



**Gavin Pearce MP**  
Federal Member for Braddon

## **Media Release**

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### **Labor failing to skill the North-West, West Coast and King Island**

#### **Fast fact**

**Under Labor there has been an 18.37% drop in the number of apprentices and trainees taking up a new trade or learning a new skill across the North-West, West Coast and King Island**

New data proves that despite promising to skill more Australians than the Coalition, Anthony Albanese's Labor government is overseeing a wholesale collapse in the number of apprentices and trainees in every state.

After just one year of this Albanese Labor government, the North-West, West Coast and King Island has seen an 18.37% drop in the number of apprentices and trainees taking up a new trade or learning a new skill. This is in stark contrast of the final year of the Coalition Government that saw a 23.63% increase in apprentices and trainees across the region.

Alarmingly, across Tasmania, there has been a 22% drop.

In the final months of the Coalition government, trade apprentices in-training, nation-wide, hit record highs, with 429,000 apprentices and trainees in-training as of June 2022, 25 per cent more than the same time in 2021.

This number has now fallen to 377,645. That means there are over 50,000 less apprentices and trainees in training today than when Labor took office, a loss of one in ten.

Federal member for Braddon, Gavin Pearce MP, said this Albanese Labor government's failure is a slap in the face for a region that was just beginning to find its feet, skill more workers and was finally beginning to reach its enormous potential.

"The Coalition had a strategic vision for the region, and we systematically went about investing in what was important to achieve that. Training our next generation workforce was a crucial part of that," Mr Pearce said.

"Not only did we give our tradies an opportunity to learn, but crucially, we gave them a reason to stay, by investing in the industries that would give them long-term employment and keep them here."

"What industries has Labor invested in on the North-West, West Coast or King Island since they formed government in 2022?"

Labor came to power promising it would solve skills shortages and deliver more opportunities for Tasmanians to get into training, but the reality is, all they have delivered is a collapse in the number of much needed apprentices and trainees.

**ENDS**