



Local skills, local jobs

Helping local people start and finish TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships, while helping Peninsula businesses train the workers they need.

This policy is still taking shape

I'm on an active listening tour across Nepean because I don't believe policies should be written in a party room and presented to the community as a finished answer.

I'm starting with the evidence, but I also want to hear directly from local students, apprentices, trainees and employers. Their experiences will help determine what I take to the election and, if elected, into Parliament.

Where I stand

Nepean needs more qualified tradies, care workers, early childhood educators and other skilled workers. These are real local jobs, and many of the courses that lead to them are already taught at Chisholm's Rosebud campus.

But Victoria's apprenticeship and traineeship pipeline is under pressure. Fewer people are starting, many don't finish, and local businesses can find it difficult to take on an apprentice.

Training advertised as "*free*" will still involve materials, equipment, uniforms, student services and travel. Key trade apprenticeships, including carpentry and electrical, can also carry substantial tuition and materials costs.

But cost isn't the only barrier. An apprenticeship depends on both a student and an employer. Pay, workplace conditions, supervision, travel, training schedules and the cost and paperwork faced by small businesses can all determine whether someone qualifies.

I want to understand which of these barriers matter most here in Nepean before locking in the solutions.

What I'll do

I'll run two local surveys:

1. One for TAFE students, apprentices and trainees, including people who considered training but didn't start.
2. One for local employers, including businesses that currently employ apprentices and those that have stopped or never taken one on.

I'll use the results to bring apprentices, students, local employers, Chisholm, schools, support services and Group Training Organisations together for a local skills roundtable.



I'll also seek clear local data on apprenticeship and traineeship commencements, withdrawals and completions. We shouldn't have to rely on statewide figures to understand whether local people are getting through their training.

The final policy will be built around what the evidence shows. Options to examine include:

- Help with transport, tools, materials and other unavoidable training costs.
- Better connections between local schools, students, Chisholm and employers.
- Greater use of Group Training Organisations so small businesses can host apprentices without carrying the entire employment and administrative burden.
- More flexible training arrangements that work for apprentices and employers.
- Better awareness of existing financial, workplace and wellbeing support.
- Practical state support that helps local businesses take on and retain apprentices.

I'll publish what I hear, what I'm proposing and which level of government is responsible for delivering it.

What progress looks like

- More local people can find and begin training that leads to a real job.
- Fewer students and apprentices withdraw because of avoidable financial, transport, training or workplace barriers.
- More small Peninsula businesses can take on or host an apprentice.
- Rosebud's training options reflect the workers our community needs.
- Local commencement and completion information is publicly available.
- Government support is measured by how many people qualify, not simply how many enrol.

Help shape this policy

If you're a TAFE student, apprentice, trainee, parent or local employer, I want to hear what's working, what's getting in the way and what would make the biggest difference.

Share your experience, suggest a roundtable topic or get involved at <https://kimrobbins.com.au/get-involved>.