



Media release

The Hon Martin Dixon MP
Minister for Education

Thursday 14 August 2014

\$13 million to ensure pathways from learning to employment for young Victorians

- **Funding for LLENs more than triples to \$8 million in 2015**
- **Funding is in addition to \$5.1 million for Workplace Learning Coordinators in 2015**
- **Napthine Government building better education for all Victorians**

The Victorian Coalition Government will more than triple its investment in the Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) in 2015, with \$8 million to continue supporting Victorian youth, Minister for Education Martin Dixon announced today.

Mr Dixon said the Napthine Government's funding for LLENs would be increased by \$5.7 million in 2015 to \$8 million, following the Federal Government's budget decision to discontinue its financial contribution.

"Just as the Napthine Government stepped in with \$5.1 million to save the Workplace Learning Coordinators program in 2013, we have been working with the LLENs to ensure they have certainty for next year, following the Federal Government budget decision to withdraw funding," Mr Dixon said.

"Disappointingly the Federal Government has reduced its funding from \$11million in 2014 to zero funding in 2015.

"This \$13.1 million investment will ensure LLENs and Workplace Learning Coordinators can continue to deliver strong pathways from school to further education and work."

The goal of each LLEN is to support 10–19 year old students within its geographical boundaries by improving their participation, engagement, attainment and transition outcomes.

"Schools are best placed to identify the needs of their students and community, but there is a role for government and the community in identifying and addressing the needs of vulnerable young people – including those who are disengaged from school," Mr Dixon said.

"The new Children and Youth Area Partnerships framework, detailed in the Napthine Government's *Victoria's Vulnerable Children Strategy*, will bring together key government and community sector leaders to tackle child and youth vulnerability, including engagement in education.

"The Napthine Government has a proud record of working with vulnerable young people. As a further sign of this unwavering commitment, in the coming months we will be working with LLENs, Workplace Learning Coordinators, schools, industry and other stakeholders to manage the transition to a more effective and sustainable state-based model."

The Napthine Government is building a better education system, delivering a record \$9.2 billion for school education in 2014-15, \$1 billion more than Labor's last budget in 2010.

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