

Media Release

The Hon Colin Brooks MP

Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing

Minister for Defence Industry

Minister for Skills and TAFE



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LABOR IS BACKING VICTORIAN APPRENTICES

Labor is helping more apprentices get qualified and stay safe at work.

The free Apprentice Helpdesk has benefited nearly 3,500 apprentices and trainees since it was launched last June.

The service helps young workers start and complete apprenticeships and get practical help when they need it.

The helpdesk is operated by Apprenticeships Victoria and staffed by trained Case Support Officers.

They offer advice on everything from entitlements and training contracts to mental health and workplace rights.

It is available to all apprentices and trainees as well as their parents, employers and job seekers.

It also provides help with job searches, in-training assistance and information on financial incentives available to apprentices.

The helpdesk is part of a broader Government commitment to supporting apprentices and trainees to complete their training.

Apprentices and trainees can also access free counselling through the Apprentice Employee Assistance Program.

It provides confidential short-term support for mental health and personal issues, difficult workplace situations and financial concerns.

The Apprentice Support Officer program also offers in-person support to apprentices across the state.

The *Victorian Budget 2026/27* is investing \$5.8 million to grow the apprenticeships pipeline and help more people complete training and enter the workforce.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Colin Brooks

"In just one year, the Apprentice Helpdesk has supported nearly 3,500 Victorians to get qualified and stay safe in the workplace. That's thousands of young workers building careers in the industries our state needs most."

"Apprentices are the future of our construction, building and renewable energy industries. We're making sure they have the support to finish their training and get into good, well-paying jobs."