



MEDIA RELEASE
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Victorian TAFE Association welcomes announcement of new Skills Authority and an increased investment into TAFEs

The Victorian TAFE Association (VTA), the peak body for Victoria's public VET providers, has welcomed the announcement today by the State Government of an almost \$384 million package to support vocational education and training in the State, anchored by a strong TAFE system.

The package includes \$86 million for the establishment of a new Victorian Skills Authority, \$72 million for TAFE upgrades and \$12 million for upgrading equipment and tools in TAFEs.

The announcement of the new Victorian Skills Authority follows the release earlier in the year of the *Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy Review* (Macklin Review), which made a series of recommendations including the establishment of a new body, "to act as a champion and steward of the skills system."

Importantly, the new Authority will lead the development of an annual Skills Plan, which will provide for future skills planning and priorities. Acknowledging that working further collaboratively can strengthen the TAFE system the announcement of a new Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery is also pleasing.

These are important steps which underline the critical and positive role that the twelve standalone TAFE institutes and four dual sector universities play each day in providing quality vocational education and training across Victoria.

Comments attributable to VTA Executive Director, Jeremy Irvine

"The VTA supports the establishment of the Victorian Skills Authority and the announcement is welcomed. In our response to the 'Macklin Review' we highlighted the valued role of VET being recognised and demonstrated through a dedicated public authority."

"Both the investment into the TAFE sector and Government responding to the Macklin Review's recommendations are pleasing and underline the need for investing into TAFEs being taken seriously."

"Victorian TAFEs are well positioned to continue shaping the education and training environment in Victoria, in which TAFE has a central and leading role."

"In 2020, and now in 2021, Victorian TAFEs have demonstrated their ability to be agile and innovative in their response to the training and skills needs of Victorians."

"Victorian TAFEs provide quality training and deliver practical solutions across their 90-plus campuses each day and are a key education, social and economic resource, owned by all Victorians."

"We look forward to working with the Government as the new Skills Authority is established in the coming months, including highlighting the need for the TAFE sector to be represented in the new Authority's governance arrangements."

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