

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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OPENING DOORS FOR VICTORIANS TO MOVE INTO HIGH-TECH JOBS

The Andrews Labor Government is backing Victorians to transition into high-growth digital career pathways with a new retraining program for 200 workers launching this week.

The pilot program will see participants learn new skills in hi-tech growth industries including financial technology, customer experience, cybersecurity, data science and artificial intelligence and machine learning.

These positions have been advertised on the *Working for Victoria* online jobs platform and once accepted, participants will receive skills assessments, workshops and mentoring tailored to their needs. Following completion of a six to 12-week course, participants will be supported by consultants Think & Grow into paid internships.

Industry-recognised training will be delivered by RMIT Online through a range of courses that will enhance participants' skillsets while supporting them to add new attributes to qualify them for the industry that they are planning to work in.

RMIT is offering courses that will help participants learn in-demand skills in digital transformation, digital marketing and technology including cyber security risk and strategy, and developing artificial intelligence strategy.

A report by Amazon Web Services released this month said Australia would need to produce an extra 6.5 million digital workers in the next four years due to galloping technological change. The report found an average worker would need to take on seven new digital skills to keep up with the pace of change.

The Labor Government recognises the importance of retraining and in coming months will unveil the \$64 million *Digital Skills and Jobs* program, which will support mid-career Victorians displaced by coronavirus to retrain and learn new skills so that they can transition into digital careers.

Since launching in April 2020, the *Working for Victoria* initiative has created more than 12,000 jobs, including supporting people who have lost their jobs due to the impacts of coronavirus.

For more information or to register for *Working for Victoria*, go to vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

"We're supporting Victorians looking to make a move into new, high-growth sectors – and future-proofing our economy in the process."

"Through digital upskilling, people will have the opportunity to change their career direction and open up a world of job opportunities."