

# Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Water



Thursday, 13 March 2025

## LEARN LOCALS HELP VICTORIANS START THEIR LEARNING JOURNEY

The Allan Labor Government is investing more than \$7 million over the next three years to help Learn Locals across Victoria provide more education and employment opportunities to all Victorians.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney today visited the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau to celebrate two new grants available to help Local Locals to more effectively attract learners, improve their digital equipment and capability, and deliver high quality training.

The Learner and Program Sustainability Grant is delivering \$6.6 million over three years to Learn Locals, with the first payments for the 2025 training year already supporting these vital community organisations.

The \$500,000 Technology and Digital Grant Program is helping Learn Locals purchase technology that improves outcomes for learners. Applications for these grants are open now.

These investments are helping Learn Locals attract new learners, strengthen their curriculum, set up partnerships with local industry and employers and reach learners who can most benefit from the support provided by a Learn Local.

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau is receiving an additional \$9,000 in funding through the Learner and Sustainability Grant and the Training Delivery Support Grant. Students like Pierre, Isabelles, and Susanna are being supported by the Learn Local into employment and further TAFE training.

Wodonga TAFE is also partnering with the Learn Local by providing a dedicated computer lab to boost digital skills for future learners, ensuring they have the foundational skills needed to start a Free TAFE course. Across Victoria, the TAFE Network works with Learn Locals to create seamless pathways into further education and employment.

Last week nominations for the 2025 Learn Local Awards opened. The awards are an opportunity to celebrate individuals and organisations that are making an impact in adult community education.

More than 30,000 Victorians each year are supported by Learn Locals to overcome barriers to training and access essential skills for life and work, whilst studying close to home in a community setting.

More than 200 Learn Locals operate across Victoria, offering tailored support in a range of courses from numeracy and literacy to digital skills and employability skills.

Learn Local providers are not-for-profit community organisations registered and funded by the Victorian Government. They offer flexibility and a welcoming environment for everyone to learn.

To find out how a Learn Local can help you, visit [learnlocal.org.au](https://learnlocal.org.au).

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

*"With more than 30,000 Victorians supported each year, Learn Locals play a vital role in giving every Victorian the opportunity to build skills, gain confidence, and find meaningful employment close to home."*

*"This investment will help Learn Locals like the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau strengthen their programs, reach more learners, and ensure they have the tools and technology to deliver high-quality training."*

**Media contact:** Lloyd Skinner 0457 138 806 | [lloyd.skinner@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:lloyd.skinner@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

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

*"This investment in Learn Locals across Northern Victoria is making a real difference—helping more people in our community gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed."*