

New Zealand Labour's Careers Policy Needed for Australia

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The New Zealand Opposition announced a landmark policy in career development yesterday, to provide personalised and professional career advice to every secondary student.

The \$30 million a year policy has been applauded by the Career Development Association of Australia, who wish to see a similar strategy put in place in Australia.

"Prior to the Federal Election, the Turnbull Government announced a decision to develop a National Career Education Strategy with consultation from career professionals," CDAA spokesperson Rebecca Fraser said.

"As part of this strategy, we would like to see each Australian student receiving the same quality career advice promised by the New Zealand Labour Party."

Yesterday's policy outlines that each New Zealand high school would have specifically trained careers advice staff to develop a personalised career plan for every student from year 9 onwards.

"As the world of employment changes, with 50 per cent of current occupations predicted to be redundant within 15 years, career development is more important than ever," Ms Fraser said.

"We need to move away from this system of sporadic career advice in schools, often taught by already overstretched teaching staff."

CDAA believes career advice should be sought from professionals, with specific qualifications and experience in the area.

"Professional career practitioners not only provide resume advice, but they also use assessment tools to determine skills and interests," Ms Fraser said.

"They also employ current labour market information to identify future career options and draw from career development theory to help each individual achieve success."

CDAA looks forward to meeting with Education Minister Simon Birmingham and newly appointed Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills Karen Andrews in the near future to discuss the Government's careers policy.

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia's largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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