## **Media Release**

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Mental Health



Thursday, 14 January 2021

## STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST-ROUND UNIVERSITY AND TAFE OFFERS

The hard work of tens of thousands of Victorian students has paid off today with the release of first-round university and TAFE offers.

Today more than 48,670 main round offers have been made to students for undergraduate and vocational courses in 2021.

Minister for Education James Merlino congratulated students who received a first-round offer after such a challenging year.

Students who may have missed out on a first-round offer should not to be disheartened with plenty of options for further study in Victoria .

Students can either wait on further rounds of VTAC offers in February or change their VTAC preference, if they meet course requirements.

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring students have more options for further education and training.

The Victorian Budget 2020/21 is investing more than \$1 billion into skills and training to deliver an additional 80,000 new training places almost 60,000 of which will be made available to eligible Victorians to upskill and increase their employment opportunities.

This follows the 18,000 new places that were already announced in July as part of the \$163 million Skills for Economic Recovery package.

Free TAFE for Priority Courses also provide eligible students with a pathway to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

There are now even more Free TAFE courses available to students who can choose from more than 50 priority courses and pre-apprenticeship courses including the Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work, the Certificate III in Health Services Assistance, and the Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses visit <a href="www.freetafe.vic.gov.au">www.freetafe.vic.gov.au</a>

## **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino**

"Congratulations to every student who has received an offer from a university or TAFE to embark on a new chapter of their education and training journey."

"There's never been a better time for students to take up further study with a larger range, and more affordable, options across the state's education and training sector."

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