Media release

The Hon Peter Hall MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills
Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession

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Vic Coalition Govt delivers on promise to expand access to government subsidised training

From tomorrow the Victorian Coalition Government will provide an extra $10 million a year for the next four years to increase the number of training fee exemptions for people over 20 years.

Minister for Higher Education and Skills Peter Hall said the funding was part of the Coalition Government’s election commitment to provide greater access to vocational education and training (VET) opportunities for Victorians, especially those who are financially disadvantaged.

“The funding boost will expand the number of fee exemptions with Victorian VET providers, making it much more affordable for those who are disadvantaged or are undertaking training in critical skills areas to access vocational education and training,” Mr Hall said.

Earlier this year the Coalition Government fast-tracked an election pledge providing $56 million to make TAFE concession fee places for 15 to 24 year old students holding a Health Care Card available from February 1 this year.

Mr Hall said data from first quarter VET enrolments showed the move had resulted in a marked increase in the number of young Victorians undertaking vocational education and training, helping to support their own aspirations and contributing in the longer term to the state economy.

“Compared with last year, government-funded enrolments have increased by 31 per cent among the working age population, 19 per cent among Indigenous Victorians, 35 per cent among people with a disability and nearly 35 per cent among culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

“In addition, there has been strong growth in the critical skills areas of community health, construction, child care, and automobile service and repair,” Mr Hall said.

Mr Hall said the extra $10 million a year would help build on the positive enrolment data and support those in most need to access valuable education and training.
“The funding is an integral part of the Victorian Coalition Government’s election promise to improve the already high standard of vocational education and training and make it more attainable for Victorians from all walks of life,” Mr Hall said.

“As part of that pledge we also promised to conduct a comprehensive review of VET fees and funding arrangements, and this review is currently underway.”

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