

# Media Release

**The Hon Colin Brooks MP**

Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing  
Minister for Creative Industries



Monday, 19 May 2025

## UPSKILLING VICTORIAN WORKERS FOR TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

The Allan Labor Government is securing the jobs of tomorrow by supporting more businesses to join forces with leading training providers to address skills gaps in priority sectors.

Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing Colin Brooks today announced the opening of the second round of the Skills Solutions Partnerships Program.

The Labor Government is investing \$4.75 million to support industry partnerships with Victoria's TAFEs and dual sector universities to co-design and pilot innovative short courses.

The program targets priority sectors including advanced manufacturing, defence, the circular economy, agribusiness, digital technologies, health technologies and medical research.

Successful applicants will be invited to co-design new training and on-the-job learning models and then apply for up to \$500,000 in matched funding to pilot their solution.

Round 1 supported six pilot projects across sectors such as manufacturing, clean economy, digital, construction, healthcare and social services – all with potential to expand and benefit more businesses and workers.

One project is helping industry reduce emissions by upskilling auto technicians to work with hydrogen-powered trucks and buses. Developed by Bendigo Kangan Institute's Automotive Centre of Excellence and Foton Mobility Distribution, the course will train workers to safely service hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Another pilot led by the Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes, in partnership with Swinburne University and MTPConnect, has delivered a 12-week medtech commercialisation course, already upskilling 45 early-career researchers.

To learn more or apply for Round 2, visit [business.vic.gov.au/ssp](https://business.vic.gov.au/ssp).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing Colin Brooks

*"As we deliver a stronger and more sustainable economy, we're making sure more Victorian workers can access innovative training to build the skills needed in our modern economy."*

*"We've seen fantastic results from the first round and I look forward to more bold ideas from industry and our leading training providers."*

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

*"This funding supports Victoria's TAFEs and dual sector universities to remain closely aligned with the needs of industry and our dynamic economy."*