



# THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

**David Bradbury MP**

Federal Member for Lindsay

04 June 2010

## Joint Media Release

# 300 000th computer delivered to our kids no thanks to Tony

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard today handed over the 300 000th computer delivered as part of the Rudd Government's Computers in Schools program – a program that Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has said he will scrap immediately if elected.

Ms Gillard was visiting Cranebrook High School with Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury where they were able to hand over laptops to students.

The Computers in Schools program is on track to provide a computer for every student in years 9-12 in every school by the end of 2011, just as promised.

Mr Abbott has been very clear about the Coalition's plans for the program.

Ms Gillard said that Tony Abbott has consigned potentially hundreds of thousands of kids to typewriters and carbon paper if he wins the next election and cancels computers for hundreds of schools.

Mr Abbott revealed in a doorstep this week that if he is elected, kids shouldn't hold their breath waiting for the Coalition to supply them with what in the modern age amounts to a basic learning tool.

Mr Abbott said of the Computers in Schools program:

Now, obviously, if you're waiting for a computer you won't get it after this program is scrapped should we win office. (Tony Abbott, Doorstop, 1 June, 2010)

Ms Gillard said that parents simply shouldn't risk their kids' education on somebody who believes that computers are a luxury in our schools.

She said our kids shouldn't have to do without the basic computing skills they'll need to get a job when they finish school.

The Rudd Government program will provide a computer for every child in Years 9-12 by the end of 2011. It is on track to be completed on time with 297 000 delivered as of the end of May.

The program will also help keep those computers up to date with replacements available every four years to ensure that kids aren't stuck using outdated technology.

Mr Abbott has said that if he is elected that funding would also stop, consigning them to being relics within a few short years.

When in government, the Coalition allowed the computer age to pass them by. By the time the Rudd Government has rolled this program out, we will have achieved a 1:1 ratio of students in Years 9-12 with access to a computer.

By the end of 2011, 780 000 computers will have been delivered taking the number of computers in schools for those grades to almost 1 million.