



MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian VET inquiry recognises the crucial role of skills in economic transformation

The TAFE sector has welcomed the announcement of a wide-ranging review of Victoria's education and training system.

The CEO of TAFE Directors Australia Craig Robertson said TDA applauds the leadership shown by Victoria in recognising the importance of a VET sector that is delivering the skills and jobs needed.

The Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney has announced that former federal Minister Jenny Macklin will lead a 12-month review of the state's education and training system.

"The pace of technological change and disruption stemming from artificial intelligence and digitisation warrants a fundamental look at how we prepare people for future jobs and careers," Mr Robertson said.

"One area of focus should include ways of achieving a better blend between TAFE-based and university learning, but more fundamentally whether the training package model run by the Commonwealth is fit for purpose for preparing people for future success in a changing world.

"TAFEs play a vital anchor role in supporting economic growth and offering pathways into and through a fulfilling career, and offering personal development through the school, vocational and higher education programs they offer," Mr Robertson said.

"It is also important that we have a network of TAFEs that trigger innovation and technology transfer with business, especially SMEs.

"The Victorian review is a timely initiative that will help inform and extend the initiatives the federal government is putting in place and demonstrate approaches to improve the connections between TAFEs and universities and other education providers.

“TAFEs continue to provide the core of high quality skills development that is central to workforce development and economic success.

“TDA applauds the leadership shown by Victoria in supporting its TAFE system and sees this as a blueprint that other states and territories can leverage to suit their circumstances,” Mr Robertson said.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.