



SENATOR THE HON SCOTT RYAN
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education

MR JASON WOOD MP
Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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Trade Skills Boosted Through New Training Centre

Young people of the Dandenong Ranges will be able to gain valuable skills in trades such as baker, cook and pastry cook at a new facility being officially opened in Belgrave Heights today.

The Hills Hospitality Trade Training Centre, located at Belgrave Heights Christian School, will offer local secondary students qualifications in food processing and hospitality.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan said Australian Government funding of \$1.3m helped bring the centre to fruition.

“The food processing and hospitality skills to be imparted at the centre are currently in short supply,” Senator Ryan said.

“The new facilities include a commercial kitchen and high quality equipment.”

The centre was officially opened this afternoon by Mr. Jason Wood MP, Member for La Trobe, representing Senator Ryan. “The entire Belgrave Heights Christian School community and other individuals came together in a spirit of cooperation,” Mr. Wood said.

“They thought about the Dandenong region’s future needs, worked out what was best for the young people of the area, and devised a plan that makes a tangible difference.”

Mr. Wood said the Hills Hospitality Trade Training Centre was an example of the local community putting students first – an approach also being followed by the Australian Government in regard to school education generally.

“In the 2014 school year and beyond, the Government will build an education system that gives all students – no matter where they live and what school they attend – the tools to succeed in their chosen field of endeavour,” Mr. Wood said.

The Government is concentrating on four main areas of reform: creating a more robust and balanced curriculum; improving teacher quality; increasing school autonomy; and better engaging parents in education.

“The ultimate purpose of these reforms is to foster a smart, skilled Australian workforce so that our country can remain productive, competitive and admired around the world,” Mr. Wood said.

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