

THE GOVERNMENT FUNDED TRAINING MARKET IS GROWING ACROSS ALL SECTORS

Public confidence in the Victorian TAFE and training system has been restored. The new market settings under *Skills First* are having a positive impact on training quality, and more students are engaging with vocational education and training (VET) across all sectors.

Free TAFE is building public confidence and improving access to study at TAFE

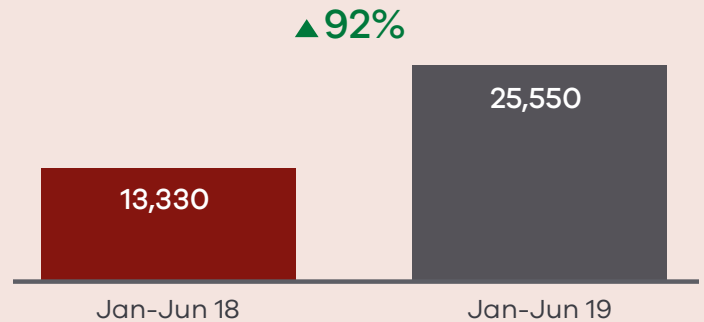
In 2019, the introduction of the *Free TAFE* for Priority Courses initiative (*Free TAFE*) continues the improvements made to the VET system over recent years, progressing towards a strengthened TAFE Network. *Free TAFE* aims to lift quality and improve access for students to study at TAFE, giving Victorians the skills they need to secure rewarding jobs.

Free TAFE has seen 25,550 commencements in the first half of 2019 which accounts for 92% growth. *Free TAFE* has had a positive effect on the overall government-funded VET system, with 10 per cent more students having commenced across the system by the first half of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. Largely, these additional students are in TAFE and Dual Sector Universities where there have been 20 per cent more commencements than this time last year. The TAFE Network market share continues to strengthen, and now accounts for 53 per cent of Victorian government-funded VET (up 4 percentage points since the first half of 2018). Commencements remain stable at Adult Community Education (ACE) providers and private providers.

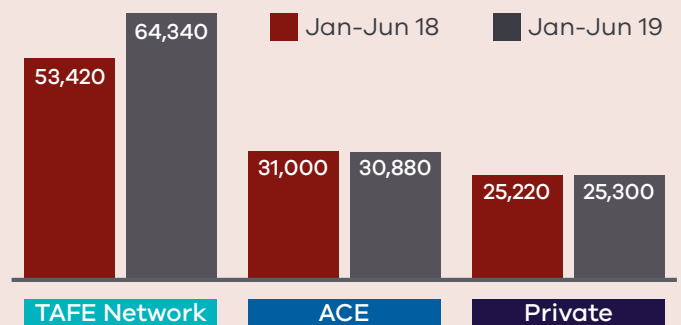
Training is improving outcomes for all Victorians

The TAFE and training system continues to play a pivotal role in supporting our most disadvantaged and/or disengaged students to access and stay connected with training. There has been greater participation in training from Indigenous students, students with a disability and unemployed students.

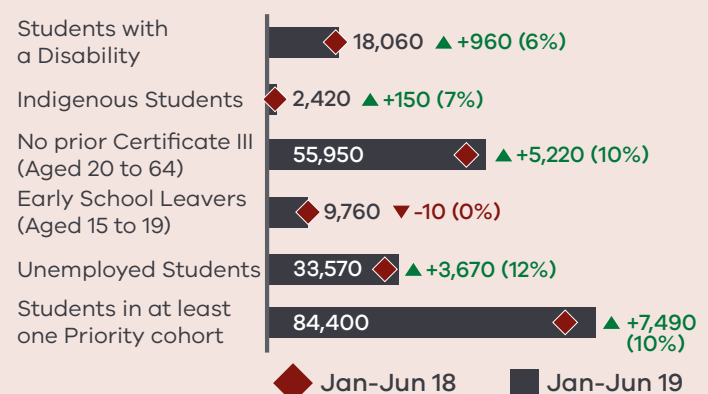
FREE TAFE COMMENCEMENTS



GOVERNMENT-FUNDED COMMENCEMENTS BY PROVIDER TYPE



CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT-FUNDED COMMENCEMENTS BY KEY COHORTS



DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY TRAINING THAT IS STRONGLY ALIGNED TO JOBS

The *Skills First* reforms have continued to better align VET to Government priority areas. There has been an overall growth of 8 per cent in enrolments (i.e. both commencements and continuing students) in courses aligned to at least one Government priority area. This growth is concentrated in courses that support the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Family Violence and Infrastructure workforces. This year Victoria re-introduced Trade Papers to signal apprenticeship completion and quality skills to employers. Since the re-introduction, over 700 Trade Papers have been issued. This improved alignment to industry needs and workforce demands will support and drive forward the Victorian economy into the future.

