

# Professional Learning Program for current and aspiring Applied Learning Teachers

## Introduction

The Department of Education and Training has engaged Cambridge Education as the supplier to design, develop and deliver this Professional Learning Program. Cambridge Education has worked with subject matter experts in developing a Professional Learning Program to address specific applied learning teacher competencies and improve applied learning programs being delivered to students in secondary schools. This initiative forms part of the senior secondary pathways reforms, which aims to increase the supply and skills of vocational and applied learning teachers in Victorian government schools.

Through this initiative, the Department will support 480 eligible current VCAL Teachers and aspiring applied learning teachers over 2021-2022 in Victorian government secondary schools to undertake a 5-6-day Professional Learning Program. This program will be delivered online and face to face via workshops, webinars and online modules.

To support participants, a VCAL Practice Continuum, self-reflection and student feedback tools will allow VCAL and vocational and applied learning teachers to conduct a gap analysis to explore the differences between their self-reflection and student perception, using it to plot a path forward. The program also includes highly contextualised support services such as teaching facilitators. These are designed to support participants undertake their learning journey and build strong professional networks.

## Professional Learning Program information

The topics focus on the theories and practices related to applied learning. Teachers will explore a variety of teaching styles, strategies, and have the opportunity to develop networks with VCAL and other applied learning teachers from across Victoria. Teachers will then leverage their knowledge and skills to undertake their own independent research which is designed to inform and enhance their own professional practice.

## What is being funded?

Schools will be able to access two days of Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) funding per participant to support program participants to undertake the professional learning program. Once the participants have been selected and notified of the outcome of their application, successful participants and their Principals will receive information via email on how to claim reimbursements for the CRT coverage.

## How to apply

Participants must complete the Expression of Interest Form which must be signed by the school Principal.

The Department will conduct an initial check to confirm that each application meets the eligibility criteria. You may be contacted to provide clarification or additional information in support of your application.

**Applications close 2 August 2021**

**Program commencement 16 August 2021**

## Eligibility criteria

You must:

- be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- be employed (ongoing or fixed term and full-time or part time) as a registered teacher in a Victorian government school for the duration of the Professional Learning Program
- be a VCAL or aspiring applied learning teacher
- be willing and able to complete the Professional Learning Program, including all work-based activity before 31 December 2022
- have Principal endorsement.

This Professional Learning Program is available to current VCAL teachers and aspiring applied learning teachers. Please be aware that priority may be given to those teachers who are currently teaching a VCAL program.

Aspiring applied learning teachers are those who are not currently teaching a VCAL program but who have a keen interest in applied learning and a desire to teach an applied learning program in the future.

## Funding exclusions

This Professional Learning Program will not cover the following:

- participation for teachers in non-government schools
- additional expenses associated with completing this Program. (e.g. textbooks, stationery, travel expenses, accommodation, and information technology equipment).

## Secondments

If you are currently on secondment and hold a substantive position elsewhere, as part of your application you are required to provide the Principal Support Statement from your current Principal, as well as a Principal Support Statement from your substantive Principal. This is to ensure that your substantive Principal is aware of your application and the Program requirements and will support you in completing this Program when you return to your substantive position.

## Privacy of information

The Department collects the information contained in the Expression of Interest Form in order to register you as an applicant for this initiative and to contact you if necessary. We will not disclose this information without your consent, except where required to do so by law. You may contact us if you have any concerns about the privacy of your information.

## Notification

The Department will notify you of the outcome of your application via email. Successful applicants will receive an information pack which includes:

- an email from the Department confirming your Professional Learning Program information. This will include information to assist with accessing the Learning Management System.

You must return an acknowledgement reply via email to [vocational.workforce@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:vocational.workforce@education.vic.gov.au).