

# The Hon. Gayle Tierney MLC

## Minister for Skills and TAFE

### Skills and TAFE Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

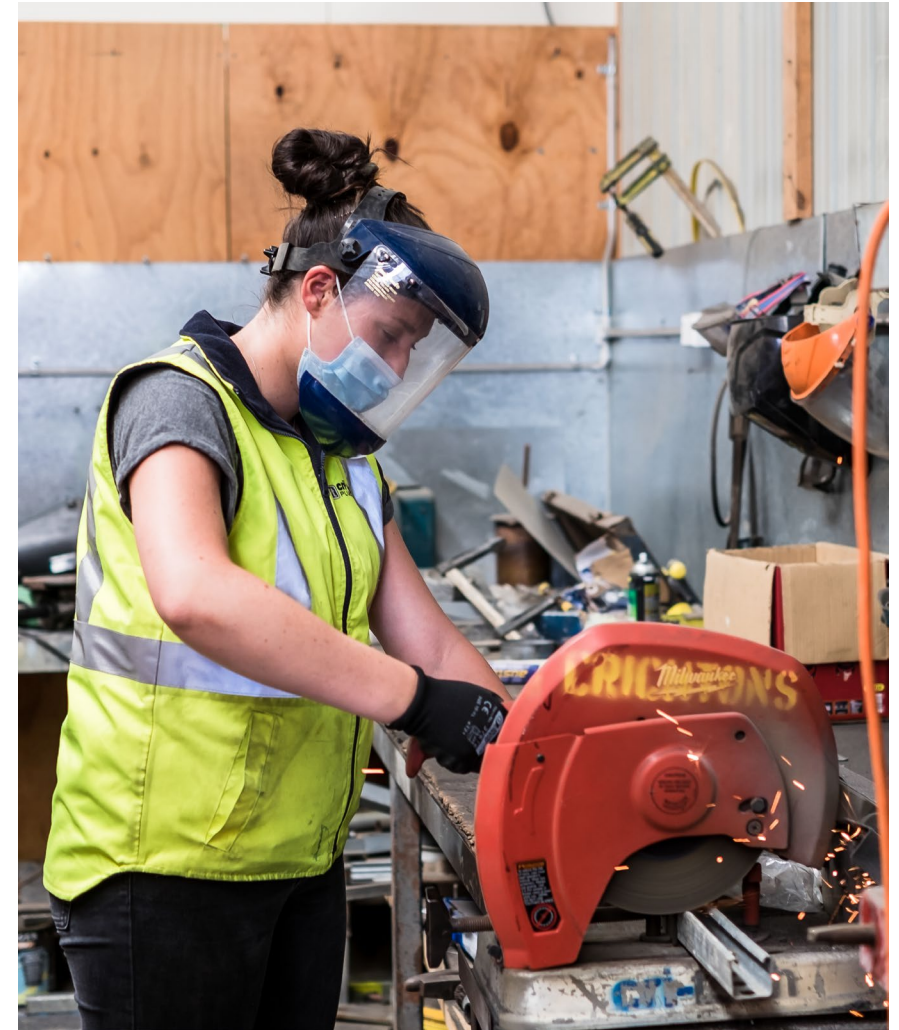
21 May 2024



Jobs, Skills,  
Industry  
and Regions

## Government is growing training delivery by improving access to training and investing in our TAFEs

- ▶ TAFE sits at the centre of our world-class training system, supported by a further investment of **\$555 million** in this Budget to enable even more Victorians to upskill into meaningful, well-paid careers.
- ▶ Over the past decade the Victorian Government has invested more than **\$4.6 billion** in TAFEs and tertiary education including **\$627 million** in TAFE infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Since 2019, we've cut the financial barriers to Victorians getting a great job with Free TAFE – now offering more than 80 courses without tuition fees to more Victorians, including those retraining for new in-demand careers.
- ▶ More than **170,500** students have commenced a Free TAFE course and have saved more than **\$460 million** in tuition fees up until March 2024.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

