

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education



Thursday, 27 August 2020

PILOT PROGRAM GETS JOBSEEKERS WORK READY

Graduates of a new jobs program in Shepparton are now ready for work, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney today held a virtual event with GOTAFE and GROW greater Shepparton as part of National Skills Week to celebrate the graduation of the Work Ready Program's initial class.

GROW greater Shepparton is designed to foster local industry development by connecting them with 'work ready' jobseekers.

These jobseekers may be wanting to enter employment for the first time or re-entering employment after a long period.

The initial four-week program focussed on the construction industry and covered everything from getting a White Card to handling power tools and the use of specialised machinery, such as tractors.

Participants were also connected with local industry for career opportunities, with one securing ongoing employment with Goulburn Valley Civil Construction company Jarvis Delahey Contractors.

The Labor Government recently announced a \$163 million expansion of Free TAFE, delivering more than 18,000 training places for Victorians to develop the skills needed to rebuild the economy post coronavirus.

Since 2015, the Government has committed more than \$1.5 billion to rebuild our TAFE system and ensure students can get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney

"We know that supporting skills training in regional Victoria leads to more job-ready people and a stronger community."

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"We want to create opportunities for Victorians to learn and develop new skills, no matter where they live – it's vital to keeping future jobs in our regions."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"The Work Ready Program pilot program is connecting jobseekers with meaningful and rewarding career paths through tailored and accredited TAFE training to help them get 'job ready'."