



# Priority Start: Jobs and training opportunities for young Western Australians

WA Labor is committed to ensuring that big State Government investments create jobs and training opportunities for young Western Australians.

## WA Labor will:

- Create jobs for apprentices and trainees on every big State Government funded construction project
- Expand Priority Start to apply to all construction investment including big maintenance contracts and joint ventures or public private partnerships which involve a construction arrangement
- Group contracts together to ensure that contractors are required to meet the obligations of the Priority Start policy
- Ensure regular enforcement and compliance checks
- Require all business cases for construction projects to outline how many jobs, including apprenticeships and traineeships, the investment will create



Skilled jobs for  
young Western  
Australians

## WA Labor to expand Priority Start

The Priority Start policy will be expanded to all construction investment by the State Government, including big maintenance contracts and joint ventures or public private partnerships which involve a construction arrangement.

WA Labor introduced Priority Start under the Carpenter Government. This expanded policy demonstrates WA Labor's long term commitment to deliver more jobs and training opportunities for young Western Australians.

## Awarding of Contracts to deliver more Apprentices and Trainees

WA Labor will ensure that the awarding of contracts by the State Government maximises the number of apprentices and trainees.

Currently there is some concern that the way in which tenders are issued minimises a contractor's obligations to employ apprentices and trainees. WA Labor will ensure that where appropriate contracts will be grouped together to ensure that contractors are required to meet the obligations of the Priority Start policy.

The Priority Start policy comes into effect when the labour component of a contract reaches a certain value. See table overleaf.

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## Lack of Enforcement by the Barnett Government

The failure of the Barnett Government to enforce the existing policy has resulted in fewer opportunities for young Western Australians.

The Barnett Government was criticised by the Auditor General in 2011 for losing job opportunities for young workers by failing to properly monitor and enforce the existing Priority Start policy. (*Western Australian Auditor General Report, Public Sector Performance Report 2011, Report 5, June 2011*)

## WA Labor will enforce the policy

The Priority Start policy will be properly enforced and monitored closely, so that State Government investment in big construction projects is used to train young Western Australians. Regular enforcement and compliance checks will be undertaken to ensure the policy is implemented.

## How it works

Under the Priority Start policy, all tendered building and construction projects with a labour component of more than \$300,000 must employ a minimum number of apprentices and trainees.

Project labour component	Minimum number of apprentices
\$300,001 - \$1 million	1
\$1,000,001 - \$2 million	2
\$2,000,001 - \$3 million	3
\$3,000,001 - \$4 million	4
\$4,000,001 - \$5 million	5
\$5,000,001 - \$6 million	6
\$6,000,001 and above	Continuation of ratio*

## Case Study: Elizabeth Quay

When questioned in Parliament about the number of apprentices and trainees employed on the Elizabeth Quay construction project the Minister responded with the following:

'The MRA (Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority) does not collect information to calculate this figure' 10 June 2015 Question on Notice Supplementary Information

## Case Study: Department of Housing

\$150 million maintenance work in 2015-16

'The Priority Start Policy does not apply to the Head Maintenance Contract' 16 June 2015 Questions without notice Legislative Council

**WA Labor will create jobs  
and opportunities for young  
Western Australians**

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