

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **VOCATIONAL TRAINING LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR CAREER SUCCESS IN VICTORIA**

**Explore All The Options and consider Vocational Education and Training (VET)**

***National Skills Week: 25–31 August 2025***

**Sydney, 25 August 2025** – National Skills Week 2025 will be officially launched in Victoria on **Wednesday, August 27**, at Melbourne Polytechnic’s Collingwood Campus.

Craig Robertson CEO of The Victorian Skills Authority representing Gayle Tierney, Minister for Skills and TAFE and Minister for Water, will present the keynote address at the event, while Frances Coppolillo, CEO of Melbourne Polytechnic, will also address attendees. The event will be a celebration of the power of vocational education and training (VET) to transform careers, communities and the Victorian economy.

The Victorian Government continues to make a significant investment in vocational education and training, as its $1 billion Victorian Training Guarantee continues to support Victorians to study vocational training courses across the state. More than 140,000 new students are expected to benefit from subsidised training in 2025, while the Government is funding more than 530 courses and 85 accredited short courses to support industry and labour market needs now and into the future.

Other initiatives the Victorian Government is implementing include a statewide Learn Local campaign to raise awareness of the free and low-cost courses available at more than 200 Learn Locals across Victoria, which help people boost their literacy, numeracy, digital and employability skills close to home; a pilot program to improve training for people with a disability, starting with automotive apprenticeships; and the new Apprenticeships Victoria Helpdesk, a free service to provide advice and support to apprentices, including information about wages and entitlements, training contracts, rights and responsibilities, and health and wellbeing at work.

Meanwhile, latest Jobs and Skills Australia data[[1]](#footnote-1) reveals vocational education and training qualifications have been most sought after by Victorian employers in the past year, with 50 per cent of jobs requiring a certificate II, certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma. It compares to 39 per cent of jobs requiring a bachelor degree or higher.

**The Victorian National Skills Week 2025 launch** will include engaging discussions about skills, VET programs and initiatives with education, industry and government leaders. Victorian Training Award winners will also share their experiences in VET. The event will include an optional tour of Melbourne Polytechnic’s facilities at its Collingwood campus. Melbourne Polytechnic was the 2024 Large Training Provider of the Year at the Victorian Training Awards.

**Event Date:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025

**Event Time:** 6pm to 8pm

**Event Location:** Melbourne Polytechnic’s Collingwood Campus, 1/20 Otter St, Collingwood

**National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham says:**

National Skills Week provides an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on how important vocational education and training (VET) is to Australia. Whether you are a school leaver or a worker reskilling later in life, vocational education qualifications can open the door to a satisfying and rewarding career and a lifetime of opportunities. The week is about highlighting the many career options available, and inspiring young Australians to explore those options to obtain the skills they need for the jobs they want.

Importantly we see the University and the VET sector working more closely together providing a unique blend of talent to ensure that Australia benefits from a highly skilled and productive workforce for jobs now and jobs of the future in an increasing globalised economy.

**Quotes from Industry Providers:**

**Attributed to Trevor Fairweather, Executive General Manager of Education, ReadyTech**

“Supporting National Skills Week aligns with our belief that great technology enables great teaching and learning. We are here to help providers modernise, personalise and deliver skills education at scale.”

**Attributed to Mathew Hicks, CEO- MEGT**

“The current skills crisis proves that we must focus on providing access to the training of skills which are not only suitable for individuals, but that are of most benefit to the broader economy”.

**Attributed to Tom Johnson, Principal – Apprenticeships & Traineeships
BAE Systems Australia**

“We are fortunate to be in a time where the Defence Industry is growing at a rapid rate and therefore, the growing and development of new talent for us is critical to our success”.

**Attributed to Kate Pemberton, National Apprentice Development Manager, Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd**

“Apprenticeships allow us to proactively shape the capabilities we’ll need in the future. Apprenticeships lay the foundation for long-term career growth and workforce stability. They promote a culture of continuous learning and progression, which benefits both the individual and the organisation.

