

# Victorian Training System – First Quarter (Q1) 2024 Overview

Produced by Skills and Employment

The Victorian Skills Plan states that 352,000 new workers are expected to be needed in the Victorian workforce between 2023 and 2026 – with around 158,000 needing Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.

Victoria’s training system plays a critical role in delivering the skilled workforce for industries and government. TAFEs are at the centre of the training system – delivering right across Victoria and across a wide range of courses.

Training delivery has continued to grow in 2024 as a result of Government investments to improve access and support TAFEs.

TAFEs are delivering more training in areas of need as identified by the Victorian Skills Plan. This means more funding is going to TAFEs, consistent with the Government’s election commitment to provide TAFEs with more than 70% of skills funding.

More people are reskilling because the Victorian Government has expanded eligibility by removing the requirement to upskill, and the ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ rule for Free TAFE courses in selected pathways.

Completion rates are also improving. Literacy and Numeracy Support was added as a Free TAFE short course in the second half of 2023, to support learners complete their qualifications.

## Commencements



- **51,482** commencements. A **7.3%** increase compared to Q1 2023.
- TAFEs delivered **69%** of the Q1 commencements.
- **35,734** TAFE commencements. A **15%** increase compared to Q1 2023.
- Increased access to training through expanded eligibility. **17,900** more people reskilled in 2023.

## Priority Areas



- 352,000 new workers needed in the Victorian workforce by 2026, with around **158,000** needing VET qualifications.
- **16%** more delivery by TAFEs in priority areas compared to Q1 2023.

## Regional Delivery



- **11,368** commencements across regional Victoria in Q1 2024. **6.7%** higher than Q1 2023.
- More than **30,900** students have commenced a Free TAFE course at regional TAFEs, saving them more than **\$84.7 million** in tuition fees since 2019.
- More than **20,500** women, **4,000** students with a disability and **2,700** culturally and linguistically diverse students have commenced a Free TAFE course at regional TAFEs.

## Free TAFE



- **18%** increase in Free TAFE commencements in Q1 2024 compared to Q1 2023.
- 2024 Free TAFE Priority Course List offers **70** courses and **10** skillsets.
- Free TAFE has helped more than **170,500** students access fee free training, saving them more than **\$460 million** in tuition fees since 2019.

## Completions



- **52%** of students who commenced a Free TAFE course in 2019 or 2020 completed their course in a 4-year period. By comparison, the university 4-year national average completion rate for domestic students was 40.9%.
- More than **3,500** students commenced in the Literacy and Numeracy Support program in Q1 2024.

## Building Better TAFEs

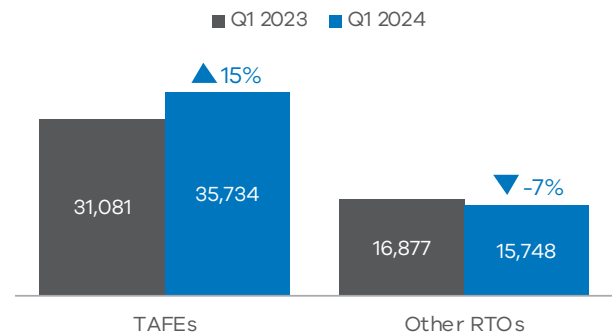


- A pipeline of TAFE capital upgrades is underway through the Government’s **\$170 million** Building Better TAFE Fund. New TAFE campuses for Melton and Sunbury are progressing through the land acquisition phase.
- Since 2015 the Victorian Government has committed **\$639 million** for capital across the TAFE network through State Budget initiatives.

