

Inquiry into Victorian universities' investment in skills

Department of Education and Training

14 June 2022



Our universities are essential partners in Victoria's economic recovery and future growth

- ❑ Victoria's universities are individually and collectively recognised for their strengths across education and research.
 - They drive innovation, generate economic activity and contribute to Victoria's skills needs
- ❑ The Victorian Government supported universities to get through the pandemic and be in a strong position to rebound. The Victorian University Support Package provided a critical financial injection to the sector, including:
 - \$350 million Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund
 - Payroll tax deferral of \$130 million in 2020 and around \$135 million in 2022
- ❑ The Victorian Government and university sector leveraging partnership agreements will look beyond the pandemic and explore and collaborate on new opportunities to improve on the existing skills pipeline
- ❑ Victoria's universities have a critical role in responding to the State's skills needs and supporting Victoria's economic recovery
 - This role spans the learning eco-system including schools, TAFEs, training providers, universities, industry and Government
 - It leverages the strengths of each university individually and as a network
 - It needs to be responsive and agile to meet emerging skilled workforce needs

Opportunity for universities and TAFEs to strengthen their partnerships and establish new pathways across the education system

Pathways across the education and training eco-system

- Accessible pathways across schools, TAFEs, training providers, universities and work-place learning
- Ensure all learners can access the education and training they need
- E.g. partnership between **Deakin University** and **The Gordon**

Upskilling and reskilling Victorians for future work

- Establish industry-recognised lifelong learning opportunities
- Respond to industry and business needs through co-developed tailored programs for existing workforces
- E.g. **DJPR** and **RMIT University Digital Jobs Program** which upskills Victorians through education, internships and industry mentors.

Opportunity for universities to bolster industry collaboration and generate prosperity across Victoria

Cohesive industry partnerships

- Research, development and innovation
- Local leadership and community engagement
- Industry informed education programs
- E.g. **Federation University's Morwell Innovation Centre in Gippsland**

Research and development to drive innovation across Victoria

- Leverage global partnerships and collaboration to drive productivity and attract investment in Victoria
- Foster economic growth through innovation and commercialisation
- E.g. **Woodside Monash Energy Partnership**

Opportunity for universities to strengthen their role as the engine room of their local economy and community

Local economic and community leadership

- Deepen partnerships with education providers, businesses, services and industry in local communities
- Respond to local community education needs to enable access
- E.g. **La Trobe University** and **Sunraysia Community Health Services** in Mildura

Sector-wide collaboration to contribute to State objectives

- Engagement with the Commonwealth Government to ensure policy settings reflect the workforce needs of Victoria
- Cohesively leverage higher education sector strengths to respond to disruption and support social and industry transition.
- E.g. **Clean Economy Transition**

Opportunity for universities to enhance their role in responding to Victoria's future workforce planning

Highly skilled future workforces

- Proactive engagement with the **Victorian Skills Plan**
- Align key course capabilities with workforce needs
- Invest in agile and responsive course development with industry

Bolstering metropolitan and regional workforces

- Address unique place-based opportunities and challenges
- Address local community service and workforce shortages identified in individual **Regional Skills Demands Profiles**
- E.g. **University of Melbourne's Rural Medical Pathway in Shepparton**

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