

BENDIGO KANGAN INSTITUTE'S ACE AUTO

Positioning Victoria's car industry professionals at the forefront of the changing sector is the focus of Kangan Institute's Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE).

Its objective is to spur the growth of enterprise in Victoria's vehicle retail, service, repair and manufacturing industries. Through strengthening links between the automotive industry and the tertiary education sector, ACE has become a key player in the rapidly developing field of automotive technology, involved in new research and application of improved fuels, engines and automotive design technology.

It has partnered with several major car companies to deliver technical training for apprentices, providing a turnkey solution from recruitment to certification.

Completed over four years, the apprenticeship combines real world experience with a diverse range of off-the-job training. The Institute also trains dealership mentors who work with the apprentices to ensure high completion rates.

ACE Director, Joe Ballato, says the centre partners with industry on the research and application of improved fuels, engines and automotive design.

"We're proud of offering what is arguably the most advanced automotive training facility in the southern hemisphere and we want to keep growing and working with industry to provide outstanding training."

The program exemplifies the Government's *Skills First* vision for a stable, trusted training and TAFE system built on quality and integrity, with TAFEs at the centre as the engine room for jobs: partnering with industry to deliver apprenticeships and traineeships, and retraining workers with new skills for the jobs of today – and tomorrow.



Ashlee Poole, who was a first year automotive apprentice in 2015 at Kangan Institute, working at a Nissan workshop.

Brendan Couch, an automotive teacher at Kangan Institute, instructs a class of international Diploma of Automotive students.