



**THE HON ANDREW GILES MP**  
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING



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VICTORIAN MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TAFE

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**BACKING MORE YOUNG VICTORIANS THROUGH RAISING  
EXPECTATIONS PROGRAM**

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The Albanese and Allan Labor Governments are expanding the Raising Expectations program to help young people in out-of-home care and those who are care leavers pursue post-secondary education.

Under the National Skills Agreement, the Albanese Government is investing \$61.5 million in Victoria to improve vocational education and training (VET) engagement and completions, particularly for those who have traditionally experienced barriers to education.

Over \$2 million of this investment will support the expansion of Victoria's Raising Expectations program delivered by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

The funding will expand the program to new institutions, with a focus on TAFEs, and continue supporting students with care experience to take up post-compulsory studies with existing partners.

The only program of its kind in the country, Raising Expectations helps young people with out-of-home care experience to succeed at TAFE and university.

Since 2020, almost 1,000 individuals have completed their TAFE or university studies with support from the program.

Participants get personalised wrap-around support services, enhanced resources, and new tools to succeed at TAFE and university.

The initiative aims to break the link between disadvantage and poor educational outcomes by helping learners at risk stay engaged in training and education.

Under the Improved Completions implementation plan agreed in March 2025 as part of the National Skills Agreement, Victoria will expand the program to more standalone TAFEs. This will improve access to VET for students across the state, including those in regional areas.

**Quotes attributable to Federal Minister for Skills and Training, Andrew Giles:**

“Fewer young people who leave care go on to tertiary education compared with the general population – this is a statistic we’re determined to change.

“The Raising Expectations program has already improved engagement, retention and completions. This expansion will help more Victorians by providing tailored academic, financial and personal support to help students achieve success in their vocational training.

“By investing in initiatives like Raising Expectations, the Albanese and Allan Labor Governments are ensuring that TAFE remains at the heart of VET and no student is left behind.”

**Quotes attributable to Victorian Minister for Skills and TAFE, Colin Brooks:**

“This is about making sure young people with care experience get the support they need to succeed.”

“We’re backing these students to stay engaged, complete their training, and build a strong future – ensuring no one is left behind.”

**ENDS**

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