

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – COVID-19

Minister for Racing

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events



Thursday, 21 May 2020

PROVIDING THE SKILLS FOR BUSINESSES TO EMERGE STRONGER

The Victorian Government is giving businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic free access to top online short courses and training events so they can plan for a stronger future and take advantage of new opportunities.

The Government today launched *Upskill My Business* in partnership with key industry groups and education providers, as part of the *\$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package* supporting Victorian businesses and workers through the impacts of the coronavirus crisis.

The online programs, short courses and events on the *Upskill My Business* platform cover topics ranging from business innovation and staff development to export preparation – important areas of development that can help shape the future of businesses and individuals.

Examples of courses now available include the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's *Adapting Your Business in a Pandemic* and Deakin University's *Leading Culturally Diverse Teams in the Workplace*.

The Government has partnered with Deakin University, RMIT, VCCI and Fair Work Australia to deliver this initiative.

Regional businesses are being further supported by the Government's initiatives to assist them to transition to the digital economy.

Small Business Victoria's Digital Opportunities Roadshow, Small Business Workshops, Mentoring Program and the Small Business Bus have transitioned to online delivery and are being accessed by a wide range of enterprises across the state.

Businesses can find out if there is a program to assist them and their workers at the *Upskill My Business* website, <http://upskill.business.vic.gov.au/>, or by calling the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula

"Upskill My Business will give businesses the power to prepare for the way back and for new opportunities that will exist on the other side of the crisis."

"The landscape has changed dramatically for many businesses and having the ability to access independent, expert thinking will be valuable."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek

"We're backing Victorian small businesses by teaming up with our top education institutions and business experts to deliver accessible and relevant virtual learning programs."

"Upskill My Business adds to our programs designed to make Victoria a great place to start and grow a business."