

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



Thursday, 8 September 2022

PAID INTERNSHIPS TO GIVE YOUNG JOBSEEKERS A START

The Andrews Labor Government is backing young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to kick-start their careers through a new paid internship program.

More than 60 young people will receive pre-employment training on top of the internships, delivered through an \$800,000 Labor Government investment and partnership between Jobs Victoria, the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), and Youth Activating Youth (YAY).

Roles will be based in VCCI member businesses across a range of industries with workforce demand matched to a participant's skills and qualifications.

YAY will provide participants up to 12 weeks' post-internship support to strengthen their success and potential to transition to an ongoing job. Employers will also receive training and advice to ensure they're ready to support interns through the program.

Research by the Brotherhood of St Laurence shows a 50 percent reduction in entry-level jobs since 2006. This reduction combined with other factors such as bias, can make it difficult for culturally and linguistically diverse young people to get their first job despite experience and qualifications.

For more information visit jobs.vic.gov.au or call the Jobs Victoria hotline on 1300 208 575.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

"These internships are a foot in the door to help young people start their careers and show potential employers what they've got to offer."

"As well as providing valuable work experience, young people will have the opportunity to build a network of contacts that could lead to rewarding careers."

Quote attributable to CEO Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Paul Guerra

"We're excited to be partnering with Jobs Victoria and Youth Activating Youth to deliver this program for young people through our extensive network of fantastic businesses."

Quote attributable to Executive Director Youth Activating Youth Ahmed Hassan

"Young people have so much to offer if given the chance. This program will go a long way to supporting young people into rewarding careers."