

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Resources



Wednesday, 11 May 2022

SERVING UP MORE HOSPITALITY JOBS IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is serving up more jobs supporting hospitality venues and tourism in regional Victoria.

Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford today announced a \$6 million initiative which will provide 240 jobseekers with hospitality and tourism traineeships to help address workforce shortages across the state.

Trainees will receive 12-months of secure employment, undertaking placements across regional businesses, while completing a Certificate III in Hospitality or Tourism.

To attract staff, trainees will be paid a wage supplement up to \$10,000 above the relevant industry award over the 12-month period.

They will also receive one-on-one mentoring in the lead up to the traineeship and while on the job.

Roles will be prioritised for women over 45, people under 25, Aboriginal Victorians and people who are long-term unemployed.

The initiative will roll out across regional Victoria with a focus on the hospitality and tourism centres of the South Coast, Geelong, Colac, Ballarat, Bendigo, Echuca, Mildura and Gippsland between now and mid-2023.

The program is supported by the \$250 million Jobs Victoria Fund, which is creating 10,000 steady and secure jobs for those most impacted by the pandemic.

People looking for work can register for the Jobs Victoria Online Hub and explore a range of other free employment support services on offer by visiting www.jobs.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

"We work closely with these sectors and know this is their most pressing challenge - that's why we are taking these practical steps to ensure they are supported to succeed."

Quote attributable to Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney

"Hospitality staff are in short supply, and it is a wonderful career choice – that's why we're backing more people with the skills they need to work in industries Victoria is famous for."

Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"This will help fill critical roles in the hospitality and tourism industry in Ballarat and throughout the Central Highlands."

Quote attributable to Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle

"We're investing in this initiative because it creates jobs where they are needed and supports local businesses."

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