

STATE BUDGET

2023-24

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SPOTLIGHT ON SKILLS AND TRAINING TO BOLSTER SKILLED WORKFORCE

A major boost for the skills and training sector will see a huge investment in tackling South Australia's skills shortages.

Driving this initiative is \$28 million in targeted training subsidy increases for not-for-profit and industry-based training providers. This investment will support these providers to deliver even better-quality training in a number of industries critical to the state's future.

It will be supported by a stronger TAFE SA, as the Malinauskas Labor Government continues to rebuild TAFE SA from the cuts inflicted on it by the former Liberal Government. The budget includes \$10.2 million to introduce a new Regional Skills Development Fund – which will mean that TAFE SA will be able to offer more courses in regional and rural South Australia for the first time in many years. This funding directly responds to feedback from each of the Malinauskas Labor Government's Country Cabinet visits.

TAFE SA will also receive an extra \$12.2 million in funding to reduce its required revenue targets, recognising developments within the skills system, including the introduction of Fee Free TAFE.

A new \$9 million skills fund will deliver contemporary training facilities and industry relevant equipment to ensure training better meets the needs of students and industry. The investment will enable TAFE SA, not-for-profit and industry-based training providers to invest in new infrastructure, equipment and technology to support the delivery of training in areas of skill shortage and demand.

Group Training Organisations will also receive \$4.2 million through the continuation of the Boost program. The program will focus on supporting mature age apprentices to take up trades in areas of skills shortages.

Tauondi College will be supported with a \$5.6 million investment to ensure its ongoing role as a critical Aboriginal controlled training provider in South Australia.

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The budget will also support the expansion of the Master Builders Born to Build program with \$225,000 to promote a variety of career pathways and options within the building and construction industry, focusing on recruitment through football.

The budget also includes a funding provision for a new 5-year National Skills Agreement, pending negotiations with the Commonwealth Government.

The wide range of skills and training initiatives builds on the significant investments being made by the Malinauskas Labor Government to tackle skills shortages and improve completion rates in vocational training – including five brand new technical colleges, increased funding to TAFE SA and to restore courses in early childhood education and aged care, and a previous \$13.7 million immediate response to address South Australia's skills crisis.

Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

Investment in skills and training initiatives are vital to ensure we are growing South Australia economically and building on the opportunities ahead.

We need to be planning for the future now, so that we are addressing skills shortages with a high-quality trained workforce that has the appropriate skills to deliver the huge projects we will be undertaking in this state, including AUKUS and the hydrogen plant.

We are building a better TAFE and training system for all South Australians and this budget delivers on that.

Quotes attributable to Blair Boyer

It's imperative we support the TAFE and training industry in South Australia so that we are building on the foundations to train the skilled workers we need for the future.

This funding will ensure that more South Australians get the skills they need for the job they want.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is leaving no stone unturned in tackling the skills crisis – and this investment is an important part of that.

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