

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Manufacturing Sovereignty
Minister for Employment
Minister for Public Transport



Tuesday, 4 April 2023

HORTICULTURE JOBS BEARING MORE FRUIT

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting disadvantaged workers to get into the horticulture industry by recruiting and training 100 green-thumbed people looking to work in nurseries and commercial gardens.

Minister for Employment Ben Carroll today visited Fleming's Nursery in Monbulk to officially open applications for the \$1.9 million *Jobs Victoria Nursery Workforce Project*, which will place people into roles including retail assistants, truck drivers, process workers and production line assistants.

Fleming's Nurseries General Manager Daniel Jansen says their family-run business is proud to be part of the inclusive employment program and welcomes support from Jobs Victoria to find the staff they need.

As one of Australia's largest wholesale nurseries for fruit and ornamental trees, Fleming's Nurseries offers good long-term career prospects and plans to create five new jobs for people to work as nursery hands and dispatch workers through the program.

These 'earn and learn' roles provide workers with both pre-employment and on-the-job training, boosting skills and creating an inclusive workforce community.

Horticulture is an important part of Victoria's economy, generating \$2.5 billion annually and employing more than 24,000 people. With 75 per cent of businesses in the industry looking to expand, this program will help strengthen the skilled workforce pipeline.

The Jobs Victoria program is being delivered in partnership with Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria. Jobs will be mostly based in east and southeast Melbourne but there will also be some roles in regional Victoria.

This program will prioritise jobs for people who need additional support to find work, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people, women over 45, and people who are long-term unemployed.

Recruits will have guaranteed work for 12 months, and receive pre-employment and on-the-job training, mentoring support and a workplace buddy. There may also be opportunities to undertake free and formal qualifications.

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

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Ben Carroll

"We're backing people who may be struggling to find work to get the skills and experience they need to work in our nursery and garden industry."

"This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting a stable, flexible job that will set them up for a rewarding career."

Quote attributable to Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino

"This program will create more jobs, more upskilling opportunities and more economic benefits for our community."

Quote attributable to Fleming's Nurseries General Manager Daniel Jansen

"As a family-owned and operated business with a great culture, our local community is very important to us and we're proud to be part of a program that supports people who are finding it difficult to get into a job."

Media contact: Anthony Templeton, 0475 256 383 | anthony.templeton@minstaff.vic.gov.au