



# Media Release

**SHARON BIRD MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

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## Foreign apprenticeship visa to be abolished by Labor

The Howard Government's unskilled apprenticeship visa will be abolished by a Labor Government, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, announced today.

"This unskilled apprenticeship visa was bad policy, and denies young Australians a chance at training.

"In Wollongong youth unemployment is stuck at 34.4 percent.

"John Howard's unskilled apprenticeship visa is a betrayal of young Australians.

"The real insult of the Howard Government's unskilled apprenticeship visa is that employers are not required to advertise apprenticeships locally before importing unskilled migrants.

"At the same time, unskilled migrants are also forced to accept the wages and conditions offered by the employer.

"This visa, introduced by the Howard Government in November 2005, has been opposed by the Labor Party.

"The Trade Skills Training Visa (471) will now be abolished by a Labor Government", Ms Bird said.

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