

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



Tuesday, 15 March 2022

NEW TAFE DESIGN LAB TO REIGNITE CREATIVE ARTS IN MILDURA

The Andrews Labor Government is fostering the next generation of creatives and designers through a new TAFE design lab at SuniTAFE in Mildura that will give jobseekers real-life skills and connect them with local industry.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney today announced \$130,000 to establish 'The Future's Lab' to support the local delivery of the new Diploma of Graphic Design course in Mildura.

'The Future's Lab' will allow students to learn their craft in an environment that replicates a professional setting, featuring first-class technology including projectors, a 3D printer and display equipment.

Students will have the opportunity to work on projects for local organisations and businesses - including small businesses, sporting clubs, community groups and other not-for-profits - who would not otherwise have access to graphic designers.

A similar lab recently launched at Wodonga TAFE, where successful industry partnerships have resulted in direct career pathways for graduates.

'The Future's Lab' and the delivery of the Diploma of Graphic Design supports a vital training demand in Mildura following the discontinuation of La Trobe University's Bachelor of Creative Arts. It also builds on SuniTAFE's growing number of specialist facilities, including a training restaurant, beauty salon, nursing labs and more.

Since 2014, 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 careers.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"This design hub will give Mildura locals more training options in design and creative arts – with the opportunity to gain real-life experience and forge a direct pathway to a career in their community or across Victoria."

"The Andrews Labor Government rebuilt Victorian TAFE after it was left on its knees by the former Liberal National Government – and this new facility is just one example of how we're continuing to make it better than ever."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"We want Mildura locals to have the best training and job opportunities which is why we're continuing to boost TAFE right here and across Victoria."

Quote attributable to SuniTAFE Board Chair Kay Martin

"The Future's Lab at SuniTAFE will provide students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in industry standard equipment and technologies preparing them for future work in a range of local industries."