

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



Friday, 16 April, 2021

## **BALLARAT ROUND TABLE ADVANCING ABORIGINAL JOBS STRATEGY**

Aboriginal Victorians in Ballarat will help guide the development of a new plan to boost training and job opportunities, thanks to an Aboriginal employment round table being held today.

The meeting in Ballarat is one of nine happening across the state, which bring together each region's Traditional Owners, employment organisations and government representatives to identify local employment opportunities.

The round table aims to ensure local skills, labour, and training challenges are identified and addressed in the next Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Strategy.

Insights from Ballarat and other communities will be presented to the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council (VAEEC) for consideration as the next strategy is developed.

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Aboriginal self-determination and recognises the importance of employment and economic prosperity as part of that commitment.

The round table discussions will be led by an experienced Aboriginal Victorian facilitator, with the new strategy to be launched later this year.

Last month, the Government established the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission, which will have the powers of a Royal Commission.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford**

*"Victoria's First Nations people, particularly those in communities like Ballarat, need access to sustainable jobs and training opportunities as the economy continues to recover."*

*"It's really important that the new strategy has community input, which is why we want local people to participate and have their say."*

### **Quote attributable to Acting Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams**

*"These regional round tables will ensure local challenges and opportunities in Ballarat and other regions are addressed and harnessed, as we move towards a new Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Strategy."*