FED: Low-skilled jobs are disappearing: govt

CANBERRA, July 19 AAP - Federal Skills Minister Chris Evans says low-skilled jobs are disappearing from the economy and the workforce will need to adapt quickly.

A new government agency, launched on Thursday by the minister, will work with industry to lift the level of skills among Australia's workforce.

"We have enormous opportunities in Australia as a result of the growth in the economy," Senator Evans told reporters in Canberra on Thursday. "That economic growth would create enormous opportunities for people to move into high-skilled and well-paid jobs."

"Low-skilled jobs are disappearing from the economy as a result of technology (and) structural changes," he said.

The new Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency replaces Skills Australia and will work to identify and close skills shortages within Australia's workforce. While industry should always offer jobs to Australians first, there will still be a place for skilled foreign workers, particularly in the health sector.

"If it wasn't for Indian doctors and Irish nurses we would be closing wards in Australia," Senator Evans said.

The agency will be led by Philip Bullock, who is the former managing director of IBM Australia. Its board will include serving RBA board member Heather Ridout and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief Peter Anderson.

Australian Workers' Union boss Paul Howes was offered a seat on the board but turned it down because of his other commitments.

AAP ev/rI/tab/jsh
FED: Workers must retrain as low-skill jobs go

CANBERRA, July 19 AAP - Australian workers will have to retrain as low-skilled jobs disappear from the national economy, federal Skills Minister Chris Evans says.

A new government agency, launched on Thursday by the minister, will work with industry to lift the level of skills among Australia’s workforce.

Senator Evans says there are enormous opportunities to obtain high-skilled and well-paid jobs as the economy shifts.

"Low-skilled jobs are disappearing from the economy as a result of technology (and) structural changes," he said.

The new Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency replaces Skills Australia and will work to identify and close skills shortages within Australia’s workforce.

Senator Evans says a challenge for the agency is managing the shift in the location of job opportunities in the mining boom states of Western Australia and Queensland while most Australians live in the southeast corner of the nation.

"We have not been good at labour mobility in Australia in the past," he told Sky News.

"People have not been keen to move, so looking at the barriers to that is important."

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), an employers lobby group, says broadening the role of the agency is a step in the right direction.

"A strong, clear industry voice is needed to create the impetus for change in vocational education and training to create a truly industry driven system," ACCI president Peter Anderson said in a statement on Thursday.

Universities Australia chief executive Belinda Robinson says higher education will be the driving force to increase the skills of Australia’s workforce.

"Whether it be in powering innovation, ensuring our environmental sustainability or maximising our involvement in the Asian Century, the pivotal role of higher education cannot not be overstated," Ms Robinson said.

The agency will be led by Philip Bullock, who is the former managing director of IBM Australia.

Its board will include serving RBA board member Heather Ridout and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief Peter Anderson.

AAP ev/el/jk
Low skilled jobs are rapidly disappearing from the economy and the government says the workforce will need to adapt quickly. Federal Skills Minister CHRIS EVANS has launched a new government agency today to work with industry to lift the level of skills among Australia's workforce. The new Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency replaces Skills Australia and will work to identify and close skills shortages within Australia's workforce.
WA: Supercomputer to uncover space secrets

PERTH, July 20 AAP - A new $33 million supercomputer bound for Perth will help scientists around the world to uncover the secrets of the universe, Minister for Science and Research Chris Evans says.

The supercomputer will soon be installed at the purpose-built Pawsey Centre at Technology Park in the southern suburb of Kensington.

Once operational in March, the supercomputer will process masses of data generated by the existing Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) and Murchison Widefield Array radio telescopes at an observatory in Western Australia's Mid-West region.

Both radio telescopes played a key part in Australia and New Zealand's successful bid to co-host the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, the biggest and most advanced radio telescope ever constructed.

It was decided in May that WA and New Zealand would share the $2 billion SKA project with South Africa.

Comprising 3000 dishes and with a discovery potential 10,000 times greater than the best present-day instruments, the SKA will observe such deep space remnants left by the Big Bang and how galaxies evolved, and will attempt to uncover more about the "dark energy" which is believed to fuel the expansion of the universe.

While the Pawsey Centre machines will initially process data from the existing Mid West radio telescopes, floor space is being kept free to expand them for use in the international SKA project.

