In Bendigo today, Labor’s education and training spokesperson, Tanya Plibersek, announced she will visit 100 businesses in the next 100 days as part of a national listening tour to hear whether employers are able to recruit the skilled staff they need.

“I’ve had many businesses, big and small, tell me that they’d love to take on more staff, but that they can’t find people with the right training,” Ms Plibersek said.

“In fact, the Australian Industry Group says 75 per cent of businesses report they are struggling to find the qualified workers they need.

“That's hurting our economy, and killing job creation.

“There are almost two million Australians crying out for work or looking for more hours.

“So I’m keen to hear from employers about how our schools, TAFEs, and universities can better train Australians for jobs.

“Scott Morrison and the Liberals have no plan to fix this serious problem.

“All Scott Morrison has done is create a tradie shortage.
“Australia has a skills crisis – and it's a crisis of Scott Morrison’s own making.

“The Liberals have cut around $3 billion from TAFE and training.

“Bendigo now has shortages of welders, mechanics, bricklayers, hairdressers, childcare workers, carpenters, plumbers, and other critical trades.

“The Liberals are in their seventh year of government, and Australia has fewer apprentices and trainees today than when they first came to office.

“There are more people dropping out of vocational education and training courses than finishing them.

“By locking Australians out of education and training, the Liberals are locking Australians out of jobs.”

The Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters, said Scott Morrison’s skills crisis was holding back local business and denying locals jobs.

“We have so many terrific businesses in Bendigo that want to grow and hire more staff, but they are being let down by the Liberals’ failure on education,” Ms Chesters said.

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