



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **NATIONAL PEAK BODY WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MORE SUPPORT FOR QUEENSLAND STUDENTS**

David Carney, Executive Director of the Career Industry Council of Australia, has welcomed the announcement by Annastacia Palaszczuk, Leader of the Queensland Opposition, that if elected, Queensland Labor will invest \$9m over three years to deliver an extra 45 full-time guidance officer positions ensuring that by 2018 every Queensland State High School, Combined School and Special School with more than 500 high school students has a guidance officer on an equivalent full-time basis.

“If 15-19 year olds in Australia are able to successfully construct career paths and secure employment, which utilizes their potential and meets their own goals, they are likely to be more motivated and productive, and therefore contribute to enhancing national prosperity”, Mr Carney said.

It is essential in assisting young people to make informed career decisions that they are provided with quality career advice by an appropriately qualified guidance officer who meets the Professional Standards for Australian Career Development Practitioners.

Career Advisers or Guidance Officers who meet these Professional Standards are required to have completed an appropriate career development qualification adhere to a code of ethical standards and maintain a minimum standard of ongoing learning that ensures that their knowledge and skills are constantly updated to ensure currency of the advice being provided.

With youth unemployment currently continuing to climb, it is vital that all governments across the country provide young people with the appropriate support and guidance they require to transition successfully from school to further education, training or employment.

Guidance Officers in Queensland schools need to be provided with appropriate resources to build and strengthen links with local employers and industry. This relationship provides ongoing learning opportunities that ensure relevant information is gained and enables them to provide accurate and up to date advice to the young people they are assisting.

The Career Industry Council of Australia calls on the Newman Government to match the commitment of Labor and provide much needed support to the young people of Queensland through access to an appropriately qualified full-time guidance officer.

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