

Education

For  
the  
Future

Technical  
Colleges



South  
Australian  
**Labor**



#### Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

# Foreword

Every young person has a right to expect they will complete school and will be ready to become self-sufficient adults, equipped with skills for further study and employment.

In South Australia around a quarter of young people will not finish school. At the same time, there are skills shortages with employers looking for workers. We can do better to prepare our young people and to ensure we can meet the needs of South Australian industries. Youth unemployment is a national tragedy, and we are determined to act to turn that around.

Many people talk about the days of trade schools with fond memories. We can do even better. We can bring the practical outcomes of trade schools together with the new technologies that are now part of every workplace, and make sure that young people graduate from school so they have the power to make choices for their future.

Labor will build five technical colleges to support vocational education for high school students. They will be brand new buildings with the latest equipment and state-of-the-art technology. They will be run in conjunction with nearby high schools to make sure that their students complete their SACE as well as getting trade qualifications.

These colleges will have as their primary task attracting young people to undertake vocational and technical training which they will be able to use to go straight into work if they choose. They will work

closely with TAFE SA and not for profit training providers like PEER and the MTA to ensure quality teaching delivery. They will be equipped with the best technology and equipment. They will facilitate links with local businesses including setting up apprenticeships and traineeships. They will, crucially, set up young people for the rest of their lives by making sure they are learning the modern skills needed for the future, and getting their high school certificate.

We will invest \$175 million to build the five new colleges and provide a further \$30 million in operating costs for the colleges across three years. The first of the colleges will open at the start of the 2024 school year, with all five to be open before the 2026 election.



Peter Malinauskas MP  
SA Labor Leader



# Why Labor will build five Technical Colleges

Labor will build five technical colleges - three in metropolitan Adelaide and two in regional South Australia. The technical colleges will cater for year 10 - 12 students who want to complete their SACE, undertake vocational training and start working.

## THE CHALLENGE:

### Skills shortages

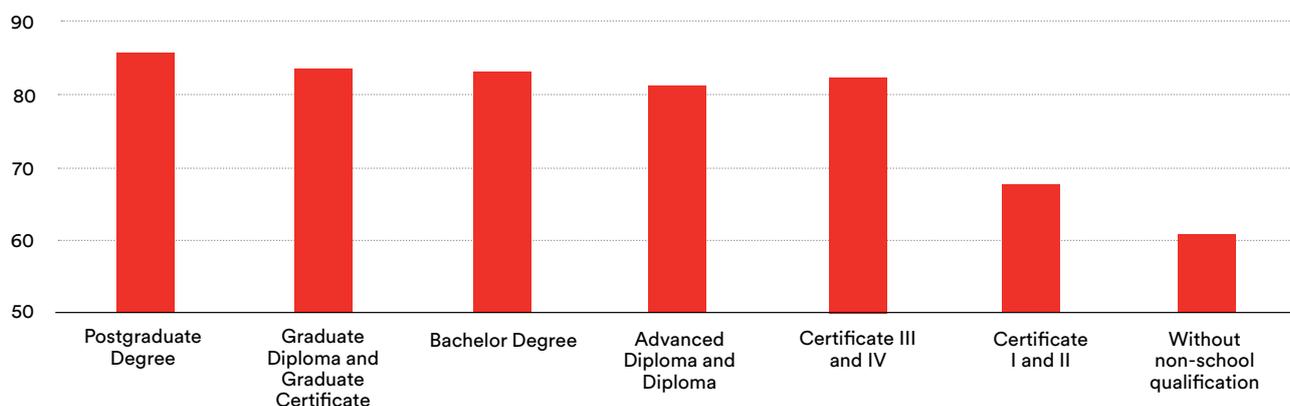
South Australia has relatively high youth unemployment and under-employment at the same time as we are experiencing a skills shortage. The only answer to this challenge is to invest in education and training. Changes in the economy mean that there is an increasing demand for employees with qualifications, which means if students are missing out on getting those qualifications they risk being unable to work in the future. (Figure 1)

We are also struggling with skills shortages in South Australia, which shows that there are jobs waiting for our young people if they have the right training. Every sector of the economy has occupations where there are high numbers of vacancies. Analysis of the top employment occupations for technicians and trades shows nearly 60% require a vocational qualification. (Figure 2)

