The Hon. Gayle Tierney MLC Minister for Skills and TAFE

Skills and TAFE Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
11 June 2025



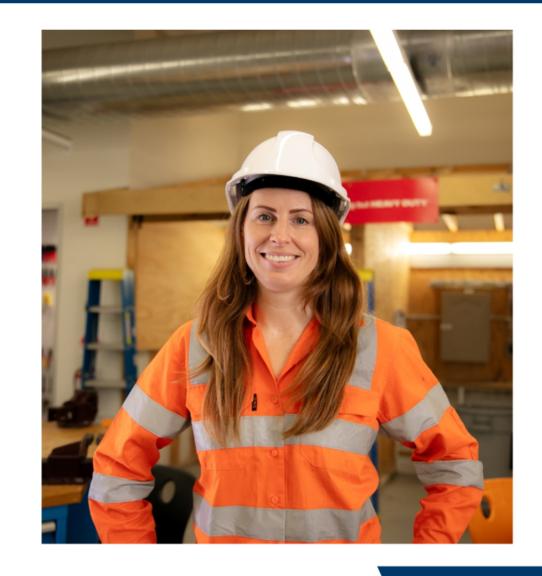


STATE OF THE PORTFOLIO

The Skills and TAFE portfolio plays a critical role delivering a skilled workforce and growing Victoria's economy

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.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Even more Victorians are accessing 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.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

TAFE Capital Program

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 20,200

60,700 118,800 53,000

3,200

Unemployed Victorians. at the time of training

Learners with disability Culturally and linguistically diverse learners

Women

Learners in regional Victoria

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.



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

BUDGET INITIATIVES

In the 2025-26 State Budget, the Victorian Government builds on its investment in training and skills with funding of \$459.3 million

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.



BUDGET INITIATIVES

Future Vision and the National Skills Agreement





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.