The supercomputer will be built by five specialist suppliers, led by Seattle-based Cray Inc, Senator Evans announced on Friday.

"This supercomputer is a critical tool for the Australian scientific community that will increase our research capacity in a range of fields, including radio astronomy, the geosciences and in nanotechnology and biosciences," he said.

"What is happening with the SKA and the supercomputer is the modern-day equivalent of landing on the moon, and it's happening right here in our own backyard."

Senator Evans said the mining state was showing it was able to develop world-leading science that would provide benefits for Australia for decades to come.

The supercomputer will be overseen by iVEC, a joint venture between the CSIRO and four public Perth universities, and is being funded by the WA government.

AAP rlm/ar
SUPERCOMPUTER
Secrets of deep space probed

A NEW $33 million supercomputer bound for Perth will help scientists around the world uncover the secrets of the universe, Minister for Science and Research Chris Evans says.

The supercomputer will process masses of data generated by radio telescopes at an observatory in WA's Mid-West region, which played a key part in Australia and New Zealand's successful bid to co-host the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, the biggest radio telescope ever constructed.

The SKA will observe deep space remnants left by the Big Bang and how galaxies evolved.
Our Last-Gasp Share of Giant Telescope

PETER POCKLEY

What was the back story behind the decision to split the Square Kilometre Array between southern Africa and Australia?

The scientific goals for the SKA are truly grand. “The SKA will transform our view of the universe,” according to the Interim Director General of the SKA Organisation, Dr Michiel van Haarlem, when announcing the decision on 25 May. “With it we shall see back to the moments after the Big Bang and discover previously unexplored parts of the cosmos. The SKA will enable astronomers to glimpse the formation and evolution of the very first stars and galaxies after the Big Bang, investigate the nature of gravity, and possibly even discover life beyond Earth.”

These questions had been the goal of Australian Dr Ron Ekers, who as director of world-leading arrays in the USA and Australia is widely credited as the “father of the SKA”. In 1990 he and a few colleagues first proposed that if radioastronomers were to address these questions they would need a telescope with a receiving area equivalent to one square kilometre.

Ekers doggedly pursued the project through the International Astronomical Union, and encouraged his successors and colleagues to bring it to fruition. Speaking from a conference in Moscow, Ekers (now a CSIRO Fellow) acknowledged: “I was certainly the one who triggered interest in the project in Australia and proposed Australia as a possible site”.

A subsequent two-decade-long battle over the planning of these megafacilities came down to the wire as the international consortium promoting the establishment of what will be the world’s largest telescope had to decide in mid-May between the two national blocs short-listed to host the array – South Africa leading a southern African consortium of eight other African nations, and Australia/New Zealand.

At an estimated total cost of $2 billion spread over many years and with 3000 steerable dish antennas to be built and coordinated in simultaneous observations of cosmic objects at hitherto unreachable sensitivity and precision, the prize was expected to be a case of winner-takes-all. The pressure was intense.

In February word leaked out (but with no attributable sources for verification) from the site assessment committee of the SKA Organisation – a consortium of nine nations – that the southern African site had been judged narrowly superior to the Western Australian site proposed for the core of an Australian array.

The South African bid has been driven by an energetic Dr Bernie Fanaroff. Their straight-shooting Science Minister, Mrs Naledi Pandor, publicly inferred that the Aussie/Kiwi team had planted the rumour, breaking a confidential embargo.

Meanwhile, the South Africans were running a parallel, non-scientific story through the European Parliament that the SKA would provide a great platform for educational and social renewal in the continent. Pandor upped the ante by “refusing to engage in a debate with the Australian Minister”. Since the dual decision was announced Pandor has toned down the rhetoric to: “We accept the compromise in the interest of science”.

For Australia Dr Brian Boyle, seconded from CSIRO to be SKA Director, and Science Minister, Senator Chris Evans, had played cool in public, not wanting to be seen to be breaking the embargo on the assessment and decision process. They continued publicly to promote superior experience in radio-astronomy research, building and operating world-class radio-telescopes and brilliance in design of the highly versatile and sensitive radio receivers needed at the heart of SKA telescopes.

