

# Media Release

**The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP**

Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Youth



Friday, 17 November 2023

## RECOGNISING THE SKILLS VETERANS EARN IN SERVICE

The Allan Labor Government is supporting veterans to implement and expand on the important skills and knowledge they have earned during their service with a new pilot program and employment workshop event.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman today announced an investment of more than \$220,000 for Wodonga TAFE to lead a landmark Recognition of Prior Learning for Veterans Pilot Program.

Wodonga TAFE has a deep understanding of the military environment, including extensive experience supporting individuals undergoing Australian Defence Force training and transitioning from service to civilian life.

Wodonga TAFE will develop, deliver and evaluate a pilot program to support veterans to have the skills and knowledge earned during their service reflected in nationally recognised civilian qualifications, skill sets and units of competency.

Wodonga TAFE has employed a Veteran Liaison Officer who will work closely with other TAFEs and Skills and Jobs Centres across Victoria.

It is widely understood veterans find it easier to secure fulfilling work when the qualifications achieved during their service are formally recognised.

Veterans are also encouraged to attend the Victorian Employment Workshop for Veterans on Monday, 20 November, at Citadines on Bourke, 131-135 Bourke Street Melbourne, which will showcase career avenues in the Victorian public sector.

This initiative is part of the Labor Government's broader commitment to support veterans and their families to thrive in their civilian lives. The *Public Sector Veteran Employment Strategy* has supported more than 1,350 veterans find work across public sector departments and agencies since 2017.

To register for the upcoming Victorian Employment Workshop for Veterans, visit [VetEmploymentWorkshop.eventbrite.com.au](https://VetEmploymentWorkshop.eventbrite.com.au).

### Quote attributable to Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman

*"Veterans gain incredible skills and knowledge during their service with the Australian Defence Force, and it's only right that these are recognised in the civilian workforce."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

*"Under the experienced leadership of Wodonga TAFE, with the support of a Veterans Liaison Officer, this pilot program will provide veterans with formal qualifications to help them land the roles they want and support them to transition into life post-service."*

### Quote attributable to Wodonga TAFE Chief Executive Officer Phil Paterson

*"We're excited to be part of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Veterans Pilot Program, it proves the value of establishing direct connections with Veterans from Defence and TAFE."*

**Media contact:** Alison Caldwell 0408 495 637 | [alison.caldwell@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.caldwell@minstaff.vic.gov.au)