



# Media release

**The Hon Nick Wakeling MP**

Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Friday 12 September 2014

## **Victoria welcomes comprehensive review of training packages by the Commonwealth**

- **Supporting collaboration in developing a higher skilled workforce**
- **Victoria has Australia's most modern and well-funded TAFE and training system**
- **Napthine Government building a better training system for all Victorians**

Victoria has welcomed the comprehensive review of training packages and accredited courses announced this week by the Commonwealth Government, Minister for Higher Education and Skills Nick Wakeling said today.

"I am pleased that the Commonwealth Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane's announcement follows Victoria's lead, in reforming the training system to become more employer and industry focused," Mr Wakeling said.

"The Victorian Coalition Government has increased funding for the TAFE and training system from \$800 million under Labor to a record \$1.2 billion a year.

"Labor tries to use their own special form of voodoo economics to say this is a cut in funding. It is just another example of Labor's incompetence when it comes to budgetary and economic management," Mr Wakeling said.

In line with the Coalition Government's record funding, Victoria's TAFE and training system had already been refocused to match the pace of rapid structural change in the Victorian economy by developing stronger partnerships with industry and employers.

"We have fixed Labor's bungled attempt at reform and now have a training system that is focused on delivering skills that enables graduates to gain long term and meaningful jobs," Mr Wakeling said.

Mr Wakeling said Victoria was at the forefront of vocational education and training reform nationally and would be an active contributor to the review.

"This review will ensure training packages and accredited courses give all students a better chance of gaining employment, in an economy experiencing rapid structural change," Mr Wakeling said.

Industry has also welcomed the Commonwealth Government's review.

"This will help address industry's need to access a highly skilled workforce while opening up new opportunities for young people to get a first-class education," Master Builders Association of Victoria Acting CEO Viviana Hood said.

"We have a great opportunity to elevate vocational education to a whole new level and promote the fantastic career paths this type of training can lead to."

Victoria's training system also has the highest participation rate in Australia with 16.1 per cent of working age Victorians in training, compared to the national average of 11.9 per cent.

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“This is one of the reasons that Victoria’s job focused training system is the benchmark nationally and is now being adopted by other States,” Mr Wakeling said.

“I look forward to continuing to work with my commonwealth, state and territory ministerial colleagues and industry on aligning training packages to future skills needs.”

Mr Wakeling said the Napthine Government has worked hard to fix the excessive waste Labor left behind by directing funding into areas of value to the economy.

“In Victoria our industry participation model has ensured 72 per cent of training is now in areas of skills shortage and employment growth – more than ever before.”

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