

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Monday, 11 February 2019

FREE TAFE KICKS OFF AT FEDERATION UNIVERSITY

The number of Ballarat region students enrolling in priority courses has more than doubled, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's Free TAFE initiative.

More than 500 students have already enrolled in Free TAFE courses at Federation University, a jump of 135 per cent compared to the same time last year.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney, Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison and Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science by meeting women who have commenced Free TAFE courses in Engineering, Welding and Fabrication and Electro-Technology at Federation University.

Federation University is offering 23 Free TAFE courses across its five campuses ranging from the Diploma of Nursing, and the Diploma of Community Studies, as well as apprenticeship pathway courses including in engineering, automotive, construction and horticulture.

Almost 3000 Free TAFE students have started their training in January at TAFEs across Victoria – close to three times the number who commenced training in the same courses in January last year.

Free TAFE for Priority Courses reduces the financial barrier for eligible students wanting to train in the courses that lead to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

Free TAFE will mean more Victorians get the skills they need for jobs working on major road and rail projects, building schools and hospitals and caring for our loved ones.

TAFE institutes across Victoria, including universities that offer TAFE courses, are continuing to take enrolments for Free TAFE courses, with classes starting throughout 2019.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney

"We've delivered Free TAFE for Ballarat job seekers – and their response has been overwhelming."

"We're rebuilding our TAFE system so Victorians can get the skills they need for the jobs and futures they want."

Quotes attributable to Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle

"I know how important TAFE can be – it helped me get the skills I needed."

"We're removing the cost barriers to training, allowing hundreds of Ballarat region locals to enrol in Free TAFE and get the skills for the jobs that keep our community moving."

Quotes attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"I'm proud that Free TAFE at Federation University is creating opportunities for people to get world-class training, locally."

"This means more people will be job ready to deliver vital services for our growing community."

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