

### RECONNECT PROGRAM 2021

Reconnect 2021 is designed to support Victorians experiencing disadvantage. The program assists participants to overcome the barriers preventing them from engaging in education, training and employment and provides support into further study or employment pathways.

#### FUNDING, FUNCTIONS AND LOCATIONS

From 2021, 34 providers will deliver Reconnect across all 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Victoria. The providers are made up of TAFEs, Learn Local Organisations and Community Service Organisations.

The program will receive \$47 million of funding across 4 years. The program is funded to support over 1,700 participants each year, by providing wrap around supports and interventions that aim at addressing non-vocational barriers that impact on their ability to reach their participation potential.

#### PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The four elements of the program are as follows:

- **Engagement:**
  - engage non-service-connected participants via outreach activities
  - develop and maintain place-based partnerships and connections with organisations and the community to facilitate referral pathways into the program
  - Assess participants' suitability for the program
- **Learner wrap-around supports**
  - identify the support needs of participants
  - refer participants to support services through partnerships and connections
  - identify personal interests and identify opportunities for community participation.
- **Education, training, and employment:**
  - identify education and training needs and goals
  - facilitate participation in in pre-accredited Vocational Education and Training
  - facilitate participation in Accredited Vocational Education and Training
  - identify employment needs and goals and facilitate employment opportunities with industry partners.
- **Pathways:**
  - support participants to transition into an appropriate pathway out of the program into education, training, employment, or further service provision at a partner organisation.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Learners referred to Reconnect 2021 must be:

- Young people aged between 17- 19 years not engaged in education or training for six months or more (less than 8 hours per week).
- Mature participants aged between 20-64 years; Unemployed for six months or more (less than 8 hours per week) and not engaged in education or training for six months or more (less than 8 hours per week).
- Young people (17 to 24 years of age) who have been, or are currently on, Youth Justice Orders.
- Asylum Seekers: A person without citizenship but holds a valid: Bridging Visa Class E (BVE); Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV); or Temporary Protection Visa (TPV).
- Other: From time to time, the Department may approve the accommodation of additional target groups during the term of the program (for example, this may include groups such as people impacted by bushfires, COVID-19 or retrenched workers etc.). Currently, no additional groups have been added.

#### RECONNECT OPPORTUNITIES

The Reconnect program delivers on the Government's commitment to understanding and addressing the needs of disengaged and disadvantaged learners with low levels of educational attainment. Reconnect is designed to support the significant number of Victorians experiencing multiple barriers to engaging in education and training by providing the supported pathways many learners need to succeed and break the cycle of disadvantage.

Reconnect also supports the integral role that TAFEs, Learn Locals and Skills and Jobs Centres have in the Victorian training system. Reconnect provides the opportunity for close partnerships between these organisations, ensuring that learners experiencing disadvantage are supported to engage meaningfully in their chosen education, training and/or employment pathway.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[reconnect.program@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:reconnect.program@education.vic.gov.au)

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/reconnect-program.aspx>

RECONNECT 2021 PROVIDERS AND DELIVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAS)

**Advanced Community College**

T: 0439 547 615  
E: [reconnect@advance.vic.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@advance.vic.edu.au)

**Australian Vietnamese Women's Association**

T: (03) 9396 1922  
E: [Phuong.ngo@avwa.org.au](mailto:Phuong.ngo@avwa.org.au)

**Bendigo Kangan Institute**

T: 1300 327 328  
E: [jmcclimont@kangan.edu.au](mailto:jmcclimont@kangan.edu.au)

**BGT (Central Highlands Group Training)**

T: (03) 5333 8600  
E: [deanne@bgt.org.au](mailto:deanne@bgt.org.au)

**Box Hill Institute**

T: 0466 795 391  
E: [reconnect@boxhill.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@boxhill.edu.au)

**Carrington Adult Education**

T: (03) 9421 2392  
E: [rei.chin@carringtonbush.org.au](mailto:rei.chin@carringtonbush.org.au)

**Centre for Multicultural Youth**

T: (03) 9340 3785  
E: [jsmith@cmv.net.au](mailto:jsmith@cmv.net.au)