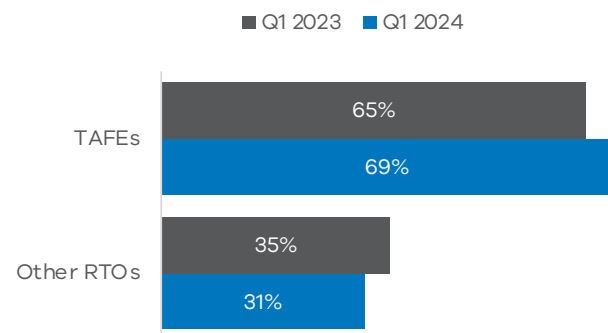
## GROWING TRAINING DELIVERY

- Commencements across TAFEs and other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) were 7.3% higher compared to Q1 2023.
- TAFE commencements were 15% higher compared to Q1 2023 – taking their market share up to 69% in Q1 2024.
- TAFE commencements increased in Very High demand courses by 16%, including Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician, Certificate III in Plumbing, Certificate III in Carpentry, and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.
- Government is delivering actions to grow the TAFE workforce. The core qualification required to be a trainer, the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, is offered as a Free TAFE course. Since being added to the Free TAFE list, there has been a 57% increase in commencements.
- TAFEs are delivering more than 90% of the commencements in the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment program.

**Figure 1: Commencements by Provider Type**



**Figure 2: Provider Type Market Share**



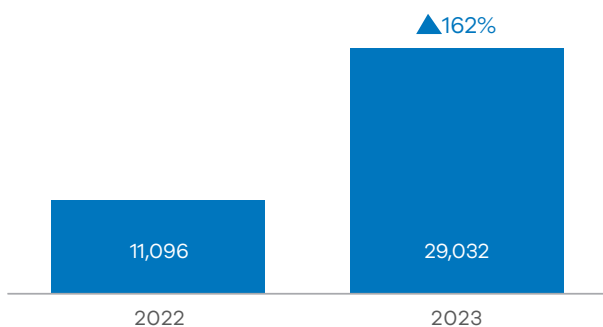
**Table 1: Commencements in Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (pipeline of TAFE teachers)**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Q1 2024	Increase (2022 and 2023 compared to 2020 and 2021)
TAFEs	1,792	1,526	2,281	2,843	1,027	1,806
Other RTOs	108	179	126	403	61	242
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>3,246</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>2,048</b>

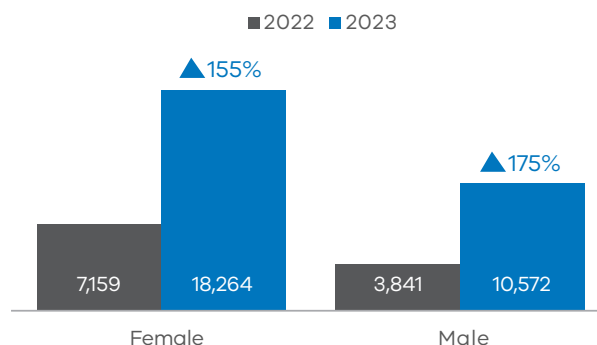
## IMPROVED ACCESS TO TRAINING

- From 1 January 2023, the Government abolished the requirement for students to study at a higher level than their highest prior education to access government-funded training. This has made an additional 1.8 million Victorians eligible for government-funded training.
- This change is improving access to training. 17,900 more people reskilled in 2023 compared to 2022, with women making up 62% and individuals aged 30–44 accounting for nearly 50% of this growth. The uptake of expanded eligibility remains strong in Q1 2024.

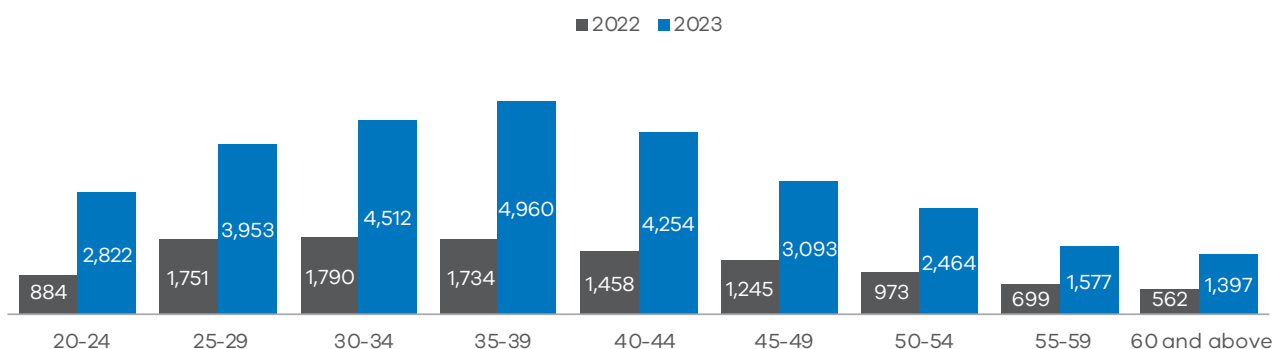
**Figure 3: Total number of students reskilling**



