



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parry must guarantee future for Smithton trades centres

Liberal Senator Stephen Parry must guarantee he won't let Tony Abbott rip away \$4.5 million of funding for two vital trade training centres at Smithton says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said the two trades centres, planned to be built at the Circular Head Christian School and Smithton High School, were under threat from Tony Abbott's plans to shut down trades training.

He said the Federal Parliament was told this week that the Coalition would claw-back \$230 million already committed to high schools to build Trade Training Centres over the next two years.

"That means local high schools that have already been promised access to a Trade Training Centre could miss out," Mr Sidebottom said.

Circular Head Christian School and the Smithton Campus of Tasmanian Polytechnic have each been promised Trade Training Centres worth \$1.5 million and \$3 million respectively.

Smithton High School will also miss out having pooled \$1.5 million in funding to construct the joint Trade Training Centre at the Polytechnic Smithton Campus.

"These schools will now have their Trade Training Centres taken away thanks to Tony Abbott's extreme plan to scrap funding for trades training in local high schools," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The Circular Head region has been hit by the closure of McCain Foods' vegetable plant, and now Senator Parry and the Coalition want to take away a major opportunity for young people to get training in trades and emerging areas which promise real jobs for the future.

"The whole Circular Head community has worked together under the guidance of the Council to present a joint approach to improving training, but all of this could be under threat from the Liberals' plan to turn back the wheels of progress.

"Senator Parry must guarantee this funding won't be cut and other schools in the North-West planning to expand training will also be able to proceed."

For more information or to arrange an interview call - Luke Sayer on 6431 1333 or 0458 311 355