Victorian Skills Authority

The Victorian Skills Plan for 2023 into 2024

The *Victorian Skills Plan for 2023 into 2024* recognises the key role of the care economy in Victoria.

The care economy is a significant driver of employment demand in Victoria.

352,000
new workers expected to enter the Victorian economy between 2023 and 2026

83,300
new workers are expected in the care economy

or

1/4
of all new workers expected in Victoria

6/10
new workers in the care economy will require higher-order skills

Occupations in demand include the following:

17,000
ageing and disability carers

9,900
registered nurses

4,000
nursing support and personal care workers

2,600
early childhood educators or child carers

More information on Victoria's employment needs is available in the Employment Forecast Dashboard and the State of the Victorian Labour Market Report on the website (see details below).

Promoting post-secondary education skills and career pathways

Addressing skills and workforce gaps in the care economy requires adaptable workforces. New care economy workers expected over the next three years will require higher-order and transferable skills, and vocational education and training (VET) will play a key role in delivering these skills.

To further improve VET graduate outcomes, VET needs to meet the aspirations of learners and deliver transferable skills. The Skills Plan recommends pursuing VET qualification reforms that increase transferable skills and support wider career options.

Delivering the right skills for the jobs of today and tomorrow

The Victorian TAFE Network is at the forefront of the education and training responses needed to support the care economy.

Evolving practices in health and care, often driven by new health models and use of digital technologies, require new knowledge and workers who can practice across roles. This requires new models of vocational education for preparing the care workforce.

To deliver the right skills for the jobs of today and tomorrow, the Skills Plan recommends:

— an integrated post-secondary school system that recognises the unique value of VET, such as streamlining qualification development and reducing regulatory burden for Victorian TAFE Network providers

— developing approaches to embed applied research in the education and training delivered by Victorian TAFE Network providers.

The Victorian Government is developing a 10-year Victorian Health Workforce Strategy, which provides strategic direction and a framework for workforce development and reform for care economy workers.

The Victorian Skills Authority is also supporting the care economy through a Skills Lab model aimed at lifting learning outcomes of enrolled nursing students. The lab is exploring new approaches to learning design underpinning the national Diploma of Nursing, to improve completion rates and better prepare graduating enrolled nurses for evolving nursing practices.