

# Media Release

**Gabrielle Williams MP**

Minister for Government Services

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Public and Active Transport



Friday, 3 November 2023

## BACKING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF CYBER DEFENCE EXPERTS

The development of Victoria's next generation of cyber security experts will be fast-tracked when they are drafted to the front line of the state's cyber defence operations in the coming months.

Minister for Government Services Gabrielle Williams today announced the launch of the Cyber Defence Centre Internship Program, which will help five graduates who have completed a Certificate IV in Cyber Security to kickstart their careers.

The Cyber Defence Centre is part of the Allan Labor Government's \$34.7 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* to boost cyber security protections - supporting the state to detect and block cyber threats in real time.

The Labor Government supports the Certificate IV in Cyber Security course as part of its landmark Free TAFE program, which is giving Victorians access to more than 80 Free TAFE qualifications and short courses.

With an estimated one in three Australian adults affected by a cyber attack each year - there's never been a more critical time to invest in strong cyber security defences.

Starting in January, the paid internship program will give graduates a unique entry pathway to build high-demand skills and gain hands on experience, working alongside cyber security experts leading the state's preparedness and response to cyber security risks.

Graduates will complete a five-month placement in one of three streams:

- technology, digital forensics and incident response,
- threat intelligence,
- and data analysis.

Cyber security graduates are an important resource in the fight against cybercrime and graduates seeking a career opportunity with purpose are encouraged to apply for a position in the inaugural program.

For more information and to apply, go to [careers.vic.gov.au/recruitment-campaign/Cyber-Defence-Centre-Internship-Program-2040](https://careers.vic.gov.au/recruitment-campaign/Cyber-Defence-Centre-Internship-Program-2040).

Applications for the program close on Sunday, 19 November.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Government Services Gabrielle Williams

*"With an estimate one in three Australian adults affected by a cyber attack each year, there's never been a more critical time to invest in strong cyber security defences."*

*"We're supporting graduates to develop their skills in a real-world environment, so we can continue delivering digital government services safely and reliably."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

*"Free TAFE has helped thousands of Victorians train for a great career and our Cyber Security graduates will play an increasingly important role in our lives."*

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