

*Michael Vassili For Greenway*

My name is Michael Vassilli I live in the western suburbs in the suburb of Quakers Hill, which is in the electorate of Greenway. I'm standing as a federal candidate for Greenway. I'm a 43 year old husband I've got two children, Peta 11 years old and Emma is 14, so their future is very much at the forefront of why I think it's so important to stand as a candidate and to help regain government, a Rudd Labor government of some vision, some plan, some future, some fairness to the way we're governed in Australia which is in stark contrast to the situation we have been in for for the four terms of the Howard Government.

We've got many plans for youth in our community who are suffering under a number of fronts. First of all we are suffering under an unfair industrial relations system, John Howard's work choices has overnight with a stroke of a pen has removed fairness from the workplace. It particularly disadvantages youth, youth who are relatively inexperienced. They come to the workforce without the qualifications of older people, come to workforce without benefit of experience, and it's that sector of the community that we've seen most exploited by removal of the fairness that were provided under the awards. Howard has removed the safety net provided under the awards. Rudd Labor Government will restore that.

We would rip up work choices and restore awards and restore fairness in the workplace. In the area of training, what we've seen is a disgraceful situation under the four terms of the Howard liberal government. We've got a 250,000 skills shortage. 250,000 positions that could have been provided to our youth in Australia through training, proper funding of training in schools, TAFEs, higher education, that's a missed opportunity after 4 terms under the Howard Government. That's the situation we're currently in. And there is no plan from John Howard's government to reverse that. The only plan they do have is to introduce 457 visas where they allow overseas skilled migrants to come for short periods of time to take skilled positions. We think that our Australian children, Australian youth should be benefactors of training and education. They are the ones that should be trained up for the future to fill in the 250,000 jobs.

Now, also the big issues, climate change within our community and within our nation as a whole. Part of my electorate takes in the Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury is the food bowl of Sydney, it's a vast, rural, agricultural portion of the electorate and climate change has hit that end of the electorate quite substantially. Also there's been an ignoring of environmental problems in the area. For eg. the river has been choking and has been neglected for 4 terms of Howard Liberal government. Only 3 weeks out from the election because it's an election this year, because Howard is getting desperate, the Prime Minister has simply lost touch, there's an announcement by the Liberal government to do something about the river. Well we have a long-term plan, not only for the environment on a national level, but for the local environment. We have long term plan for training/education, for industrial relations, for our economy.

We see our economy as being smarter than the rest of the world, more efficient, more advanced. Our technology for example, when we produce cars in this country we want them to be better than the rest of the world, more technologically advanced than the world, more innovative. John Howard's plan is to make our labour cheaper so

when we produce cars, he wants us to compete with China for example by being cheaper.

Federal Labor under Rudd want us to be smarter, we see that as the way forward for the future of our economy.