But Boyle and Evans were working strenuously to press the ANZAC case behind the scenes at scientific and political levels. Evans had picked up the SKA baton after its long-term champion in Senator Kim Carr had personally lodged Australia’s bid at an SKA meeting in Canada last year but had then been demoted out of the Science and Innovation portfolio after backing the failed challenge in February by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to current PM Julia Gillard.
From it first airing in February, the unsubstantiated rumour spread that the South African site had won the race to host the SKA. This was not denied, lending weight to the assumption that this committee’s preference was not unanimous and was only by a fine margin. This turned out to be correct.

The SKA Organisation could not decide the major prize on the basis of the siting committee alone, and convened another committee charged with searching for an “inclusive solution”. This opened the door again for the Australia/NZ team to prosecute a dual deal rather than one outright winner.

Privately, Australian radioastronomers had been incredulous that the international scientific community with whom they have worked at high levels for decades would overlook Australia’s track record and potential for innovative instruments and research. Scientists involved would tell me that they were very wary of the incursion of a political dimension but acknowledged that it could not be avoided in the next hurdle of raising large funds to build and operate the SKA.

In May, a close solution emerged – pointedly admitted as “a majority decision” – with the South African-led group being given the greater receiving area with some 3000 steerable antennas working on the higher frequencies of celestial observation. Meanwhile, in Phase 1 – to commence in 2016 – the Australia/NZ team will work at the lower end of the frequency spectrum with 60 static dipole receivers built alongside the 36-dish Australian SKA Pathfinder radiotelescope (ASKAP) that began installation in 2010 at Murchison in Western Australia.

Boyle and company might have lost the original sole-siting question, but they are quietly delighted that they have rescued a substantial portion of their original bid and are keen to promote what they can now plan on providing for their international colleagues.

Speaking from Amsterdam immediately after the decision, Boyle said: “Phase 1 of the dual site option makes sound scientific sense by maximum use of existing infrastructure, and represents a very good outcome for A/NZ technology. A simple count of antennas is meaningless as that’s only one bit of the telescopes; there are all the receivers and computer hardware behind it. Overall, South Africa will get 190 antennas to complement their (planned) steerable 64-dish MeerKAT pilot array.”

From Sydney the Director of CSIRO’s Astronomy and Space Science Division, Dr Philip Diamond, added: “Steerable antennas may look pretty but it’s the receiver systems – the fibre infrastructure and the digital processing – that is the real innovation in the SKA. With 4000 [static] dipole antennas in Australia in Phase 1 alone, the signal processing system will be a major development.

At first sight it seemed that NZ had been written out of the story, as the key advantage they had brought to the Australian bid seemed to be the potential linkage of steerable dishes in both of its islands across the Tasman Sea to the Australian array, which was to span the continent from west to east, thereby adding a valuable extra 2000 km to the “baseline” (the larger this is, the finer the resolution of radio “pictures” it synthesises).

Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, NZ’s SKA head, acknowledged that a few dishes would not be sited in NZ during Phase 1 but said this was never planned in this phase. “The move to host SKA low frequency infrastructure in Australia and NZ is a natural path forward for us. Our scientific interests are in low frequency astronomy and survey science, [so] the dual plan allows NZ to continue to make an important contribution into the SKA project.”

The Australian 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics, Prof Brian Schmidt, is both enthusiastic and cautious: “The split decision provides the opportunity to more fully understand the challenges of building the full SKA (Phase 2) in both sites. If we were to then have flexibility for SKA-Phase 2, the split site then really mitigates a lot of risk associated with building the full $2 billion array.

“I am concerned that from what I have read there is not a lot of flexibility described in the arrangements right now for Phase 2. I hope we can ensure that we eventually build the full SKA, making sure it is both scientifically capable and as cheap as possible. I would be surprised if this is best done with a split site in Phase 2. We will know a lot more once Phase 1 commences.”

Ekers is reassuring that discoveries with Australia’s allocation of frequencies will be significant: “The full low frequency array in Australia will almost certainly be needed to understand, and probably to detect, the universe’s ‘epoch of re-ionisation’ after the Big Bang, one of the key scientific objectives of the SKA.”

Peter Pockley has been reporting the SKA saga for Australasian Science since the project was first conceived. © Peter Pockley (scicomm@bigpond.net.au)
Artists impression of SKA static, low frequency aperture arrays to be built in Phase 1 at the Murchison site in WA.

