

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



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NEW APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS – WORKING FOR VICTORIA

The Victorian Government is supporting 300 young Victorians into apprenticeships and traineeships as part of its \$500 million *Working for Victoria* Fund.

Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford said the new apprentices and trainees, aged between 15 and 24, will be placed with public sector employers across the state including local councils, hospitals, schools, TAFEs and water authorities.

As part of the drive, the Government has joined with the Apprenticeship Employment Network (AEN) to increase the participation rate of young people in the workforce while assisting communities to meet future skill and employment needs.

The network will coordinate 26 group training organisations to place young people into roles at government hubs in regional centres such as Ballarat and Geelong and state government departments and agencies including WorkSafe Victoria, Victorian Regional Channels Authority and Ambulance Victoria.

Twelve-month opportunities will be offered in business administration, community services, sport and recreation, landscape gardening and building and maintenance with a focus on providing opportunities for 2020 school leavers and unemployed young people seeking their first role, including those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Young people are some of the worst impacted during economic downturns with people under 30 more likely to lose their job and then take longer to find another job. The pandemic has markedly affected the hospitality and the retail industries where young casual workers have often been the first to lose work.

Since its launch in April, *Working for Victoria* has created more than 10,000 jobs for people who have lost their jobs including those that have been impacted by coronavirus, while delivering a valuable community service.

Working for Victoria also provides a job-matching service, bringing together people looking for work and businesses looking to fill positions.

Jobseekers including those interested in the apprenticeships and traineeships initiative can register for *Working for Victoria* at vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

“We know that young people often bear the brunt of major job shocks and that’s why this is such a great opportunity.”

“Young people can get a foot in the door, gain new skills and get on the path to a satisfying career.”

Quotes attributable to Minister for Training, Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney

“This is a great initiative supporting school leavers and unemployed young people to get them into that crucial first job.”

“We’re creating hundreds of jobs to make sure that we’re giving every young person the chance to get the skills they need through TAFE to prepare them for the workforce.”

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