# WORKFORCE TRAINING INNOVATION FUND

# Summary Fact Sheet

Victoria’s economy is rapidly changing and it is vital that our current and future growth industries are equipped with employees who have the skills to support continued productivity and economic prosperity in a globalised 21st century.

From January 2017, the Victorian Government is introducing its new approach to the training and TAFE, Skills First, which will ensure real training for real jobs.

The Workforce Training and Innovation Fund (WTIF) is a new targeted funding stream under Skills First, which will assist industry and employers to address their rapidly evolving workplace skills development needs.

The Victorian Government has committed an initial $40 million in 2017 to the fund which will help improve the flexibility and responsiveness of the training and TAFE system. The aim is to strengthen the relevance of training and ensure students develop the high-quality skills that are crucial to industry.

A key focus of WTIF is to strengthen partnerships between industry and training providers to develop innovative training programs and methods, and respond to workforce development needs.

WTIF creates opportunities for the joint exploration of new ideas and solutions to address barriers to workplace productivity.

The fund will invest in initiatives that focus on increased employment and/ or productivity outcomes; particularly in new and emerging industries and the Victorian Government priority sectors.

Innovative thinking and approaches will allow industry and training providers to enhance existing practices in skills development, training methods and product design.

## WHAT IS THE FUNDING FOR?

Funds of up to $5 million will be made available to projects of varying size, duration and complexity across four interrelated categories:

* Future Growth Sectors: design of skills development approaches for new and emerging industries and Victorian Government priority sectors
* Workforce Training and Skills Development: improving delivery of workplace skills to support business productivity
* New Training Programs and Methods: innovation in course development, product design and delivery in support of VET sector improvement
* Applied Research: research solving 'real-world' industry and business productivity challenges, that leads to innovation in product development, design and delivery.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN BE FUNDED?

Grants will be provided to support partnership projects that align with one or more of the fund categories, for example:

* research partnerships between high-quality training providers and industry to solve practical business problems where skilling of workers is required
* development and diffusion of new production and service models with businesses and across supply chains where workers also need new skills
* developing enterprise-based training programs
* developing new courses and delivery approaches to skill workers for emerging industries.

Seed funding will also be available to support development of WTIF grand funding proposals.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Applicants must be part of a partnership (including Consortia) between:

* Training providers delivering training in Victoria; and
* Individual businesses, with a minimum three consecutive years ongoing trading in Victoria.

Partnerships must be clearly demonstrated in the proposal.

Priority will be given to businesses in new and emerging industries and Victorian Government priority sectors.

Refer to WTIF Guidelines for full details on who can apply, eligibility and assessment criteria, priority sectors and requirements for applications.

## KEY DATES

Grant funding proposals will be accepted from January 2017.

Seed funding applications will be accepted from January 2017.

For information session dates, visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)

## WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

The Department of Education and Training will provide a number of support mechanisms to aid the roll-out of WTIF, including:

* information sessions
* consultation with industry groups on areas of need, possible projects and partnerships
* activity to connect appropriate partners and establish collaborative relationships
* seed funding of up to $50 000 to develop, scope and prepare robust proposals (conditions apply).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

A separate process applies for grant funding proposals and seed funding applications.

### GRANT FUNDING

To apply for grant funding complete a WTIF Grant Proposal Form and submit along with all supporting documentation to [wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Grant funding proposals must be endorsed by an Authorised Officer of each partnership or consortium.

Proposals will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria as outlined in the Guidelines.

### SEED FUNDING

To apply for seed funding complete a WTIF Seed Funding Application and submit to [wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Seed funding applications will be assessed by the Department as they are received. A successful application for seed funding does not guarantee automatic approval of grant funding.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For WTIF Guidelines, Key Terms and Definitions and Frequently Asked Questions, visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)

For general queries, information on facilitation support or to register for email notifications and updates email [wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au)