



Hon Greg Combet

Minister for Defence Personnel,
Materiel and Science



Government
of South Australia

Hon Jane Lomax-Smith

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THREE SCHOOLS TO LEAD SA-FIRST DEFENCE PROGRAM

Three South Australian high schools have been chosen to lead a new \$5.7 million program that will prepare young South Australians for jobs in the defence industry.

Federal Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science Greg Combet and State Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith today announced the successful lead schools.

They are Henley High School (western region), Valley View Secondary School (northern region) and Aberfoyle Park High School (southern region).

St Patrick's Technical College Northern Adelaide has been chosen as a focus curriculum school within the program.

Five additional partner schools will be identified in each region in the first half of this year. One of the program's aims will be to get **1000 more senior secondary students studying maths and science**.

The South Australian Advanced Technology Industry – School Pathways Program, first announced last year, is part of the Federal Government's \$10.9 million National Partnership Agreement to prepare young people for work in the defence industry.

The lead schools will develop specialised curriculum for Year 6 to 12 students around maths, science and technology, and will have a particular focus on industry vocational curriculum, higher education pathways and career development for students.

Mr Combet says the initiative is targeted at addressing skill shortages within the Australian defence industry by increasing the pool of suitably qualified people from which defence industry can recruit.

"South Australia is undoubtedly building itself as a defence State and we want to make sure that young people are in the box seat to take up jobs in this important industry," Mr Combet says.

Dr Lomax-Smith says the program provides opportunities for students to be placed into school-based apprenticeships, cadetships and internships within the defence industry.

“This program enables students to develop a path from school into ongoing study at TAFE, University or straight into employment and aims to get 1000 more students studying maths and science in their senior years of education.

“The program will deliver fresh job opportunities for young people by ensuring they have the appropriate skills needed by the defence industry.

“The initiative will build on the State Government’s 10 Trade Schools for the Future, which opened at the start of 2008 backed with a \$29.5 million investment.

“Our trade schools program has so far helped more than 1300 high school students to take up high-level apprenticeships alongside their South Australian Certificate of Education studies.

“Together these investments will address significant skills demands within the defence industry across South Australia.”