Credit: SKA Organisation/JOHD/Deakin University/Science Photo Library
Changes afoot as low-skilled jobs disappear

FEDERAL Skills Minister Chris Evans says low-skilled jobs are disappearing from the economy and the workforce must adapt quickly.

A new government agency, launched yesterday by the minister, will work with industry to lift the level of skills among Australia’s workforce.

“We have enormous opportunities in Australia as a result of the growth in the economy,” Senator Evans said.

That economic growth would create enormous opportunities for people to move into high-skilled and well-paid jobs.

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The new Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency replaces Skills Australia and will work to identify and close skills shortages within Australia.

While industry should offer jobs to Australians first, there will be a place for skilled foreign workers, particularly in the health sector.

“If it wasn’t for Indian doctors and Irish nurses we would be closing wards in Australia,” he said.

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SENATOR CHRIS EVANS
Low-skilled jobs fading

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Labor figures hose down Gillard talk

TREASURER Wayne Swan and other senior Labor figures yesterday hosed down suggestions the party and its vital union backing was moving away from supporting Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

A report in the Australian Financial Review, detailed a meeting of union leaders that were reportedly considering their options in backing former party leader Kevin Rudd.

But Mr Swan told reporters such reports were not worth the paper they were written on and the parliamentary and organisational wing of the party remained supportive of Ms Gillard.

Senior Labor minister Chris Evans also reaffirmed his support for Ms Gillard.

Australian Council of Trade Unions head Dave Oliver told reporters they were plain wrong.
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The facts on TAFE cuts

From Sarah Bardsley
Heyfield

Mr Peter Hall and other members of the Liberal-Coalition parties have been defending their aggressive cuts to TAFE - a 30 per cent reduction in Government Recurrent Funding - are due to “massive cost blowouts”.

Mr Hall and his peers have said publically that “Training enrolments increased by 44 per cent, but not always in areas of economic need or with good prospective job outcomes, e.g. courses to train fitness instructors have increased 1,955 per cent since 2008.”

However the State-wide figures appear to misrepresent the actual facts for Gippsland’s TAFEs and the VET sector.

The State government’s Victorian Training Market Quarterly Report Q1 2012 from 2008 to 2011, documents a decline in enrolments for Gippsland’s TAFEs of five per cent, this was also mirrored for private RTOs in our region.

And more importantly in the past 12 months of the report, Gippsland’s TAFE student enrolments grew by only two per cent (Table 2.16, p26) - thus the quoted increases to enrolments have not taken place in our Gippsland region.

The resulting facts for Gippsland’s TAFEs are: 90 courses will no longer be delivered, over 60 people are now unemployed, and the campus closures - which affect many of our remote townships such as Mallacoota, Orbost, Yarram, Buchan, Heyfield etc.

Citizens of our community who want to access vocational education and training - will be constrained by choice and physical access. This also includes secondary schools students across our region.

As quoted by the President of the Peak body representing Victorian Secondary School Principals (VSSPA) “Victorian principals are deeply concerned about the cuts to TAFE funding in this year’s State Government budget.”

“Not only will these cuts impact severely on those who have chosen a TAFE pathway to further education but will also have significant ramifications for government secondary schools and their students.

“These cuts will mean the disappearance of many programs, and with them the resources (including teachers) required to deliver those programs. To suggest that at the moment there are skills shortage in one area rather than another and therefore that extensive cuts can be made, shows deep disdain for those most in need of education and reflects an ignorance of how training programs work.”

“It is naive to think that those enrolled in or currently interested in, for example, catering or personal training courses will switch to carpentry or plumbing in the short to medium term, even assuming the providers could cater for an influx of students into such courses. A more likely result is that the students will drop out of education.”

Our elected MP also tell us that the cuts are also due to some RTO’s acting unethically, direct quote “some trainers offering iPads to students who enrolled, some offering $500 debit cards and some donating $1000 to a sports club each time they enrolled a member.”

I have seen no evidence of this type of behaviour by our TAFEs, quite the opposite, they are highly ethical and highly regulated (by STATE government via AVETMISS compliance reporting and auditing), and they serve their public far more the greater good of their communities.

