Media release

The Hon Nick Wakeling MP
Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Thursday 3 April 2014

TAFE innovation responds to the needs of Victorian students and industry

- TAFE annual reports highlight innovative and collaborative training now offered to Victorian students
- TAFEs continue to focus on training in skills shortages and key skills needed in the economy
- Victorian Coalition Government investing a record $1.2 billion in training to deliver skills in demand

Minister for Higher Education and Skills Nick Wakeling today welcomed the tabling in State Parliament of the TAFE institutes’ 2013 annual reports.

Mr Wakeling said it was pleasing to see TAFEs forging new partnerships with other education providers to deliver training across Victoria, interstate and overseas, while also working to ensure training was focused in areas of skills shortages and key skills in demand by the Victorian economy.

“Victoria’s TAFE sector is in the middle of an exciting transformation to help ensure it continues to deliver high-quality training that leads to better outcomes for students, employers and industry,” Mr Wakeling said.

“Training data for 2013 released this week shows Victoria’s stand-alone TAFE sector has maintained enrolment numbers in a competitive market. There has been significant growth achieved at some TAFEs with more students training in areas of skills shortage and key skills needed in the economy.”

The annual reports show TAFEs at different stages of transforming their businesses to compete and grow student enrolments in the demand-driven training market and respond to shifts in the Victorian economy.

The Victorian Coalition Government is supporting TAFEs in this transformation process with the $200 million TAFE Structural Adjustment Fund, which is designed to strengthen the TAFE system and make it better equipped to provide training for the skills in demand.

Mr Wakeling said that a number of TAFEs had reported particularly strong financial results for 2013.

“Chisholm Institute, GO TAFE and Kangan Institute are just some examples of the success that comes from undertaking business transformation,” Mr Wakeling said.

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“The Boards, management and staff of all TAFEs should be proud of the achievements their hard work has delivered over the past year, and I want to thank and encourage them to continue to modernise and deliver innovative training opportunities for their students and communities.”

The annual reports illustrate a number of key initiatives being led by TAFEs that are being supported by the Coalition Government.

- GippsTAFE, Advance TAFE and Chisholm Institute are partnering in the $5 million Technology Enabled Learning Centres project, which is providing Gippsland students with access to a wider range of courses by using cutting edge technology to study remotely.

- The Gordon is playing a lead role in ensuring the success of the Skilling the Bay project, which is identifying education and training initiatives to address reskilling challenges in the Geelong region.

- Kangan Institute, Holmesglen Institute and GO TAFE, in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Hanover welfare services, will be home to Youth Foyers, which are being made possible by a $30.1 million investment.

- The $20 million Regional Partnerships Facilitation Fund is supporting projects that increase alliances between Universities and TAFEs, such as the Regional Tertiary Education Pathways project, which involves William Angliss Institute, sharing its hospitality and tourism expertise with South West TAFE, SuniTAFE and GippsTAFE.

The annual reports also show that Victorian TAFEs are receiving more recurrent funding from the Coalition Government now, than they ever did under the previous Labor Government.

Mr Wakeling said Advance TAFE and the North Melbourne Institute of Technology were still finalising their 2013 annual reports, which would be tabled as soon as they are complete.

He said the Victorian Coalition Government is building a better training system for Victoria, including investing record funding for training delivery of $1.2 billion per year.

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