



MEDIA RELEASE  
Monday 21 March 2022

## **TAFE Association welcomes further investment into sector**

The Victorian TAFE Association (VTA), the peak body for Victoria's public VET providers network, has welcomed the announcement of extra places for TAFE students.

The State Government has announced \$61m of funding for the wider vocational education and training sector, with funding for an extra 10,000 places.

The announcement provides more opportunities for Victorians to take advantage of the currently strong economic conditions, including low unemployment. It comes at the end of two years in which Victorian TAFEs and Dual Sector Universities have delivered for their students, employers and local communities as Victorians have tackled pandemic-related challenges.

The announcement was made by Premier Andrews and Minister Tierney at Bendigo Kangan Institute, which was recently named a Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Victorian COVIDSafe Business Awards community award winner.

Victorian TAFEs and Dual Sector University students featured prominently in last year's Australian Training Awards, underlying the strength of Victorian TAFE and Dual Sector Universities. Swinburne student Samantha Daly was named Vocational Student of the Year, and Bendigo Kangan Institute's Andrew Jan and SuniTAFE's Laura Davidson were finalists in the Apprentice of the Year Award, and Australian School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award, respectively. FedUni TAFE's Samantha Brown was a finalist in the Trainee of the Year Award.

As public providers of vocational education and training, Victorian TAFEs and Dual Sector Universities provide quality training (including Free TAFE courses) and critical support services for their students. The announcement underlines the importance and impact of vocational education and training, and TAFE and Dual Sector Universities' ability to deliver for all Victorians.

### **Comments attributable to VTA Executive Director, Jeremy Irvine**

"The Association welcomes this announcement by the State Government as further indication of the recognition of the positive impact TAFEs have each day in supporting students and employers and as part of their local communities."

"Victorian TAFEs and their staff and communities worked through enormous challenges in responding to COVID. They also implemented a range of student support measures to keep students facing hardship engaged with their studies and provided support for students in need to enable them to access remote learning."

"In 2020 and 2021, and now in 2022, Victorian TAFEs have demonstrated their ability to be agile and innovative in their response to the training and skills needs of Victorians."

"Victorian TAFEs and Dual Sector Universities 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."

**\*\* Ends \*\***