Mr Hall also alluded to the quality of training that was being delivered by some providers is a risk “Substantial evidence that this uncontrolled market driven system has put the quality of the training delivered at risk.”

Is it not the State Government who sets policy? Is it not the State Government who is responsible for monitoring outcomes and the behaviour for all training providers? Should they be punishing those organisations that adhere to the rules, act ethically and who positively serve our communities?

It appears that this State Government who is rather hinder people from gaining an education and increasing their chances of employment. Unfortunately it appears that our State Government would rather support a welfare state; individuals and families living in poverty? Unable to get ahead - as we all are aware, this avenue delivers many downsides.

The VET budget cuts to Gippsland’s TAFEs and the VET in Schools programs are punishing not only these educational service providers and their employees, but the communities they serve, and our secondary school students.

If this concerns you, I implore you to write to your local parliamentary members and ask them to make concessions for this essential community service by reinstate funding for Gippsland’s TAFEs and secondary schools so that our young people and our whole community have access to affordable and physically accessible vocational training and education.
Conservatives ruined it all

THE BIG ISSUE

It is the conservative governments that stirred up the financial mayhem - they are the ones who fattened the golden goose on a raft of unsustainable monetary projects that destroyed world finance. They are the ones now in opposition who are the patrons of oligarchs and deliver syrupy sermons, that taxes are a thing of the past - that good government relates to less tax where big business and the obscenely rich are destined for overflowing wealth, in Australia and elsewhere, on the backs of workers.

E J Dionne Jnr, in his column in The Washington Post, of July 16, had this to say about conservatism.

"Conservatives once stubbornly insisted that inequality wasn’t a problem because the United States was the land of opportunity and upward mobility. Now they are facing the fact that we are by no means the most socially mobile country in the world.

"Reports show that social mobility is greater elsewhere, notably in Denmark, Australia, Norway, Finland, Canada, Sweden and Germany," he continued. "What do these countries have in common? Not to put too fine a point on it, all have national policies that are, in right-wing parlance, more “socialist” or (to be precise) social democratic than ours. They guarantee their citizens health insurance. They have stronger union movements and more generous welfare states. They tend to keep higher education more affordable. In most cases, especially Germany’s, they have a robust apprenticeship and job training programs. They levy higher taxes."

"Would all you conservative voters, take note, a vote for Tony Abbott is a vote that would send Australia spiralling into recession. This is a reasonable assumption, as Tony Abbott’s vague policies are aligned with the American Republicans and the extreme right, a situation where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Under Abbott, Australia will become a social club inherited by the wealthy and to hell with the rest of us."

John Macleod, Berry

TALKING POINTS

Hey, big tippers

Maybe Shellharbour council can explain to us why they would have to have one of the most expensive tips in the state at Dunmore? Illawarra Mercury, July 19

We pay $73 for a box trailer load of rubbish. Port Macquarie council charges only $15 for a small box trailer and $22 for a large box trailer of general waste. So I say that we are being ripped off and Shellharbour council deserves all the illegal dumping they get.

Say no to Labor

Ticked off at tip

Don’t know about everyone else but I find myself at the tip more often these days taking all my recycling materials down there because the fortnightly pick-up is just not good enough.

Home girl

Heartless driver

It’s really sad that a person in a service industry could treat a customer in such a heartless manner. (Disabled man ‘refused bus ramp’, IM, July 19)

However, is anyone else annoyed that public transport is so bad that it takes over one hour to get from Albion Park to Fairy Meadow?

Wheelchair help

Earlier this year during rail maintenance, we were at Waterfall station to catch our bus back to Wollongong. There was a gentleman in a wheelchair waiting to board the bus. The first bus had to move and let another bus take its place because it didn’t have the necessary space to accommodate a wheelchair. Maybe this also needs looking at.

Grannie Annie

Bus bullying

Come on people! Whatever happened to compassion?

Louise

Dragons fire goes out

We will not be making the final eight this year. (Bookies unimpressed by Dragons’ solid win, Mercury, July 18) If Kyle Stanley had not got injured and had remained in the 5/8 position, we could have been a chance to win the comp, but with Soward back we are no chance.

A team who score an average of 2.6 tries per game will not make the eight, let alone win the comp. In my opinion, Soward is a 5/8 who will not draw and commit defenders and he won’t throw a dummy. Work it out, Saints fans and coaching staff.

