



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## PM announces 180,000 extra free TAFE places at Jobs and Skills Summit

Australia's TAFE sector today applauded Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's announcement at the Jobs and Skills Summit of an extra 180,000 free TAFE places.

The thousands of additional fee-free TAFE places were agreed to yesterday by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments at a meeting of National Cabinet.

The Chief Executive Officer of TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) Jenny Dodd said the Prime Minister's announcement demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that thousands of Australians will have the opportunity to gain new skills for the jobs of today and the future.

"This is a tremendous vote of confidence in the power of the country's TAFE system to drive the skills revolution.

"It is also a very positive sign about the capacity of all levels of government to work cooperatively to deliver jobs, skills and the workforce capacity that will be needed," Ms Dodd said.

Mr Albanese told the summit that the \$1.1 billion commitment would be shared by Commonwealth, state and territory governments and would take effect in 2023.

Describing it as a "\$1 billion training blitz", the Prime Minister said he hoped it would be "the beginning, not the end" of progress on skills or training.

Ms Dodd said the TAFE sector looks forward to playing a central role in delivering the skills needed in both regional locations and cities, as Australia deals with skills shortages and the skills needs of current and emerging industries.

"TAFE institutes across Australia will continue to deliver the majority of the high value, and often more complex qualifications that will be central to enhancing productivity and social outcomes.

"This is evident through TAFE's concentration in the most high-skilled qualifications, including apprenticeships, a clear focus on nationally recognised qualifications, and through TAFE's social and community obligations to students who identify as Indigenous, with a disability, and from low socio-economic backgrounds.

"We are delighted that the first major outcome of the Jobs and Skills Summit will see TAFE continuing its role, across 550 training sites in every part of Australia, delivering the vital work of equipping the current workforce and building the skills for the next generation," Ms Dodd said.

**Media contact:** Bob Bowden, 0412 753 298 [bbowden@bowmac.com.au](mailto:bbowden@bowmac.com.au)

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 29 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also non-university higher education providers.