincerely



**Luke Foley**  
NSW Labor Leader



# A New Approach A HAND UP FOR APPRENTICES

## **A strong economy requires a skilled workforce.**

As part of Labor's plan to increase workplace participation and skills development, we will provide additional support to apprentices by increasing opportunities to gain training, make TAFE affordable and help ease cost of living pressures.

The Baird Government has hit apprentices with higher TAFE course fees, while the Abbott Government cut \$1 billion in support including axing the allowance which helped apprentice tradies purchase tools.

In contrast to the Liberals' agenda of higher fees and budget cuts, Labor will provide genuine support to encourage more apprentices and help them complete their training.

To tackle the challenges of tomorrow we need to ensure young people in NSW are given the best opportunity to build their skills and expertise in new industries and new jobs.

Apprentices are at the core of our trade workforce, and they are at the core of our economy, which is why we want to see more of our young people starting and completing apprenticeships.

That is why Labor will give our apprentices a hand up. Labor's plan to give our apprentices a helping hand includes:

1. Establishing the NSW Tools for Your Trade program;
2. Halving the cost of car rego;
3. Requiring apprenticeship ratios on NSW Government construction projects; and
4. Reversing the Baird Government's massive course fee hikes.



# NSW Tools FOR YOUR TRADE

**A Foley Labor Government will provide assistance and boost the job prospects of apprentices by establishing the NSW Tools for Your Trade policy, which will provide a tools and clothing allowance for new apprentices.**

The Abbott Government dumped assistance for apprentices in its horror Federal Budget which cut \$1 billion in assistance to apprenticeships nationwide.

NSW Tools for Your Trade is not about providing apprentices a handout. This financial assistance is aimed at attracting more people to undertake apprenticeships, which means there will be more qualified tradies to build the infrastructure our state needs.

A Labor Government will establish the NSW Tools for Your Trade initiative, providing a \$500 rebate for apprentices who complete their apprenticeships.

The rebate will be paid in two instalments of \$250 – at the beginning and completion of an apprentice's qualification. This is designed to ensure we provide incentives to encourage those who start a trade to finish their qualification. Currently around half of all people who start an apprenticeship don't finish.

We also know that apprentices will face extra costs as they complete their apprenticeship and look to establish small businesses of their own – many will no longer have access to the tools provided on site by their boss.

Providing a payment from the NSW Government will not only encourage apprentices to complete their qualification, it will make a real difference to pay for the tools they will need to start out on their own.

This will be extra money in the pockets of over 20,000 apprentices over three years.

Labor has a plan to support our apprentices, while Mike Baird and Tony Abbott have a plan to raise TAFE course fees, burden them with debt and reduce employment opportunities.

The NSW Tools for Your Trade payment will commence from 1 January 2016.



# HALF PRICE *Rego* FOR APPRENTICES

Labor will expand the rebate for registration introduced by the Carr Labor Government so that:

- **Half of the cost of registering a vehicle will be rebated; and**
- **All apprentices will be able to access the rebate.**

Registration of a light vehicle in NSW involves an annual fee of \$62 plus an annual motor vehicle tax according to weight. The motor vehicle weight tax ranges from \$200 to \$1,115, and up to \$2,109 for a vehicle registered for business use.

NSW apprentices already claim a \$100 rebate that was introduced by the Carr Government. The current rebate is only available for apprentices in their first or second year.

NSW Labor will increase the existing rebate to cover half of the actual cost of registration. We will also expand the eligibility criteria to cover all apprentices. This will save apprentices around \$150 a year.

## **HOW IT WORKS**

*Jeff is a second year apprentice who owns a car that he drives for private use with a tare weight of 1505 kg. His rego costs are an annual fee of \$62 plus a motor vehicle tax of \$433, total \$495. He currently is entitled to a \$100 rebate. Under Labor's policy he will save an extra \$147.50.*

*Sasha is a third year apprentice who owns a car that she drives for private use with a tare weight of 1155 kg. Her rego costs are an annual fee of \$62 plus a motor vehicle tax of \$284, total \$346. As a third year apprentice she is currently not entitled to any rebate. Under Labor's policy she will save \$173.*



# Apprenticeship Ratios ON NSW GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**Labor will ensure procurement decisions support Labor's efforts to increase workplace participation, skills development and social inclusion by introducing new ratios for NSW Government building and civil construction contracts.**

Labor will require 15 per cent of work on NSW Government construction projects valued over \$500,000 to be allocated for apprentices, trainees, Indigenous Australians and the long term unemployed.

Labor's plan will give young people and those who have difficulty securing employment the skills that will help them get a fulfilling job.

Over \$60 billion is to be invested in the state's infrastructure over the next four years. Labor will use NSW Government infrastructure projects to create thousands of new jobs for trainees and apprentices. Thousands of jobs will be reserved for local people – many from disadvantaged backgrounds – providing invaluable experience that will last a lifetime.

A similar policy in South Australia has been implemented successfully since 2011. On the Southern Expressway Duplication Project in Adelaide, building contractors are exceeding requirements, providing invaluable job opportunities and training for hundreds of local South Australian workers.

A Labor Government will work with businesses engaged on government contracts to coordinate and provide training places and programs in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government. We will ensure contractors are advised on how best to maximise employment opportunities for local people living near contract sites.



Reversing

# THE BAIRD GOVERNMENT'S TAFE FEE HIKES FOR APPRENTICES

**As of Semester 1 2015, TAFE course fees have increase substantially. Young people who have been unable to secure an apprenticeship – the group more at risk of long-term unemployment – will have to pay more to gain work-ready skills.**

Mike Baird's massive TAFE course fee increases mean, for instance, that a Certificate III Hairdressing apprentice will now pay \$2000, an increase of \$988.

Overall, the increase to the fees of TAFE courses under Mike Baird's change will put vocational training out of reach for many young people in NSW. The massive hikes will also lead to long-term skills shortages in many industries.

These fee increases will not only hurt our economy, they will compromise the future jobs of thousands of people in NSW.

Backed by Labor's \$100 million TAFE Rescue Plan a Labor Government will reverse the Baird Government's TAFE fee hikes for apprentices, potentially saving apprentices up to \$900.

A Labor Government will invest an additional \$100 million to help make TAFE affordable and accessible for all apprentices in NSW.

