

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



Monday, 21 March 2022

REFURBISHED LAPTOPS DELIVERED TO VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES

The Andrews Labor Government will deliver refurbished laptops to Victorian Learn Locals as part of a pilot program that reduces e-waste and will build up digital literacy and increase online access in communities across the state.

The Labor Government's program will allow learners across the state to develop stronger digital literacy skills – with Learn Locals making the laptops available onsite as well as lending them to community members.

An initial 50 computers have been delivered across regional Victoria with a total of 1,000 expected to be rolled-out this year to up to 200 Learn Locals.

The computers have been repurposed from the Department of Education and Training and have been securely wiped, tested and have Microsoft Windows 10.

The program will help Learn Locals overcome the financial barriers associated with purchasing the laptops, collectively valued at about \$300,000.

Learn Local providers offer a unique, community-based learning option, with a focus on the individual needs of learners. They are particularly suited to adult learners of all ages looking to develop their digital, literacy, numeracy and employability skills for study, work and life.

There are more than 240 not-for-profit community organisations registered as Learn Locals across Victoria, which deliver pre-accredited training and other programs to nearly 30,000 people each year.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

“Learn Locals provide an essential service to communities across Victoria and this program will ensure they have the tools they need to keep supporting learners of all ages and backgrounds.”

Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Training and Skills Cesar Melhem

“We know that computers and digital literacy are essential in almost all facets of life, which is why this program is so important in supporting learners from across Victoria upskill and access the internet and other programs.”

Quote attributable to Adult, Community and Further Education Board Chair Maria Peters

“Access to digital skills is so important as Victoria recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, and these laptops will help facilitate this for some of our most marginalised community members.”