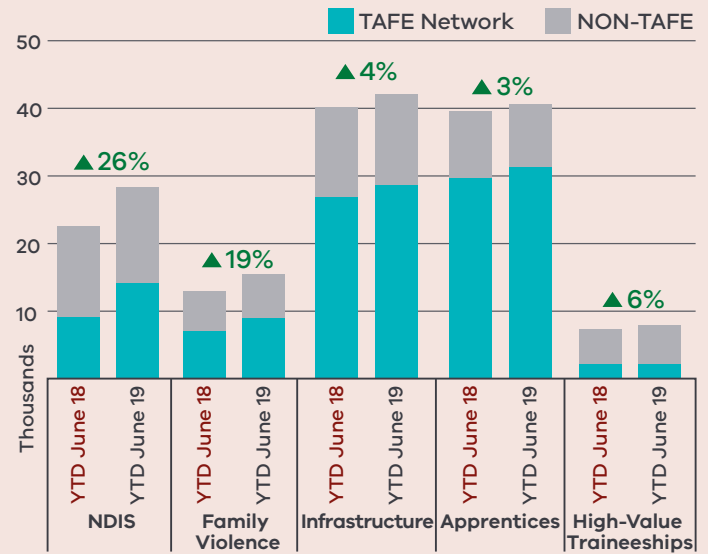
Skills First and other reforms have helped to create a stronger Victorian TAFE and training system through improved access to training in regional Victoria. There has been an overall growth of 12 per cent in government-funded commencements in regional Victoria. The growth is especially pronounced in government priority courses such as the Diploma of Community Services and Diploma of Nursing. The TAFE Network leads regional growth and improved engagement with place-based training. Recognising the diversity of needs across Victoria, the Regional and Specialist Skills Fund (RSTF) aims to meet industry demands for specialised skills. RSTF has helped fund over 100 projects since its launch in 2017 to bring training solutions to industry needs.

The *Skills First* reforms have helped refocus skills development towards workforce needs. The top three industries by commencements are in Health Care and Social Assistance, Education and Training and Construction. In all three industries, the TAFE Network is leading in commencements growth.

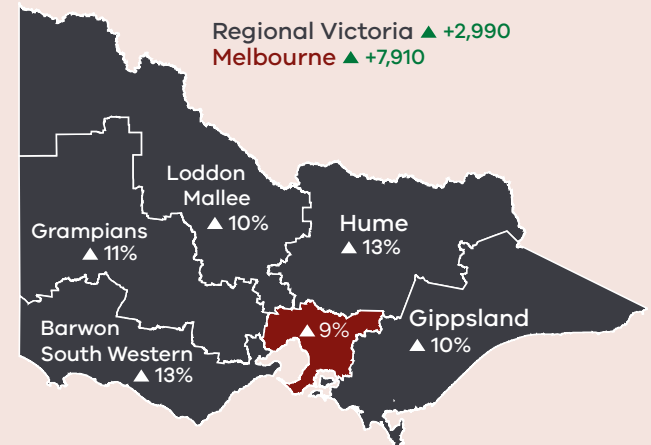
Work is progressing to maintain the momentum under Skills First

Work continues under *Skills First* to further restore TAFEs as system leaders, strengthen training quality and deliver training with a strong connection to jobs. VET is playing a pivotal role in skilling workforces for key projects that benefit all Victorians, including training that supports the expansion of kindergarten for all three-year-old children, supporting the Big Build, and the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ENROLMENTS IN GOVERNMENT PRIORITY AREAS



GOVERNMENT-FUNDED COMMENCEMENTS GROWTH BY REGIONS, JANUARY-JUNE 19 GROWTH COMPARED TO JANUARY-JUNE 18



TOP 3 INDUSTRY AREAS FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED COMMENCEMENTS, JANUARY-JUNE 19