**VIC-based VET success stories available for interviews:**

**Carly Brown, electrical apprentice**

**2024 Vocational Student of the Year, Victorian Training Awards**

Carly did not enjoy the academic environment at her high school, to the extent that she did not want to go to school at all. She learned a friend had started attending Northern College of Arts and Technology, and by the second term of Year 10, had transferred to the school. She was first interested in engineering but the broad range of experiences on offer – she studied Certificate IIs in Electrical, Plumbing and Automotive as well as Engineering as part of her VCE – led her to find a passion for electrical work. “The academic side of school wasn't for me - I can't learn through just reading or writing, I have to be physically on the job to learn,” she says. “For me, VET has been amazing, very beneficial.” Carly completed Year 12 and is now an electrical apprentice.

**Taylor Hampton, cultural facilitator**

**2024 Koorie Student of the Year, Victorian Training Awards**

Taylor’s first foray into vocational education and training came about 15 years ago, when a teacher encouraged him to apply for a Certificate II in School Support Services traineeship after he finished school. It ignited an interest in youth work, and in following years, he continued VET study with a dual qualification Certificate IV in Youth Work and Community Services, then a Diploma in Youth Work. Two years ago, his manager recommended he study a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management to advance his leadership skills. “I was able to use what I learned in the course almost immediately in my work,” he says. “I was even offered an active program manager role during that time - I don't think I would have been confident enough to take that on if I didn't have the skills.” Taylor says flexible learning options enabled him to study while still working full time.

**National Skills Week 2025 acknowledges the support provided by the Australian Government, and its major partner, ReadyTech.**

**Who's Behind National Skills Week?**

Supported by the Federal Government (DEWR), State Governments (QLD and NSW), and leading VET organisations, this year’s partners include:

* MEGT
* Apprenticeship Support Australia
* Brick and Block Careers
* Komatsu
* South Australian Skills Commission (SASC)
* Construction Industry Training Board
* TAFE NSW
* Queensland University of Technology
* ReadyTech
* University of Queensland
* Victoria University
* BAE Australia
* Housing Industry Association (HIA)
* Wine Australia
* Adelaide University
* UQ Skills.

**Talent Available for Interview:**

Media outlets can access interviews with:

* Brian Wexham, Chair, National Skills Week
* VET Alumni & Apprentices of the Year from across Australia
* Industry Leaders & CEOs in healthcare, tech, construction, mining, and more
* Members of the 2025 National Skills Week Advisory Committee

National Skills Week offers facilitated media connections to suit specific sector coverage.

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**Notes to editors:**

**About National Skills Week 2025**

National Skills Week is an annual initiative in Australia, scheduled for 25–31 August 2025, aimed at promoting the value and diversity of Vocational Education and Training (VET). Organised by SkillsOne Television and supported by Australian, State, and Territory Governments, it serves as a platform to highlight career pathways through apprenticeships, traineeships, and other VET programs.

National Skills Week is designed to:

* Raise Awareness: Enhance public understanding of the benefits and opportunities within the VET sector.
* Challenge Perceptions: Dispel outdated myths about VET and showcase its relevance in today's economy.
* Highlight Career Pathways: Demonstrate the diverse career options available through VET, including apprenticeships, full qualifications, micro-credentials, and pathways to higher education.
* Address Skills Shortages: Focus on emerging skills needs and industry trends to support workforce development.

The 2025 theme, “Explore ALL the Options,” encourages individuals to consider a wide range of educational and career pathways, emphasizing opportunities in regional and remote areas, as well as various training formats.

Through over 500 events nationwide, National Skills Week aims to inspire participation in VET, contributing to a skilled and adaptable workforce that meets Australia's evolving economic needs.

For more information or to get involved, visit the official website: [nationalskillsweek.com.au](https://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au/).

**About ReadyTech – Major sponsor of National Skills Week 2025**

ReadyTech (ASX:RDY) is Australia’s leading provider of SaaS for the education, workforce, government, and justice sectors. Focused on enabling outcomes that matter, ReadyTech supports educators with student management, learning management and skills assessment tools tailored to the unique needs of the TAFE, RTO, and tertiary sectors.

More info: readytech.io/education

1. [Jobs and Skills Australia Recruitment Snapshot VIC](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-05/Recruitment%20snapshot%20Victoria.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)