



MEDIA RELEASE

Victorian State Budget 2022/23

A moderate State Budget for TAFE

3 May 2022

The Victorian TAFE Association (VTA) acknowledges the focus of today's State Budget is directed towards rebuilding the health sector as the State recovers and emerges from the pandemic.

Funding of \$103.1 million for the Victorian TAFE and training system certainly appears modest alongside the challenge of meeting the skill needs of industry and the Victorian workforce. But it does however continue to build on the substantial investment in TAFE from previous years, an investment that is repositioning TAFE at the centre of a strong Victorian Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

Today's budget provides \$83.1m directly to the TAFE system including:

- Additional funding to transition to a new funding model for TAFEs and to support strategic projects that will enhance collaboration across the TAFE network
- Continued funding for the co-ordination of practical work placements for TAFE students and support to apprentices
- New funding to enhance access to TAFE for learners with disability with the addition of sign language interpreting qualifications to Free TAFE and accessibility audits of TAFE campuses. Funding is also provided to embed Indigenous culture in the education system by establishing a new qualification in First Nations Languages.

A further \$10m will flow through to the TAFE sector from the Skills Solutions Partnerships, a collaboration between the Victorian Government, industry, TAFEs, and dual sector universities to pilot new training approaches that address skills shortages in priority areas.

The State Budget has an ambitious target of training and hiring up to 7,000 healthcare workers, and the VTA along with the TAFE sector expects to work closely with the Government in providing the training for this critical area.

Continued and increased investment in skills and training through TAFE, the publicly owned VET provider, has generous returns for all Victorians.

For more information, please contact:

Pam Jonas
Senior Adviser
Victorian TAFE Association
Tel: 0429 531596
Email: pjonas@vta.vic.edu.au