

The Hon. Gayle Tierney MLC

Minister for Skills and TAFE

Skills and TAFE Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions

Government is investing in TAFEs to improve access to training and deliver a pipeline of skilled workers

- ➔ TAFE sits at the centre of Victoria's training system, supported by an additional investment of **\$459.3 million** in this Budget to enable even more Victorians to upskill and reskill into meaningful, well-paid careers.
- ➔ Over the past decade, the Government has invested more than **\$16 billion** in new and base funding to rebuild TAFE and support universities to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and jobs.
- ➔ Completions have increased over the last six years.
- ➔ Student and employer satisfaction remains strong - with nearly 9 out of 10 Victorian VET graduates satisfied with their training.





- ➔ We've cut the financial barriers to Victorians studying Free TAFE – now offering more than 80 programs without tuition fees to more Victorians, including those retraining for new in-demand careers.
- ➔ More than **58,000** Victorians have sought to reskill in the first two years since eligibility for subsidised training and Free TAFE was expanded.
- ➔ **60%** of the students who have reskilled are women – supporting them to re-enter the workforce.
- ➔ Since January 2024, First Nations Victorians have access to a full tuition fee waiver for Skills First training – no matter the VET qualification.
- ➔ Apprenticeship commencements were **21%** higher in 2024 than 2020.
- ➔ **40,000 Trade Papers** issued since 2019.

We are delivering an ambitious TAFE capital works program. In the last year I have opened:

- **\$60 million** Broadmeadows Health and Community Centre of Excellence
- **\$151 million** Chisholm Institute – Frankston Campus Redevelopment
- **\$40 million** significantly upgraded Melbourne Polytechnic Collingwood Campus

We are on track to deliver:

- TAFE Gippsland Clean Energy Centre in Morwell
- New Kangan Institute campuses in Melton and Sunbury
- Dhelkaya Community Health and Learning Hub in Castlemaine
- The Gordon Centre of Excellence in Disability, Health and Community Support



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Free TAFE is making training more accessible



Since its implementation in 2019, Free TAFE has supported:



49,800

Unemployed
Victorians,
at the time
of training



20,200

Learners
with
disability



60,700

Culturally and
linguistically
diverse
learners



118,800

Women



53,000

Learners
in regional
Victoria



3,200

First Nations

- ➔ Regional commencements **increased by 6%** in 2024 when compared to 2023.
- ➔ More than **206,000** students have commenced a Free TAFE course and have saved more than **\$625 million** in tuition fees since 2019, supporting cost of living pressures.

Victorian Skills Plan

for 2024 into 2025

Shared prosperity
through skills



Jobs, Skills,
Industry
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The Victorian Skills Plan underpins the Victorian Government's support for Skills and TAFE, with TAFE at the centre.

The Victorian Skills Plan outlines Victoria's future workforce needs, including:



Lifting participation in education and training



Promoting post-secondary education skills and career pathways



Delivering the right skills for the jobs of today and tomorrow

The 2025-26 State Budget includes funding of **\$459.3 million** for initiatives in the Skills and TAFE portfolio including:

- **\$171.3 million** to delivering a pipeline of skilled workers, including continuing expanded eligibility for Free TAFE at TAFEs, Learn Locals, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).
Funding is also provided for the Asylum Seeker VET program, which provides eligible asylum seekers with access to subsidised training.
- **\$121 million** for TAFEs, including funding to provide support services, training delivery, and help students get the most out of their training.
- **\$43.7 million** to improve VET student completions and employment outcomes.
- **\$17.7 million** for Closing the Gap VET initiatives.
- **\$9.5 million** to transition to new national VET data standards.
- **\$9.3 million** to provide teacher scholarships and professional development opportunities for TAFE teachers and Adult Education Sector teachers.





Further transformative investments include:

- **\$50 million** for Melbourne Polytechnic's Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence to deliver innovative training, support industry through applied research and problem-solving and disseminate best-practice across the Victorian and national TAFE network to drive a modernised construction sector.
- **\$22.8 million** to continue support for apprentices, trainees and their employers to meet Victoria's workforce priorities, including the continuation of 29 Apprenticeship Support Officers.
- **\$11.1 million** for TAFE campus upgrades – at The Gordon's Geelong campus, South West TAFE Ballarat Road campus, and Federation University SMB and Mount Helen campus.
- **\$3 million** for Bendigo Kangan Institute to lead a pilot project to develop an Artificial Intelligence capability that will enhance the methods and application of recognition of prior learning.
- **\$27 million** for dedicated Pathway Coordinators at Government High Schools through the Education portfolio.

We are also working with the Commonwealth through the National Skills Agreement to secure more funding for our state.