The industries with the highest levels of vacancies are all looking for people who have vocational qualifications. (Figure 3)

Figure 1

### Employment by qualification

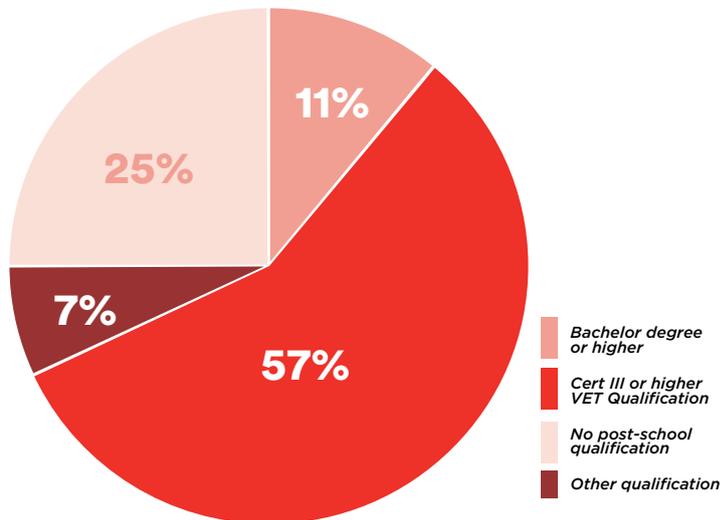


Source: [www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/qualifications-and-work/2015](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/qualifications-and-work/2015)



Figure 2

### Technicians and trades workers



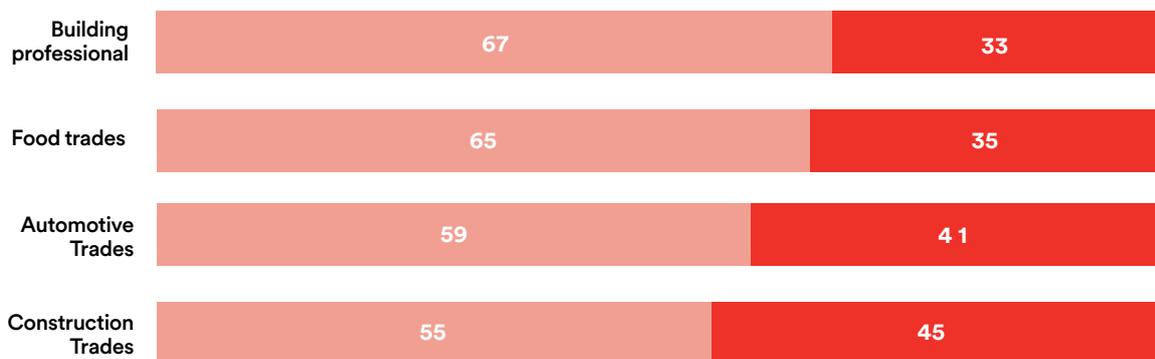
#### Top Employing Occupations

- 01 Electricians
- 02 Carpenters and Joiners
- 03 Motor Mechanics
- 04 Metal Fitters and Machinists
- 05 Chefs

Source: Australian Jobs, National Skills Commission, 2021 Australian Jobs Report | National Skills Commission

