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SA STUDENTS WELL PLACED FOR NATIONAL TRADE CADETSHIPS

South Australian students will be well placed to take on new National Trade Cadetships under a re-elected Gillard Labor Government, Education Minister Jay Weatherill says.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard today announced that from 2012, under a re-elected Federal Labor Government, Year 9 to 12 students looking for a trade career would be able to undertake Trade Cadetships under the National Curriculum.

Mr Weatherill welcomed the cadetships plan, which will mean school students who want a career in trades have a clearly defined pathway that is equal in quality, value and rigour to traditional academic pursuits.

“National Trade Cadetships will complement South Australia’s raft of school to work initiatives already underway,” Mr Weatherill said.

“South Australia has a network of Trade Schools for the Future and an Industry Pathways program to train young people for jobs in industries with recognised skills shortages.

“The changes to the South Australian Certificate of Education will mean students are better prepared for higher skilled jobs in emerging and revitalised industries, such as defence, mining, health and electronics.

“The new secondary school certificate paves the way for cadetships under a Gillard Government.

“Today’s announcement builds on the Commonwealth’s investment of \$87 million for SA schools to support trade training through investment by the Federal Government.

“Already projects are under construction at nine groups of schools and students from across the State are set to gain better skills for better jobs.

“However, trade training centres still to come including at Blackwood High, Pasadena High, Coober Pedy Area School and Edward John Eyre in Whyalla will be at risk under a Tony Abbott Government.

“Mr Abbott’s planned cuts to funding for Trade Training Centres is at odds with everything our schools and the State Government is doing to support young people and our industries. It would mean fewer opportunities for the young people who in the next few months will be choosing subjects for their Year 11 and 12 studies. The difference between the two education plans on offer could not be more clear at a time when industry is demanding school leavers with higher skills for jobs in our economy.”