

MEDIA RELEASE

LOCAL LEARNING EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS WELCOMES LABOR'S FOUR-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT TO HELPING YOUTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

The network of 31 Victorian organisations across the state, responsible for helping young people, Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLEN), have welcomed the announcement by the Labor Party that it will continue to provide funding for the next four years, if it wins the state election in November.

The LLENs, which have existed since 2001, have been co-funded by the Victorian and federal governments from 2010 to 2014, but from next year, funding will be the responsibility of the Victorian government alone.

In 2014, the Federal Government funded LLENs \$10 million and the Victorian government funded LLENs \$2.3 Million, a total budget of \$12.3 million.

The Labor party has committed to \$32 million over 4 years to continue funding the LLEN network of 31 LLENs across Victoria.

"The Labor party funding announcement is particularly welcome after the latest jobless figures showing the unemployment rate for 15-19 year olds is at a 17 year high of 20 per cent," said Mr Mike Grogan Chair of the LLEN Chair Network.

"This decision by the state Labor party secures the future of the LLENs in Victoria and will enable the LLENs to continue to assist younger Victorians into employment pathways, if Labor is elected at the upcoming state election" said Acting Chair of the State LLEN Network, Mr Boyd Maplestone.

"The LLEN Network is encouraged by this decision and is also seeking support from the current government to commit to the long term future of LLENs", Mr Maplestone said.

"Our work has proven vital in improving outcomes for young people by increasing education and job opportunities for young people, particularly those at risk of disengaging, or who have already disengaged from education and training and are not in meaningful employment" said Brimbank/Melton LLEN Executive Officer, Graeme Brown.

In the last four years, the LLEN network has assisted more than 250,000 young Victorians who were at risk of disengaging, or who had already disengaged from school, training or work.

Every year, we set up and monitor more than 850 partnerships between schools, training organisations, employers and community agencies. Our ongoing work is so important to our communities.

STATE SPOKESPERSON

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