

# 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, 31 May 2022

## **NEW DANDENONG TRADES CENTRE FOR JOBSEEKERS AND INDUSTRY**

The Andrews Labor Government's multimillion dollar trade training centre at Chisholm TAFE in Dandenong has been officially opened, giving local jobseekers the skills they need for rewarding careers and fostering a pipeline of skilled workers.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney today opened the new Dandenong Trade Centre, as part of the Labor Government's investment of more than \$7.4 million at the campus.

The Dandenong Trade Centre replaces the campus' existing facilities spread across five buildings and dating back to the 1980s and features new plumbing, carpentry and electrical training areas that simulate real-life scenarios to provide the most relevant training as well as a modern kitchen for the next generation of hospitality experts.

A new Student Support Hub and lounge will provide training and career counselling services – with an Indigenous engagement unit to provide tailored help to Aboriginal Victorians. It will also provide spaces for Chisholm's work in preventing family violence and supporting students living with disability.

Other amenities have been improved, including more female toilets to cater for an increase in enrolments in trades – up by 7 per cent.

Chisholm has experienced a 10 per cent increase in trade students in the past three years, with plumbing and engineering among the most popular courses.

The Labor Government has made a record \$3.5 billion investment to rebuild TAFE and support universities and higher education to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and rewarding career pathways.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney**

*"We're giving more Victorians more opportunities – while supporting industry and the economy – which is why we're continuing to back the TAFE and training sector through projects like the new Dandenong Trade Centre."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Dandenong Gabrielle Williams**

*"It's no use training Victoria's future workforce in a relic of the past – that's why we have delivered the new Dandenong Trade Centre, which will give local students the tools they need on the pathway to a great career."*

### **Quote attributable to Chisholm TAFE CEO Stephen Varty**

*"We aim to deliver quality, practical education to ensure our students are job-ready when they graduate – and these new industry-aligned facilities will help inspire student success and enhance learning and support."*