

# Media Release

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education

Minister for Agriculture



Tuesday, 28 March 2023

## **BIG BOOST FOR GOTAFE'S VETERINARY TRAINING COURSES**

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring that more aspiring veterinary nurses can kick-start their careers with access to the best training facilities.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney today announced more than \$160,000 in funding will be dedicated to establishing a state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic at GOTAFE's Wangaratta campus. These new facilities will allow the campus to now deliver a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing to more than 40 students each year.

The clinic will be home to world-class specialist veterinary surgical equipment to help train students in complex procedures. This technology will improve the learning opportunities of new students as well as upskill Victorians that have prior veterinary experience.

This project is critical to GOTAFE providing the skills necessary to meet the growing veterinary demand, with the number of jobs needed for the industry expected to grow by more than 13 per cent next year.

The Labor Government is providing students with the best education opportunities and facilities. With these added skills, graduates will make a strong impact as soon as they enter the workforce.

The Government has delivered nation-leading reforms to fix the broken TAFE and vocational education system left by the former Napthine Liberal Government including offering Free TAFE for more than 70 courses.

Free TAFE has saved students around \$325 million in tuition fees since the Labor Government introduced it in 2019 – removing the barriers to training for a great new career for around 125,000 students.

Since 2014, the 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.

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

*"We're investing in these important improvements to GOTAFE's Wangaratta Campus to ensure we can deliver the skills needed to get more Victorians trained as veterinary nurses."*

*"We know how important it is for TAFE campuses to have high quality facilities to ensure Victorians can get the skills they need for the career they deserve."*

*"This project will help ensure the next generation of veterinary nurses will be ready for the workforce when they finish their training."*