

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Skills and TAFE
Minister for Regional Development



Saturday, 20 January 2024

SPARKING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SOUTH WEST VICTORIA

Aspiring electricians in Warrnambool can look forward to more training opportunities with South West TAFE boasting new technology labs, thanks to the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney today visited South West TAFE's Warrnambool campus, announcing almost \$1 million in funding to upgrade the TAFE's electrical laboratories and workshops, and install training simulators and specialist equipment.

The upgrades have been a boost to Certificate III Electrotechnology Electrician training at South West TAFE, improving the learning experience for more than 126 students.

Enabling more Victorians to train in electrical trades is essential to addressing south western Victoria's high demand for apprentices and filling the gaps in workplace skills shortages.

The Labor Government's investment has also enabled the TAFE to offer vital initiatives for women in electrical trades – making up only 2 per cent of Australians working in the field – including employing a support officer and providing mentoring for apprentices.

The projects have been funded by the Government's Regional and Specialist Training Fund, which helps training providers to deliver courses in regional areas and specialist areas of industry need.

Victoria's Free TAFE program helps Victorians access more than 80 Free TAFE qualifications and short courses for free, including pre-apprenticeship courses like Electrotechnology.

The program allows thousands of students to enter an in-demand career without the worry of the cost of tuition fees.

Since the Free TAFE program was introduced in 2019, more than 156,500 students have saved more than \$423 million in tuition fees – reducing barriers to training for the jobs most in demand, helping Victorians to get the skills they need to begin a rewarding career that makes a difference.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

"We're helping all Victorians find a satisfying career in the trades by supporting accessible, high-quality and inspiring training that gives students the best start."

"We are proud to back this project to boost the learning experience for Warrnambool's future electricians."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

"We are excited to see these upgraded facilities at South West TAFE, which will allow more students to access training opportunities to pursue the career they want."