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\$700 million for Youth Guarantee welcomed by the AEU

The Australian Education Union today welcomed the policy announcement of the Australian Labor Party to inject \$700 million to provide greater opportunities for early school leavers.

AEU Federal TAFE Secretary, Pat Forward said, "This Youth Guarantee goes some way towards meeting the concerns of many Australians as to how we can best support the 45,000 young people who leave school early without moving on to full time work or study.

"The AEU believes that the proposal to provide an additional 7500 TAFE placements, an extra 7500 apprenticeships and additional resources to assist students to remain in education will assist young Australians.

"However, issues of how the funding will be used and in what industry areas new apprenticeships will be created, remain to be clarified. Labor must ensure that the apprenticeships are created in new and emerging skills areas and for higher level qualifications," Ms Forward said.

"The proposal for a mentoring program which would see 1,000 mentors trained and appointed to assist in the case management of young people will provide necessary support in the transition from school to work," said Ms Forward. "The union looks forward to discussions as to how this program will operate."

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