



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

MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2009

FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO ATC FUTURE WELCOME

The Tasmanian Government's lifeline to the Australian Technical College is a very welcome outcome after weeks of lobbying says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom.

Mr Sidebottom said this was the outcome that he had been working behind the scenes toward for some time, and he thanked David Bartlett for being flexible in his response.

"A number of parents and industry representatives had asked me to explore the possibility of the College to continue to operate for another year, at least while options for its future were explored further," Mr Sidebottom said.

"I was pleased in our talks with the State and Federal governments that a new model continuing many of the existing courses and services has emerged."

Mr Sidebottom said he looked forward to seeing an alternative but complementary model providing choice for current and future students.

"It is important that this model is sustainable and receives support from industry and the community.

"I hope that current students, parents and employers of the ATC Northern Tasmania find this a satisfactory continuation for many of the current offerings and recognise the outcome of their strong lobbying for the college."

Mr Sidebottom said that it was worth noting that almost \$1m in Commonwealth funding would be allocated to the transition to the new model.

"2010 will be an important year in developing a constitution, a new board and arrangements for exciting and flexible integration both within the high school, senior secondary and skills sector."

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Luke Sayer 6431 1333 or 0458 311 355