

# Labor's plan to support families

## INTRODUCTION

Labor recognises that families are under financial pressure in meeting the everyday cost of living.

That's why we introduced the "It Pays to Learn" allowance to support families with 16 or 17 year olds in education or training.

Since its introduction in 2005, more than 210,000 payments have been made to help young people in school or training.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

The Carpenter Government is committed to delivering quality education and training to young Western Australians so they can play a productive role in our economy and society.

Over the past eight years, Labor has:

- **doubled** the number of apprenticeships and traineeships - one third of them in regional Western Australia - since coming to office in 2001;
- increased the compulsory school leaving age to 17 to ensure all young Western Australians are in school, training or work;

- reformed the training system to allow nearly 10,000 young people to take up trade training while completing their schooling through programs such as School Apprenticeship Link and school based apprenticeship;
- introduced the \$400 *It Pays To Learn* allowance in 2005 for young people in training, and \$200 for young people in Year 11 and 12 to meet the costs of education and training;
- introduced a maximum 50 cent student fare for primary and secondary students on the public transport network;
- provided a Boarding Away from Home allowance for country students amounting to \$1,215 in 2008 (indexed annually);
- provided a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Boarding Allowance of \$1,215 (indexed annually) for students offered a place at Perth Modern School or in one of the other metropolitan gifted and talented education programs.

## **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

The Carpenter Government is committed to ensuring young Western Australians take up the education and training opportunities available to them.

Labor is committed to helping families with the cost of education and training and will:

### **1. Double the *It Pays to Learn* allowance for 16 and 17 year olds in school.**

In 2005, Labor introduced the *It Pays to Learn* allowance to support families with 16 and 17 year olds in senior school.

Since then, nearly 190,000 payments have been made to families of students in Government and non-Government schools.

From 2009, Labor will double the allowance from \$200 to \$400.

## **2. Increase the *It Pays to Learn* allowance for 16 and 17 year olds in training.**

In 2005, Labor committed to providing a \$400 allowance to 16 and 17 year olds in approved training.

Since then, more than 20,000 payments have been made to students in full time training as well as in apprenticeships and traineeships.

From 2009, Labor will increase the allowance from \$400 to \$600.

## **3. Double the clothing allowance for eligible Year 8 to 12 students.**

As part of the Secondary Assistance Scheme, the Government provides a school uniform allowance for students in Year 8 to 12 whose parents hold health care or pensioner concession cards.

The allowance has remained unchanged at \$115 since it was introduced by Labor in 1992.

In recognition of the rising cost of clothing students, and in support of the Government's strict school uniform policy, Labor will double the school uniform allowance to \$230, starting in 2009.

## WHAT IT WILL COST (Impact on the forward estimates)

INITIATIVE	Funding	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000	2011-12 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Recurrent</b>						
1&2. Increases the It Pays to Learn allowance.	Additional	\$5,050	\$5,050	\$5,050	\$5,050	<b>\$20,200</b>
	<i>Fwd Est</i>	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$57,200
3. Double uniform allowance.	Additional	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	<b>\$11,600</b>
	<i>Fwd Est</i>	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$11,600
<b>Total additional recurrent expenditure</b>		<b>\$7,950</b>	<b>\$7,950</b>	<b>\$7,950</b>	<b>\$7,950</b>	<b>\$31,800</b>
<b>Capital</b>						
<b>Total additional capital expenditure</b>						

Note: There is currently over \$4 million per year in surplus funding in the current forward estimates for the 'It Pays to Learn Allowance'. This, together with the additional \$5 million per annum, will fund the increase to the allowance.