

# 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



Friday, 14 October 2022

## DIGITAL SKILLS BOOST FOR MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturers will be supported to equip workers with digital skills and create high paying jobs for the future thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Ben Carroll today announced that applications have opened for the \$4.5 million *Digital Jobs for Manufacturing* program to help local manufacturers adapt and develop the digital capabilities they need to maintain their competitive advantage.

The program offers eligible manufacturing businesses with grants of up to \$5,000 per employee to enrol in a free 12-week training course with Victoria's top universities, TAFEs and training providers.

Employer-nominated staff will undertake courses in 13 different fields including artificial intelligence, data analytics, cyber security and software development from January 2023, with specialist courses in robotic process automation, computer-aided design or manufacturing and additive manufacturing to be available later.

The program builds on the success of the \$64 million *Digital Jobs* program that is retraining 5,000 mid-career Victorians and supporting them to transition into digital-focused jobs.

Manufacturing is a powerhouse of the state's economy, employing more than 260,000 people, contributing about \$31 billion to the state's economy each year and providing more than 27 per cent of Australia's manufacturing output.

The Labor Government is also backing manufacturers across the state to participate in low carbon and renewable energy component manufacturing, through its \$7 million *Low Carbon Manufacturing Grant Program*, with applications now open.

The *Digital Jobs for Manufacturing* program will run until June 2024 with three rounds in 2023 and two rounds in 2024. For more information, visit: [business.vic.gov.au/djfm](https://business.vic.gov.au/djfm).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Ben Carroll

*"We're proud to be doing what matters for manufacturers – supporting workers to learn digital skills and ensuring Victoria remains the nation's manufacturing state."*

*"We're continuing to support our manufacturers because we want to expand what is made in Victoria – which will boost our economy."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and Digital Economy Jaala Pulford

*"All businesses are now digital businesses and we're delighted to support them to succeed by equipping workers with skills for the jobs of today and tomorrow."*