Devout Saint

Park madness

Declare national parks, let people shoot stuff in them, log the trees and then poison the aquifers with fracking. Top policy! Like totally WILDerness

(Keay mines given free rain over aquifers, Mercury, July 19)

Chop Chop
Local schools selected for National Partnership

Snug Primary School and Taroona High School have both been selected to be part of an innovative partnership between the Australian Government and the Tasmanian Government.

The Empowering Local Schools National Partnership involves 23 Tasmanian Government schools and is aimed at improving student outcomes by increasing the capacity of principals, parents and school communities to be involved in making decisions about governance, leadership and innovation.

Snug Primary Principal, Maureen McKeown, said the school was excited to be selected to be part of the partnership. “We have nearly 360 students at Snug Primary School and a strong community focus, with a great School Association,” she said. “We really do believe that parents and the community need to be part of the decision making process at the school, and our grant money will be used to enhance this.”

Mrs McKeown said the school will be resourced to make decisions that best cater for their students and will focus on how leadership and innovation can be used to further increase student outcomes. “We have access to professional learning, in the form of initiatives such as Family Partnership Training, and this can only benefit our school community,” she said. “2012 will be a planning year, and we will implement our Plus School Improvement Plan in 2013.”

The Minister for Education and Skills, Nick McKim, congratulated the successful schools and said that every school community was unique, and that this project enables them to make decisions on how to better respond to local needs. “Some schools have expressed an interest in exploring innovative models of school governance in relation to how communities and schools work together whilst others are developing innovative approaches in the use of technology to communicate with their school communities and strengthen links to learning,” he said.

The selected schools will start the 2013 school year as active Plus Schools, and Plus School principals will be supported through the Network structure as well as professional learning and leadership opportunities.

Senator Chris Evans, Acting Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, said the Gillard Government is investing $62.2 million to the Empowering Local Schools Initiative to support almost 1000 government and non-government schools to participate in Phase One of the initiative.

“Each participating school will receive a one-off start-up grant of between $40,000-$50,000 to support their Empowering Local Schools initiatives,” he said. “As well, $77,000 in funding will be provided for training and professional development for principals and school communities through the Department of Education’s Professional Learning Institute.

“The Tasmanian Government education system will receive a further $909,000 to support changed administrative arrangements. This will include development of a student administration and school data management system to support participating schools.”
It's a tough job getting workers to relocate

By DANIEL BURDON, APN

GETTING people to relocate for work is one of the biggest drivers of skills shortages in regional Australia, a Federal Government discussion paper released yesterday has confirmed.

The paper, on Australia’s skills and workforce needs, is looking to industry to fill the gaps on what could be done to battle skills shortages across a range of sectors.

In launching the paper, Skills Minister Chris Evans (pictured) outlined a future where lower-skilled workers would be in less demand while highly skilled workers with tertiary qualifications will continue to be in high demand. A major challenge in regional areas was labour mobility with the report revealing that only 8% of applicants were willing to move from the east to Western Australia, and just 8% willing to move for jobs in mining.

Senator Evans said health and community services were likely to create the biggest challenges.
MEMBER for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly says the recent Census showed a 30 per cent increase in the number of students from the region accessing higher education.

Dr Kelly attributed the result to the Federal Government’s decision to remove the limit on university places.

At the 2006 Census, 2255 students in Eden-Monaro attended university or other tertiary institution - this number jumped to 2958, according to 2011 Census data.

“Until the Government removed the limit on university places, the benefits associated with higher education were not available to many people in Eden-Monaro,” Dr Kelly said.

“Our reforms mean more Australians have the skills they need to access the high paying jobs of the future and to realise their full potential.”

Over the past five years, there has been a 26.8 per cent increase in students accessing tertiary education across NSW.

Independent body Skills Australia has forecast that by 2025 a third of all jobs will require a minimum of a bachelor’s degree qualification.

“To meet that demand for highly skilled workers, we are ensuring everyone who is eligible can access a place at Australian universities,” Dr Kelly said.

“The Census shows that more young people from rural and regional Australia are now taking up the opportunity to get a tertiary qualification.”

PICTURED RIGHT: Mike Kelly.
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