**Chisholm Institute**

T: (03) 9238 8577  
E: [reconnect@chisholm.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@chisholm.edu.au)

**CIRE Education Services**

T: 1300 835 235  
E: [reconnect@cire.org.au](mailto:reconnect@cire.org.au)

**Diamond Valley Learning Centre**

T: (03) 9435 9060  
E: [pandelis.papadatos@dvlc.org.au](mailto:pandelis.papadatos@dvlc.org.au)

**Diversitat**

T: (03) 5222 7275 (Geelong)  
T: 0447 624 145 (Colac)  
E: [reconnect@diversitat.org.au](mailto:reconnect@diversitat.org.au)

**Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services**

T: (03) 8746 1000  
E: [reconnect@djerriwarrh.org](mailto:reconnect@djerriwarrh.org)

**Expression Australia**

T: (03) 9473 1111  
E: [Adam.Tinkler@expression.com.au](mailto:Adam.Tinkler@expression.com.au)

**Federation University**

T: (03) 5327 8110  
E: [gi.sandford@federation.edu.au](mailto:gi.sandford@federation.edu.au)

**Gippsland Employment Skills Training**

T: (03) 5127 4544  
E: [jen@gest.com.au](mailto:jen@gest.com.au)

**Gordon Institute of TAFE**

T: (03) 5225 0700  
E: [skillscentre@gordontafe.edu.au](mailto:skillscentre@gordontafe.edu.au)

**GOTAFE**

T: 0412 082 395  
E: [kmichelini@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:kmichelini@gotafe.vic.edu.au)

**Holmesglen Institute**

T: (03) 9564 2762  
E: [reconnect@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@holmesglen.edu.au)

**Jesuit Community College**

T: (03) 9415 8700  
E: [angela.angelopoulos@jss.org.au](mailto:angela.angelopoulos@jss.org.au)

**Jobco**

Delivery LGAs: Hume, Whittlesea, Casey, Monash

T: (03) 9326 0322  
E: [kim.schubert@jobco.com.au](mailto:kim.schubert@jobco.com.au)

**Migrant Resource Centre North West**

T: (03) 9367 6044  
E: [sue@mrcnorthwest.org.au](mailto:sue@mrcnorthwest.org.au)

**Mountain District Learning Centre (MDLC)**

T: (03) 9758 5859  
E: [kerrig@mdlc.com.au](mailto:kerrig@mdlc.com.au)

**Murray ACE – Swan Hill**

T: (03) 5032 3719  
E: [training@macesh.vic.edu.au](mailto:training@macesh.vic.edu.au)

**Pines Learning Centre**

T: (03) 9842 6726  
E: [melanie.povey@pineslearning.com.au](mailto:melanie.povey@pineslearning.com.au)

**PRACE**

T: (03) 9462 0677  
E: [apugliese@prace.vic.edu.au](mailto:apugliese@prace.vic.edu.au)

**South West TAFE**

T: 1300 648 911  
E: [reconnect@swtafe.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@swtafe.edu.au)

**SuniTAFE**

T: 1300 478 648  
E: [reconnect@sunitafe.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@sunitafe.edu.au)

**TAFE Gippsland**

T: 0438 802 125  
E: [reconnect@tafegippsland.edu.au](mailto:reconnect@tafegippsland.edu.au)

**The Centre for Continuing Education**

T: (03) 5721 0200  
E: [emma.gordon@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:emma.gordon@thecentre.vic.edu.au)

**Westgate Community Initiatives Group (WCIG)**

T: (03) 9689 3437  
E: [skillsreconnect@wcig.org.au](mailto:skillsreconnect@wcig.org.au)

**Wingate Avenue Community Centre**

T: (03) 9212 0236  
E: [manager@wingateave.com.au](mailto:manager@wingateave.com.au)

**Wodonga TAFE**

T: 1300 698 233  
E: [info@wodongatafe.edu.au](mailto:info@wodongatafe.edu.au)

**Wyndham Community and Education Centre**

T: (03) 9742 4013  
E: [enquiries@wyndhamcec.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wyndhamcec.org.au)

**The Youth Junction**

T: 03 9091 8200  
E: [info@youthjunctioninc.net.au](mailto:info@youthjunctioninc.net.au)