Figure 3

### Vacancies in Industries with at least 1 in 3 vacancies unfilled



Source: Skilling-Australia-Foundation-May-2017.pdf (gllen.org.au) pg. 10

Unfilled Filled

**THE CHALLENGE:**

## **Student engagement in vocational education**

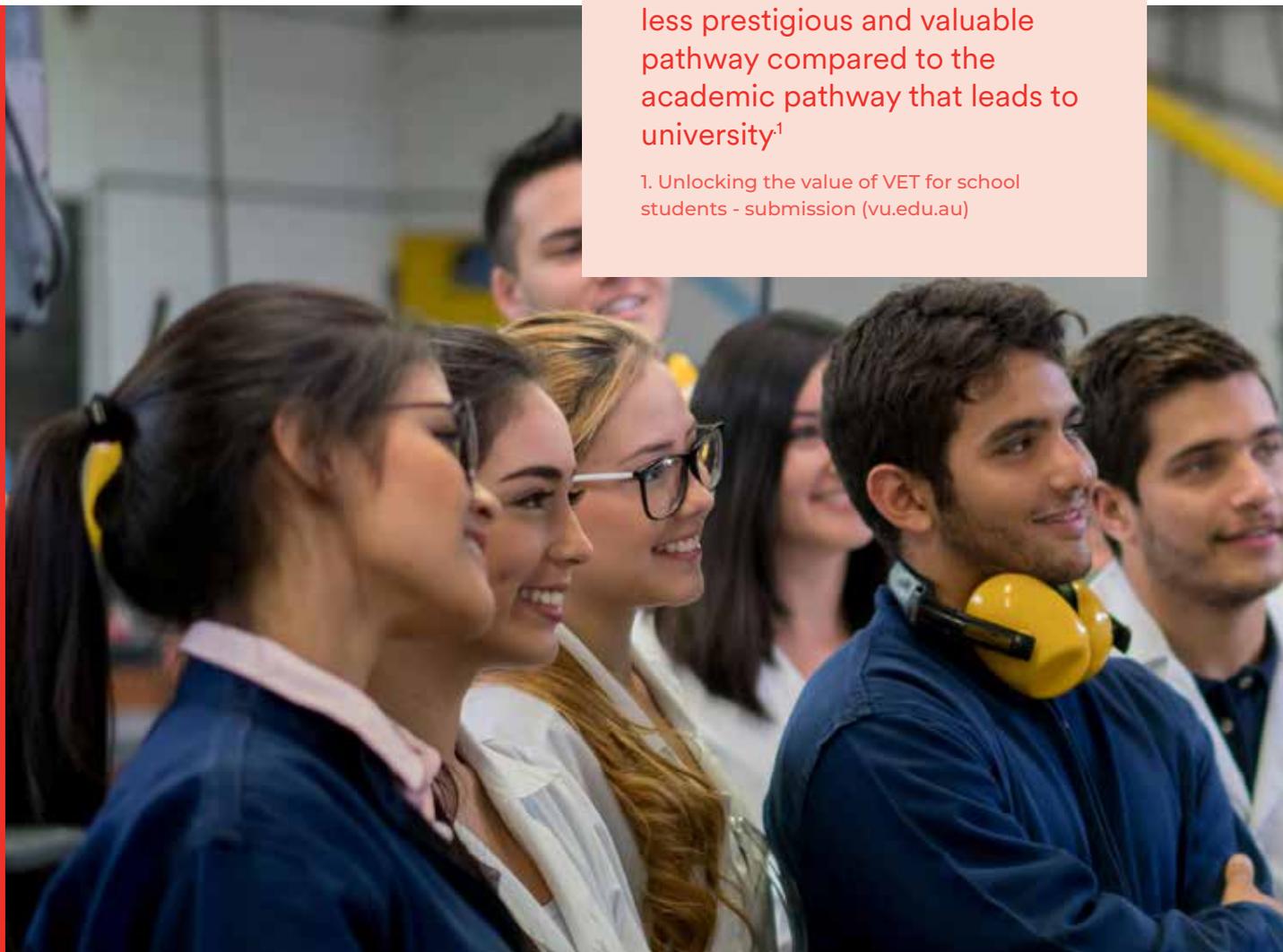
South Australian students are not taking up vocational education options in high enough numbers. Across the nation, students in Western Australia and Queensland are more likely to undertake vocational training at school. We need to lift our performance in South Australia.

One reason for the low enrolments is that students and their parents do not view vocational education and training as a desirable study and career path. We need to change this dynamic by better informing school communities about the options in vocational education and training, and by offering high quality training environments.

