

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education



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UPGRADED SUNITAFE TO SUPPORT AND SHOWCASE STUDENTS

A \$1.6 million transformation of SuniTAFE funded by the Victorian Government will strengthen the on-campus experience and better connect students with study and work pathways.

As part of the project, the Mildura campus main entrance, library and undercroft will become an energetic public space to showcase SuniTAFE students and staff and their connections with the local community.

The renovation includes a newly activated reception, client and student services area and an exhibition space to showcase student work and demonstrate training and technology.

Importantly, the project includes a new expanded Skills and Jobs Centre to ensure students get the support they need to connect with the Victorian Government's Free TAFE for Priority Courses initiative – leading directly to jobs in the region.

Popular Free TAFE courses on offer at SuniTAFE include Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, Diploma of Community Services and Certificate IV in Building and Construction.

Local firm Aspire Architecture Pty Ltd recently delivered plans for the project, which will create 100 local construction jobs and is due for completion mid-2022.

Since 2015, the Government has made a record \$3.2 billion investment to rebuild TAFE and support universities and higher education to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and rewarding career pathways.

The *Victorian Budget 2021/22* includes a \$383.8 million investment in the sector to ensure more Victorians get the training they need for in-demand jobs.

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

"We know that SuniTAFE plays a vital role in its local community – that's why we're ensuring it offers the best facilities, learning experiences for students and staff, and connections with local industry."

"This project is part of our record investment in skills, training and higher education – to help Victorians get the jobs they want and to strengthen the state's economy as we recover from the pandemic."

Quote attributable to SuniTAFE CEO Geoff Dea

"These improvements will significantly upgrade the SuniTAFE entry, provide students with a modern interactive space which will significantly improve their overall training experience and enable us to better showcase SuniTAFE."