

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Education

Minister for Women



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CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE DAY

Female and non-binary students in Victorian schools are helping to build the high-tech economy of the future with their increasing participation and success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM.)

Marking the eighth annual UN International Women and Girls in Science Day, Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said the upcoming The Trades Fit expo represents an excellent opportunity for female and non-binary students to explore career opportunities in STEM fields.

The Trades Fit is an expo hosted by the Department of Education for female and non-binary students in years 9-12.

Held over 10-11 May at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the expo allows students to experience exciting career opportunities in traditionally male-dominated fields through interactive experiences and conversation with industry, in a way that focuses on their perspectives.

Students can participate in practical learning experiences, technology displays, information sessions and panel discussions.

Exhibitors booked for The Trades Fit include, KONE Elevators, Marand Precision Engineering, Roseband Engineering, RMIT, LabTech Training, Stantec and the Interactive Games and Entertainment Association.

More than 1,500 students from 94 schools attended the first The Trades Fit expo in 2022, connecting with employers, key industry organisations and supporters of gender equity.

The Andrews Labor Government has introduced a range of investment and reforms that maximise the pathways available to female and non-binary students wanting to pursue careers in STEM.

Victoria's 10 tech schools represent STEM excellence and support female and non-binary students to think innovatively, while connecting them with industry to provide the next generation of Victoria's brightest every opportunity to succeed.

The VCE Vocational Major – which began this year – prepares students to move into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, non-ATAR university pathways or straight into the workforce.

Students combine school-based studies with at least 180 hours of Vocational Education and Training (VET) where they can select from high demand industries such as digital media and technologies, engineering and health.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins

"I'm proud to celebrate International Women and Girls in Science Day in Victoria because we're working so hard to break down the gender imbalance in this traditionally male dominated field."

"Victoria is a world leader in the sciences and we're ensuring that the next generation of smart and committed female students have the opportunities they need to succeed."