



Media release

The Hon Michael O'Brien MP
Treasurer

The Hon Nick Wakeling MP
Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Thursday 1 May 2014

\$30 million package to support training for automotive and supply chain workers

- **\$30 million package for automotive and supply chain workers**
- **Funding in addition to Coalition Government's \$1.2 billion commitment to Vocational Education and Training**
- **Coalition Government building a better training system for job seekers and industry**

The Victorian Coalition Government has announced a \$30 million package over two years to support workers in the automotive and supply chain sector, Treasurer Michael O'Brien and Minister for Higher Education and Skills Nick Wakeling announced today.

"The Coalition Government will support workers in the automotive and supply chain sector to enhance their skills to take up new job opportunities," Mr O'Brien said.

This \$30 million package is on top of the Coalition Government's \$54 million indirect financial support already committed to transition the automotive sector and affected communities. It is a tangible outcome of discussions following meetings of the automotive industry roundtable involving supply chain businesses and other key stakeholders.

"Today's announcement is in addition to a commitment to fund more than \$1.2 billion per year in training, which represents a more than fifty per cent increase on the budget provided by Labor in their last year in office," Mr O'Brien said.

"The 2014-15 Victorian Budget will deliver major infrastructure projects creating thousands of new, skilled jobs. We will support those workers in the automotive industry and supply chains to take advantage of these and other coming job opportunities.

"Our training system is an important pipeline for the skilled jobs that this government is creating on projects like East West Link, Cranbourne-Pakenham rail and Bendigo Hospital.

"Victoria's economy is strong because it is diverse and it is flexible. This funding reflects the important role that skills training plays in the Coalition Government's economic strategy," Mr O'Brien said.

In order to ensure that this expenditure delivers value for money, the Coalition Government will continue to examine price and funding mechanisms for the Victorian Training Guarantee to strengthen budget controls to ensure that expenditure is contained within current budgeted levels.

"We are investing a level of funding for skills training in Victoria. We are determined to ensure that this investment delivers value for money, both for those receiving training and for the broader community," Mr O'Brien said.

.../2

Mr Wakeling said today's announcement will provide on the ground support for automotive workers.

"Today's announcement will ensure that affected automotive and supply chain workers will be able to access government funding to retrain and reskill so they can gain meaningful and long term employment in other industries as soon as possible," Mr Wakeling said.

"Affected employees will be given direct access to a careers adviser and clear direction into relevant vocational training."

Mr Wakeling said that the 2014-15 Budget would continue the Coalition Government's proud record of funding more subsidies and more enrolments than the former Labor Government.

"With an increase of 218,100 enrolments between 2010 and 2013, there are now 51 per cent more Victorian Government funded enrolments in VET than before the Coalition Government was elected," Mr Wakeling said.

"More importantly there are a greater number of students now learning job-ready skills under reforms introduced by the Coalition Government.

"Over the past year, we've seen 10,000 more enrolments in construction, nearly 10,000 more people training in healthcare and 8,000 more in transport – all critical areas for the Victorian economy.

"Victoria is building higher level skills at a faster rate than the rest of Australia, and this additional funding will ensure impacted automotive supply chain workers, in particular, can retrain and reskill to move into other industries as soon as possible.

"The Coalition Government is working hard to ensure that students in our training system can have confidence that the courses they choose will develop skills to secure them a job."

Media contacts:

Rachel Obradovic	0400 916 830	rachel.obradovic@minstaff.vic.gov.au	(Treasurer)
Michelle Zydower	0408 007 274	michelle.zydower@minstaff.vic.gov.au	(Minister Wakeling)