

# Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Regional Development



Wednesday, 22 May 2024

## REAL-WORLD PLUMBING TAFE FACILITIES OPEN IN WANGARATTA

New training facilities at GOTAFE Wangaratta will give qualified plumbers a chance to learn skills for the workforce of today and the future – backed by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney today welcomed the completion of the upgraded training facilities, including a Type A Gas Room, at GOTAFE's Docker Street Campus.

TAFE students will help contribute to Victoria's sustainability goals by learning how to convert appliances from liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to natural gas and vice versa, and repair and repurpose old appliances so they're not sent to landfill. They will also be taught to test appliances to ensure correct gas combustion, minimising carbon monoxide exposure.

The facilities create a real-life training environment – including hot water systems, heaters, stoves and ovens. Trainers will be able to create simulated faults in the appliances so students can learn how to find and fix them.

The upgraded training room has been equipped in partnership with local suppliers and contractors, demonstrating the strong industry connections of the TAFE Network.

Two groups of students have already completed a new 16-day Short Course – Servicing Type A Gas Appliances – and places are available in GOTAFE Wangaratta's July and September intakes.

This project was part of a \$1 million investment from the Labor Government through Apprenticeships Victoria to fund new and updated equipment at GOTAFE, upskilling students across 38 technical trades certificates and short courses so they are ready to work in the jobs of the future.

The *Victorian Budget 2024/25* is investing \$555 million in Skills and TAFE to enable even more Victorians to upskill into meaningful, well-paid careers.

Victoria's Free TAFE initiative has already helped more than 170,500 students, saving them \$460 million in fees since the program began in 2019. More than 80 courses are available through the program, including the Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services, with more info available at <http://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>.

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

*"This is a fantastic example of how TAFEs and local industry are working together to equip our future workforce with the skills and capabilities needed across our state."*

*"By investing in the skills and training that regions need and supporting local training providers, we're helping to increase in-demand skilled workers and giving more people the chance to get a great job close to where they live."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

*"Our investment in the new gas training facilities at GOTAFE Wangaratta will equip plumbers with the hands-on skills they need to thrive in the region's homes and workplaces."*

### Quote attributable to GOTAFE Executive Director of Education Luke Surace

*"We're proud of this collaboration with industry and look forward to welcoming more plumbers at this new facility from across the region into this vital course."*

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