



The Hon. Tony Abbott MP  
Leader of the Opposition

16 August 2010

Mr Andrew Forrest  
GenerationOne  
Level 1, 113-115 Redfern Street  
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter dated 4 August 2010 where you sought the Coalition's support to addressing indigenous employment disparity and our commitment to implementing a clear path to eliminate disadvantage.

As I said when you launched this initiative at the Yaama Dhiyaan Indigenous Hospitality Training Centre in Sydney last Wednesday, I am determined to be part of a generation of political leaders who focus on giving indigenous people a real and honoured place in our midst, rather than keeping them as a cultural curiosity on the fringes of our society. For far too long, leaders of all political persuasions have provided considerable financial support but have failed to actually roll up their sleeves and take real action to create opportunities for indigenous communities.

I am determined to make a real difference. I confirm my in-principle support for Industry Vocational Training and Employment Centres, and further, as a demonstrated measure of my determination, the Coalition will commit \$8 million specifically for the Australian Employment Covenant.

I welcome the involvement of Dr Peter Shergold in the development of the implementation strategy and if elected, I will make consideration of Dr Shergold's recommendations a priority for the next Coalition Government.

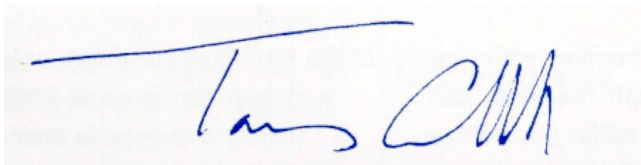
I am committed to ensuring that the Coalition works with Indigenous leaders to ensure that more young Indigenous people have the opportunity to take-up meaningful employment that builds a career, self-esteem and sustainable communities.

The Australian Employment Covenant is a landmark achievement between Australian employers, the Commonwealth Government and Indigenous Australians to break the vicious cycle of unemployment and poverty among Indigenous Australians.

From its inception, it has had my support and that of the Coalition parties: I look forward to the next stage and the realisation of these jobs through training that will make a real difference.

I commend your commitment to GenerationOne and Indigenous Australians – it is an inspiring commitment and one that a Coalition Government will match should the Australian people entrust us with their vote on Saturday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the name.

TONY ABBOTT