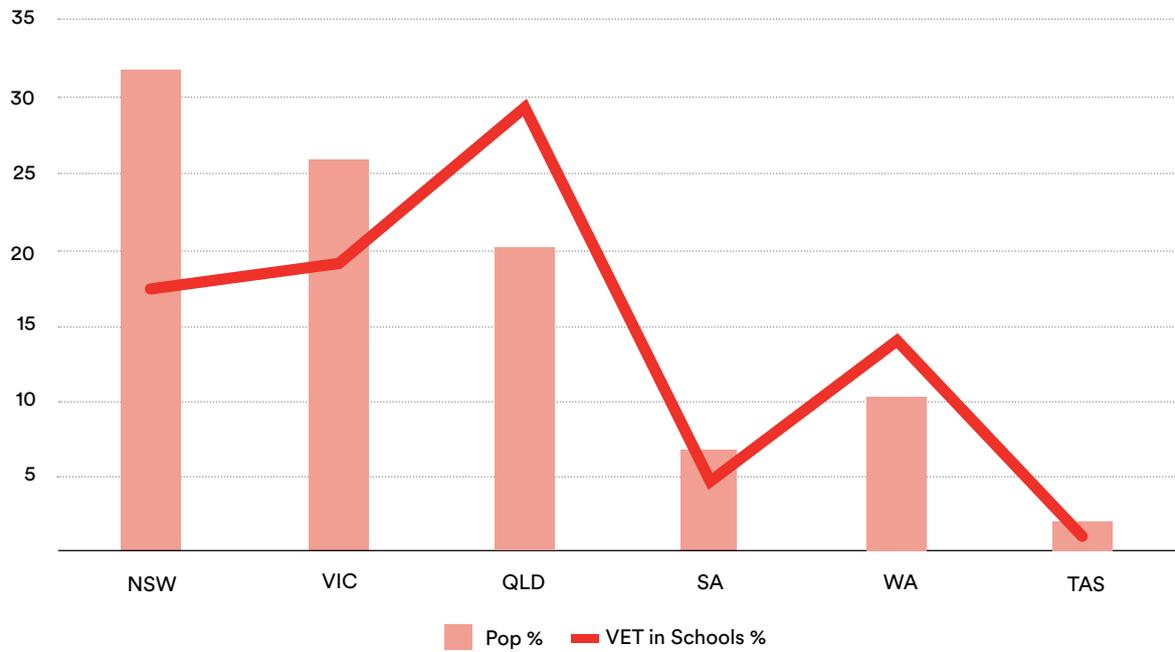
This is why Labor will build five technical colleges – to change the equation in South Australia’s schools.

VET for school students is often seen as a low-value pathway, despite data indicating positive post-school outcomes for many VET students. The research confirms that VET is regarded as a lower-status pathway. It is often viewed as an option only for students at risk of disengaging from school rather than an option for all students to pursue a productive and fulfilling career. Parents, students, and schools tend to view VET as a less prestigious and valuable pathway compared to the academic pathway that leads to university<sup>1</sup>

1. Unlocking the value of VET for school students - submission (vu.edu.au)



## % of Australian VET in Schools enrolments compared to % of population



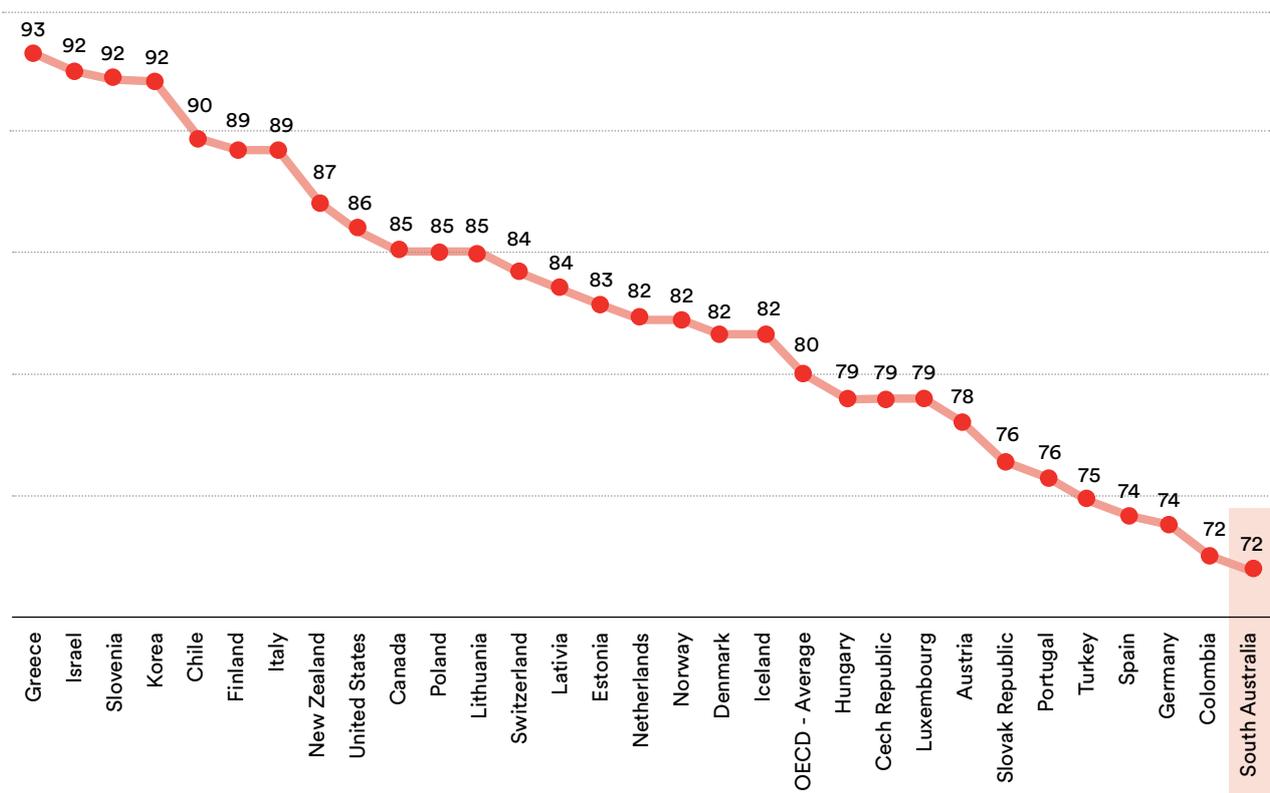
## THE CHALLENGE:

