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## SKILLS – THE KEY TO A THRIVING AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Victorians seeking apprenticeships will get extra support as part of a **\$43.3 million** commitment to ensure the right skills and training are in place to keep the economy strong.

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, said investing in education and skills would give more Victorians the opportunity to share in a prosperous economy.

“This Budget builds on the Government’s work in turning around the education and training system to make Victoria the best place to live, work, and raise a family,” she said.

“In the last five years we have invested strongly to train our workforce, ensuring business has access to the right skills and knowledge to create jobs and keep our economy strong.”

Ms Kosky said **\$12.5 million** over four years would allow an extra 1600 people to undergo pre-apprenticeship training.

“The successful pre-apprenticeship program helps young people secure the apprenticeship they want and in some industries gets qualified tradesmen and women into industry faster,” she said.

Ms Kosky said **\$3 million** over two years would enable *lab.3000*, a centre of excellence in digital design, to work with educators and industry to expand Victoria’s digital design capability.

“The design industry was identified as a priority growth industry and today’s Budget allocation recognises its importance to Victoria’s future,” Ms Kosky said.

Ms Kosky said **\$27.8 million** over four years would provide TAFE and adult multicultural students with the latest equipment and teaching facilities. This includes:

- \$12 million to ensure TAFE equipment is innovative and up to date;
- \$9 million to upgrade buildings for trade training at the Gordon Institute of TAFE at Geelong;
- \$3.8 million to redevelop the Avondale Heights campus of Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE; and
- \$3 million to provide permanent facilities for the Adult Multicultural Education Services at Noble Park.

“Since 1999 the Bracks Government has invested a total of \$5.2 billion in the education and training sectors,” Ms Kosky said.