

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Wednesday, 29 June 2022

HELPING MORE VICTORIAN WOMEN INTO THE RAIL INDUSTRY

A new Andrews Labor Government initiative is helping more women enter the rail industry, with the chance to earn and learn while working on Melbourne's rolling stock.

Women on Track is part of the \$8 million Apprenticeship Innovation Fund which helps more women into traditionally male dominated fields – giving jobseekers the chance to get real-life experience manufacturing and maintaining Melbourne's trains, while undertaking a Certificate II in Electrotechnology.

The practical component is being undertaken as part of the High Capacity Metro Trains Project which is delivering 70 trains, the largest single order of trains in Victoria's history.

The program includes a bridging course to ensure they are supported with the skills to gain the necessary licenses to work in trades-based roles in the rail industry.

Women on Track is a collaboration between the Government, leading rollingstock asset management services provider Downer, Holmesglen TAFE, Hallam Secondary College and Doveton Hallam Community Learning Network.

The \$8 million Apprenticeship Innovation Fund is supporting more people from under-represented groups into apprenticeships, with almost \$5 million specifically allocated to support women into meaningful and well-paid careers in traditionally male-dominated trades such as automotive, electrical, plumbing and aviation.

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 career pathways.

In line with NAIDOC week, a High Capacity Metro Train displaying artwork by Wurundjeri woman Mandy Nicholson, will hit the tracks from next week chosen from a group of works by Victorian First Nations artists.

A full High Capacity Metro Train service is on track to be running on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines this Summer.

Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Ben Carroll

"There are so many exciting opportunities in our rail industry – that's why we're supporting women who want to pursue a meaningful and well-paid career in a traditionally male-dominated area."

"We have 23 HCMTs now in passenger service on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines with a full service expected for summer – and they're trains built right here in Melbourne."

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"Women on Track is yet another example of how the Andrews Labor Government is boosting TAFE and training to make sure every Victorian has access to the skills they need to get a great job and live a happy life."

Quote attributable to Homesglen TAFE Centre for Energy and Infrastructure Associate Director Dr Ross Digby

"This program is giving more women learning and job opportunities, ensuring that the participants have the skills, knowledge, confidence and work history to undertake a long-term career in the rail sector."

Media contact: Nat MacGregor 0404 828 991 | natalie.macgregor@minstaff.vic.gov.au