# School completion

School completion is essential for getting work and going on to further study, but around 25 per cent of Australian 19 year-olds do not complete high school<sup>3</sup>, and around 20 per cent will never receive a minimum qualification of a certificate III in vocational training<sup>4</sup>.

We are being left behind by most advanced nations:

### Secondary graduation rate OECD Data 2018 Data



Source: SA census 3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2019 (abs.gov.au) Combined with SACE completion 31-18-SA.indd (sace.sa.edu.au)

3. Lamb S, Huo S, Counting the Costs of Lost Opportunity in Australian Education, The Mitchell Institute, 2017

4. ABS data. <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6227.0May%202018?OpenDocument>



Under the previous SA Labor government school completion increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent – but we are at risk of not seeing any further substantial increases in school completion. In South Australia, school completion has remained between 72 and 75 per cent since 2016. In New South Wales and Victoria completion has remained static since 2011.

There is no room for complacency and we need to act to find pathways for all students to complete school.

Labor's technical colleges are a big part of the answer for many students who are interested in pursuing opportunities in vocational work.



## Five technical colleges

Labor will build five public technical colleges, three in metropolitan Adelaide and two in regional South Australia. They will have the following features:

### 01

Linked to an existing secondary school, to ensure that the students have access to all the subjects and support they need to complete their SACE. These schools are about increasing choices and options for students, not limiting them.

### 02

Associated with a TAFE campus for direct support in the quality of vocational education and training courses. They will also connect to industry training providers as appropriate.

### 03

High quality equipment and spaces. These technical colleges will not be in old sheds with ancient equipment. If we want more students to choose to undertake vocational education and training, and more employers to engage with these schools, we need recognise that modern trades need up-to-date equipment.

### 04

Located to maximise opportunities for students. There will be two in regional South Australia and one in north-eastern Adelaide, one in the inner south of Adelaide and one in the inner west of Adelaide.

## Career pathways

Building and Construction	Community services and hospitality	Engineering and information technology
<p><b>Course examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carpentry</li> <li>Bricklaying</li> <li>Plumbing</li> <li>Gas Fitting</li> <li>Civil Construction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Course examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baker</li> <li>Chef</li> <li>Aged Care</li> <li>Children's Services</li> <li>Hospitality</li> </ul>	<p><b>Course examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicle Mechanic</li> <li>Heavy vehicle (Diesel)</li> <li>Auto Electrician</li> <li>Engineering - Fabrication</li> <li>Engineer - Mechanical</li> <li>Transport &amp; Logistics</li> </ul>

## Course structure



### Sample course structure

The technical college will offer a fully integrated program with vocational training, apprenticeships and SACE completion working seamlessly for each student.

