

# SKILLS FIRST: FOR STUDENTS

Through *Skills First*, students will get real training that leads to real jobs, whatever their circumstance

## PROVIDING MORE THAN JUST TRAINING

From January 2017, Victoria's training and TAFE system will be overhauled. A new approach to training will be implemented, setting a high benchmark for training quality, and support the courses that are most likely to lead to employment.

*Skills First* is a commitment to a contestable, but more managed training and TAFE system, where providers who have satisfied new rigorous standards will get government funding to provide high quality, industry relevant training to students.

Through *Skills First* the Government will ensure industry has a clearer voice in which courses are funded, students will get real training that leads to real jobs and public money will be well spent.

*Skills First* will give all students high quality training with skills employers are looking for. There will be more support for apprenticeships and traineeships; more options for older workers to retrain and upskill as our economy changes; fewer dodgy operators thanks to the Government's crackdown; and better support for disadvantaged students who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

The new funded course list will consist of courses and qualifications that more closely match the skills employers and industry are looking for.

The result will mean better job prospects, and more opportunities for all Victorians to train for a brighter future.

## WHAT WE'VE ALREADY DONE

- ✓ \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund.
- ✓ TAFE Back To Work Fund, creating almost 10,000 new jobs and more than 7,000 apprenticeships and traineeships.
- ✓ \$8.4 million South Eastern Automotive Transition initiative to help auto workers retrain or upskill.
- ✓ \$9 million quality blitz to weed out dodgy providers.
- ✓ \$16 million to open Skills and Jobs Centres to link job seekers with employers.
- ✓ Half price vehicle registrations for apprentice tradies.
- ✓ \$9.3 million over three years to support 17,000 apprentices and trainees through Group Training Organisations.
- ✓ \$20 million Reconnect program to help vulnerable early school leavers.
- ✓ Reopened TAFE campuses across the state.

## NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Annual funding to support high needs learners starting with a \$20 million expansion of the Reconnect program in 2017.
- ✓ Annual funding for the Regional and Specialist Training Fund to meet regional and niche industry needs, starting with an initial \$30 million in 2017.
- ✓ \$2.7 million to help up to 10,000 apprentices through the Apprenticeship Support Officer Program across TAFEs
- ✓ \$1 million to work with industry and employers to identify and tackle the issues behind why some apprentices do not complete training.
- ✓ Improving the Skills Gateway website so students can make informed decisions about their training.

## SKILLS AND JOBS CENTRES



Supporting students

TAFEs are now home to Skills and Jobs Centres – the first port-of-call for students looking to start training, or workers needing to re-skill or retrain. These one-stop-shops offer a range of support services including apprenticeship and traineeship advice; welfare support and financial advice; job search skills and resumé preparation assistance; and help with career and training plans.

## SUPPORTING DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS



Training to suit all Victorians

At times, people need some extra support and assistance to get back on the road to success. Young people in particular may need a helping hand to ensure positive outcomes.

The Reconnect grants program is already helping TAFEs and Learn Locals provide support for early school leavers aged 15-24 years, long term unemployed and disadvantaged students. The program is part of the Back to Work scheme, and responds to the barriers faced by vulnerable Victorians.

A further **\$20 million** has been provided for the **Reconnect** program, which funds wrap-around services, such as extra literacy and numeracy, health and accommodation support. In 2017, Reconnect will be expanded to an additional 3,300 students, helping them access the necessary support to engage in training.

### TAFE TEACHING AT THE CUTTING EDGE

Apprentice spray painters Alan Ky and Tala Bampfield are getting a taste of their industry's high-tech future as they slowly wrap a VW Golf in vinyl.

"Applying the wrap is not as easy as it looks," Alan says. "You have to have a good spray finish for the wrap to go on smoothly; any imperfections like rust or bubbles in the paint work will be exaggerated if wrap is applied over the top."

The process is being taught as part of Chisholm Institute's new course, a Certificate III in Automotive Refinishing Technology. Vinyl wrapping helps preserve a car's finish and requires a clean car with good paint finish, sections of vinyl sheet wrap, a sharp cutting blade, heating tool, scrapers, magnets, patience, perseverance and high skills.

Chisholm Institute of TAFE has developed Vinyl Application and Design programs for new students within current apprenticeship and vocational pathways, as well as for secondary school leavers.

The programs also mean traditional sign-writers, screen printers, off-set printers, spray painters and panel beaters whose skills might be outdated or redundant will be able to update their skills and build on their experience to keep their job, or get back into the job market.

### SKILLS FIRST – AT A GLANCE A NEW TRAINING SYSTEM:

- ✓ New more accountable contracts for Government funded training
- ✓ Restored supplementary funding for TAFEs
- ✓ New industry-focused funded course list
- ✓ New subsidy rates for quality training
- ✓ New targeted funding streams
  - Workforce Training Innovation Fund
  - Regional and Specialist Training Fund
  - High Needs Learners funding

**Real training, for real jobs for a growing Victorian economy.**

To find out more about how *Skills First* will help students, visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)