

Media Release

Mr Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs

Minister for Finance

Minister for Government Services

Acting Minister for Skills and TAFE



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OVER TEN THOUSAND APPRENTICES QUALIFIED IN 2025

More than 10,000 Victorian apprentices completed their training in 2025 and are now job-ready with in-demand skills, thanks to the Allan Labor Government.

Acting Minister for Skills and TAFE Danny Pearson today revealed more than 10,000 Victorians earned their trade papers in 2025 – making them qualified and ready to build our growing state.

A trade paper is a certificate awarded to those who successfully complete a recognised apprenticeship in Victoria, along with relevant formal training through a TAFE or registered training organisation.

The Labor Government has issued fifty thousand trade papers across 214 different qualifications since the program began in 2019.

Carpenters, electricians and plumbers make up more than half the number of workers to receive their trade papers – ensuring Victoria has the skilled workers needed to deliver homes, projects and services.

The Labor Government is supporting apprentices to navigate work, training and personal challenges so they can complete their qualification and obtain their trade paper.

Apprentices and trainees can access free counselling through the Apprentice Employee Assistance Program, which provides confidential short-term support for mental health and personal issues, difficult workplace situations and financial concerns.

Support is also available through the Apprentice Support Officer (ASO) program. ASOs provide in-person support to apprentices both on campus and in the workplace. The ASO program has supported more than 169,100 apprentices since it began.

The Apprentice Helpdesk – which has already taken 1,500 calls since launching in June – is available for apprentices to learn about the full range of support on offer.

The helpdesk is a free phone and online service staffed by specially trained case support officers who provide information, practical guidance and referrals. The helpdesk can be contacted on 1300 311 820.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* is investing \$459 million in the state's vocational education and training network to make sure Victorians have the right skills for the opportunities of the future.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Skills and TAFE Danny Pearson

"This is about opening doors to high-quality, skilled jobs for Victorians."

"More than 10,000 qualified apprentices in 2025 shows this program is working and delivering real results."

"We're making sure apprentices have a clear pathway into secure, well-paid work."