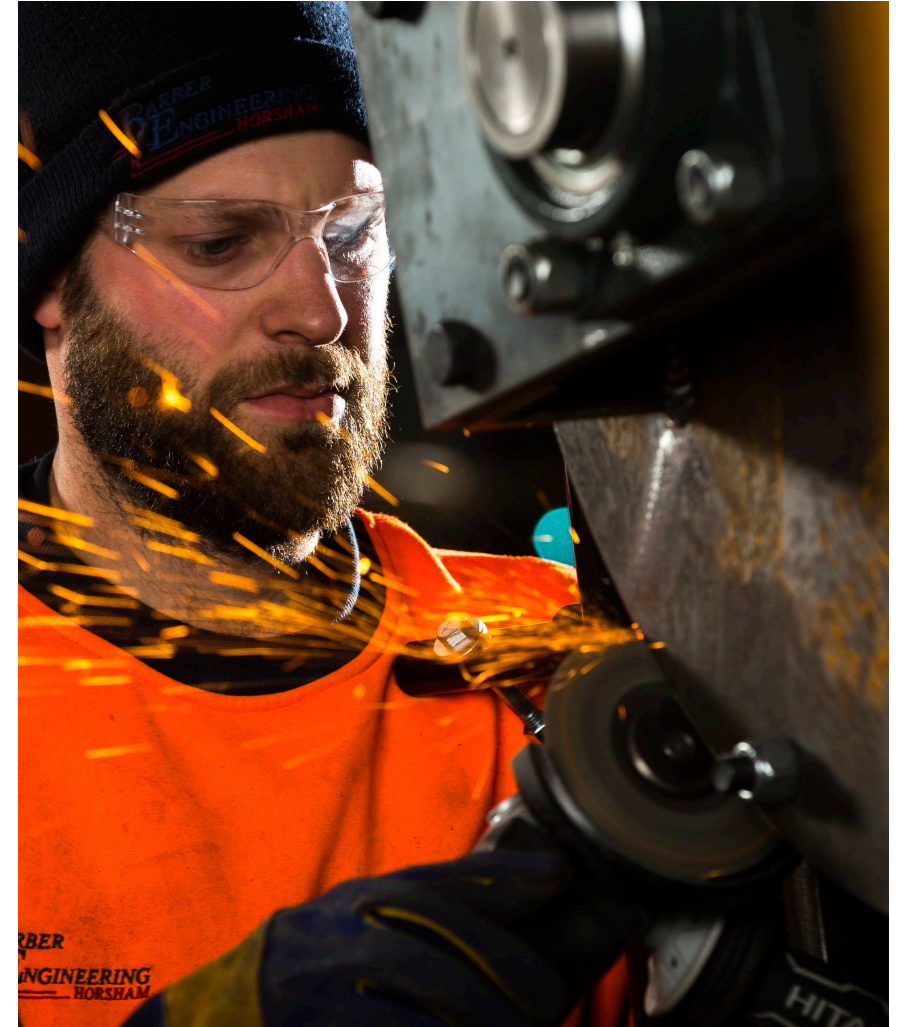
### More Victorians are accessing training



- ➔ More than **17,900** Victorians were able to reskill due to the Government's election commitment to expand Free TAFE eligibility since 1 January 2023 – with more than **60%** women.
- ➔ From 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 **37%** higher in 2023 than 2020.
- ➔ Early 2024 data shows that commencements are up compared to the same time last year, including:
  - **7.3%** increase in VET commencements
  - **15%** increase in TAFE commencements
  - **18%** increase in Free TAFE commencements

## Increased completion rates

- ➔ The four-year non-apprenticeship completion rate increased by nearly **6 percentage points** from 2017-2019 to **50.8%** in 2023.
- ➔ Free TAFE 4-year completion rate of **53.7%** compares favourably to the national average university 4-year completion rate of 40.9%
- ➔ The six-year apprenticeship completion rate in 2023 reached **60.2%**, marking a **1.8 percentage point** increase from 2022.
- ➔ The number of women completing an apprenticeship or traineeship has increased by 10.8% to 6,900 over the last 12 months.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## Free TAFE is making training more accessible



Since its implementation in 2019, Free TAFE has supported:



- ➔ Regional commencements increased by **6.2%** in 2023 and have grown a further **7%** in early 2024.
- ➔ There was a **19%** increase in First Nations students in regional Victoria in 2023.

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## The Victorian Skills plan informs a fit for purpose training system



### 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 2024-25 the Victorian Government builds on its investment in training and skills with \$555 million for new initiatives

### We will continue the achievements of Free TAFE

- ▶ **\$394 million** over three years to fund Free TAFE and training places to support jobs growth and industry development. This will provide around 54,500 additional places, of which at least half will be delivered by TAFEs.
  - ▶ Continue to spend more than **\$1 billion** a year on Free TAFE and subsidised training places.
- ▶ **\$32 million** over two years for the continuation of Skills First Skill Sets to tailor training to better meet industry and learner needs.

### We will continue to strengthen the TAFE Network

- ▶ **\$113 million** to support TAFEs deliver their critical role as public providers, by continuing the TAFE Services Fund which supports:
  - ▶ crucial facilities maintenance
  - ▶ student support services for mental health
  - ▶ student learning support
- ▶ **\$4.5 million** to make the jobs of TAFE staff easier by establishing a core Human Resources Information System platform for the TAFE Network.



## BUDGET INITIATIVES

In 2024-25 the Victorian Government builds on its investment in training and skills with \$555 million for new initiatives

**We will continue to provide stewardship and support for apprentices and trainees to meet workforce priorities**

- ▶ **\$11 million** to continue Apprenticeships Victoria and the Apprenticeship Support Officer Program, including:
  - ▶ tailored support to apprentices and trainees
  - ▶ advice on training and employment
  - ▶ safety and workplace concerns
  - ▶ housing and financial difficulties.
- ▶ **We have also commissioned the Apprenticeships Taskforce to provide Government with options to continue to improve workplace safety and fairness, and to enable more apprentices and trainees to complete their training and achieve employment in high-priority industries.**



**APPRENTICESHIPS VICTORIA**