



## NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP  
Federal Member for Cunningham

### **Trade Training Centres in Schools First Round Funding Now Open**

The first round of funding under the Rudd Government's \$2.5 billion Trades Training Centres in Secondary Schools programme is underway and local schools have been urged to apply for a share of the funding, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, said today.

“Local secondary schools may apply for between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million over the 10-year life of the programme.

“Funding can be used to build new, or upgraded existing trade or vocational education and training facilities, the purchase or replacement of trades training related equipment, or bring existing facilities into line with current safety or industry standards”, Ms Bird said.

She said that the Rudd Government had set a national target to increase the proportion of students achieving a Year 12 or equivalent qualification to 85% by 2015 and 90% by 2020.

“The Trades Training Centres in Schools programme was a major election commitment designed to give young Australians greater training opportunities and address the skills shortage.

“I am sure that local secondary schools in my electorate will want to contribute to expanding trades training opportunities among local students and help build trades skills in Wollongong”, Ms Bird said.

She said that first round of funding is open to all secondary schools – public, Catholic and independent – and closes on May 9, 2008.

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March 10, 2008