**Figure 4: Reskilling students by gender**



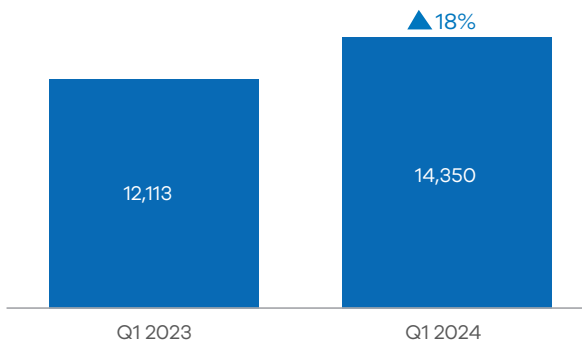
**Figure 5: Reskilling students by age group**



## FREE TAFE

- Government's expansion of eligibility in 2023 led to more students taking up a second Free TAFE course in 2023 under the Free TAFE Pathways initiative.
- 12 additional courses and skill sets were added to the Free TAFE list in 2023. The Free TAFE Priority Course List now offers 70 courses and 10 skillsets/short courses.
- There was an 18% increase (over 2,200 additional enrolments) in Free TAFE commencements compared to Q1 2023.
- The Literacy and Numeracy Support program (LN Support) was added as a Free TAFE short course in 2023. LN Support is designed to support high-priority cohorts to succeed in training and work.
- More than 3,500 students commenced in the LN Support program in Q1 2024. Many of these students are young individuals aged under 25 (58%) and women (53%). Through receiving additional literacy and numeracy support alongside their full qualifications, these students are more likely to complete their training.
- Students are undertaking LN Support alongside programs aligned to high skills demand areas like Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician and Certificate IV in Education Support.
- Victorian Free TAFE student completion rate compares favourably to University completion rates.
- 52% of students who commenced a Free TAFE course in 2019 or 2020 completed their course in a 4-year period. By comparison, the university 4-year national average completion rate for domestic students was 40.9% by 2022.
- Over three quarters of the Free TAFE students who commenced a Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start) in 2019 or 2022 qualified in a 4-year period. Certificate III and Certificate IV in Education Support courses also recorded high completion rates of 70% and 68% respectively.

**Figure 6: Free TAFE Commencements**



**Table 2: LN Support Commencements by Priority Cohorts**

	Q1 2023	Q1 2024	Increase
Women	254	1,848	1,594
Learners with a disability	75	428	353
Young learners (aged under 25)	294	2,049	1,755

**Table 3: Free TAFE Completions**

Top Five Free TAFE Courses by Completion Rate	Commenced in 2019 or 2020	Completions in 4 years	Completion Rate
Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)	1,788	1,350	76%
Certificate III in Education Support	1,873	1,302	70%
Certificate IV in Education Support	2,212	1,504	68%
Certificate III in Individual Support	3,506	2,176	62%
Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)	1,182	721	61%

## REGIONAL DELIVERY

- Commencement growth was strong in both metropolitan (7.5% higher) and regional Victoria (6.7% higher). All individual regions experienced increases.
- Biggest growth was in Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.
- TAFEs delivered 73% of commencements in regional Victoria.

**Figure 5: Commencements in Metropolitan and Regional Victoria**

