

As one of Australia's largest regional centres, Geelong is undergoing an economic and workforce transformation, placing the region in a time of great change and opportunity.

To support the future prosperity of the region, the Skilling the Bay project brings together The Gordon, Deakin University and the Victorian Government to work with our community to focus on skill development and education to secure jobs now and the future.

Initiatives

The Victorian Government has invested \$11 million to deliver and support multiple initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of the three regional goals of Skilling the Bay.

Three clear goals have been set to guide the way:

- 1 Education**
informing and raising educational attainment levels focused on pathways to employment.
- 2 Employment**
increasing workforce participation through training and re-skilling.
- 3 Skills**
growing existing and emerging industries through targeted skills development.

1 Education

Geelong Tertiary Futures Program: *Equipping Year 9 students for education and training pathways to a working future.* Secondary school students select from up to 30 tertiary education preview courses to engage with pathways to future employment.

Successful Students – STEM: *Investing in STEM teaching capability in Geelong region schools.* Improving the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) teaching in Geelong secondary schools and promoting STEM pathways to students to support future employment.

Careers in Community Services and Health: *Building capacity in the fast growing Community Services and Health sectors.* Providing entry level training pathways to careers in Community Services and Health through workplace learning opportunities.

Digital Technologies Program: *Investing in digital technology capability in Geelong region schools.* Building digital technology teaching capability and innovation in the teaching of digital technology curricula in schools to raise student participation and attainment.

STEM Manufacturing Futures: *Providing Year 9 and 10 students with options for hi-tech, advanced manufacturing education and employment pathways.* Students participate in industry tours, work experience and leadership challenges.

2 Employment

Whittington Works: *Supported 'education to employment' initiative for the long-term unemployed of eastern Geelong.* Delivering education, training and employment programs to long-term unemployed residents in the eastern suburbs.

Northern Futures: *Supporting training to employment outcomes in the northern suburbs of Geelong.* Building a culture of educational attainment, lifelong learning and re-engaging the unemployed in education and training with the aim of transitioning to employment.

Geelong Region Workforce Development Centre (WDC): *Integrated into the Geelong Skills and Jobs Centre.* In October 2015, the Victorian Government announced \$1 million for the establishment of a Geelong Skills and Jobs Centre, with a satellite service in Wyndham. The existing Gordon-based Workforce Development Centre has now become part of the new facility. The centre is based in the Geelong Westfield shopping complex providing career advice and job search assistance for retrenched workers and students.

3 Skills

Skilling for Advanced Manufacturing – Composite Materials: *Supporting Geelong's emerging carbon fibre manufacturing capability through development of new training products for industry.* An Australian first course developed with input from local industry to support skills development for the emerging carbon fibre composites sector in Geelong.

Skilling the Health and Community Services Workforce: *Addressing the rapidly expanding Health, Community Service and Disability sectors' employment needs.* Three training programs address the sector's workforce needs: Career Bridging Program for individuals with corporate skills to transition to the sector; Passport Program accredited training for direct client care roles; Diploma in Leadership and Management to develop the sector's leadership capacity.

Skilling for Business Success: *Building Geelong's culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.* Initiatives to ignite innovation in Geelong to help generate new jobs in the local economy, including: The Upstart Challenge youth entrepreneurship program; Innovation masterclasses and the Destination Entrepreneur program.

Geelong Future Industry Project: *Creating new technologies supporting Geelong's emerging nanofibre manufacturing capability.* The successful pilot of an advanced manufacturing plant for the production of short nanofibres has been completed.

Recent Achievements

Skilling the Bay is committed to measuring outcomes to evaluate progress and assess investment worth. The Performance Measurement Framework enables us to track progress through established targets and milestones.

Our Vision

Geelong is an optimistic, self-sufficient, thriving centre of growth.

Our Mission

Skilling the Bay will:

- Connect industry, education, training and community groups to enable the growth of jobs of the future through targeted skills development, collaboration and advocacy.
- Lead the transformation of Geelong's workforce to secure jobs of the future through education, skills development and innovation.
- Foster a long-term, regional focus on education and skills development so that people in Geelong see a pathway for themselves — from education to employment.

Thanks to our Partners

Our partners are critical to our success. We thank the following organisations for their ongoing support:

- Enterprise Geelong
- G2 Innovation
- Geelong Region Local Learning and Employment Network (GRLEN)
- Geelong Regional Vocational Education Council (GRVEC)
- ICT Geelong
- Northern Futures
- Secondary schools across the Geelong region. Upstart Challenge
- Whittington Works

Geelong Tertiary Futures Program

- 730 Year 9 students from 4 schools have undertaken the program over 2015 – 2016.
- 83% have a significantly improved understanding of what employers want.
- 84% of students have a significantly improved knowledge of tertiary pathways.
- 76% of students indicate they feel better prepared for a future career.

Successful Students – STEM Program

- STEM Education Conference hosted by Deakin and Skilling the Bay held in October 2016 attracted local, national and international interest.
- 100% teachers from the STEM Program reported significant improvement in their knowledge and teaching of STEM education.
- 87.5% of students from partner schools reported improved awareness of the importance of STEM for future education and employment.

Digital Technologies Program

- 100% Internet of Things (IoT) program students placed a higher level of importance on completing a STEM qualification.
- 100% of IoT Program students have a better understanding of the importance of digital technologies for a wide range of career pathways.
- All secondary schools in the Geelong region were represented in one or more of the Digital Technology professional learning seminars for teachers.

Careers in Community Services and Health

- 612 student enrolments in School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships and VET in Schools courses over 2015 - 2017.
- 91% student completion rate for accredited programs in 2016.
- An average of 61% of participants across all programs were from disadvantaged backgrounds in 2015 and 2016.

Whittington Works Alliance

- Over 2015 - 2016, 72 local residents enrolled in training programs with a 63% completion rate.
- The rate of successful training transitions to employment is 53%.

Northern Futures

- Since 2015 over 180 people have participated in the program with an 80% completion rate and 52% achieving employment outcomes; a rate exceeding the national benchmark. 18% continued with further training or education.
- Up to 40 local organisations support the program with work placements or direct employment.

Skilling for Business Success

- Over 280 secondary school students have participated in the Upstart Challenge from 15 schools. Finalists have been mentored by local business leaders to develop their business ideas.
- The April 2016 entrepreneurship Forum and Masterclass was attended by 128 people and featured a speed networking session linking students with local businesses resulting in several internships.
- The Pivot Summit in 2016 attracted 500 delegates and had nearly 4000 unique live streams worldwide.
- 78 participants are undertaking the Destination Entrepreneur Training program with 100% retention, accessing high quality on-line resources.

Skilling the Health and Community Services Workforce

- The 2016 Passport Pilot Program resulted in 42% of participants going on to employment or further training.
- The Diploma of Leadership and Management (tailored to the Health and Community Services Sectors) ran in 2016 with 12 graduates. A second intake commenced in 2017.
- A total of 31 people have participated in the Career Bridging Program over 2015 – 2016 with ongoing support from key industry partners including Barwon Health, National Disability Insurance Authority and WorkSafe.

Skills for Advanced Manufacturing – Composite Materials

- An 'Australian first' accreditation of a Course in the Use of Carbon Fibre in Composites Manufacturing to contribute to the growing carbon fibre sector in Geelong.
- Two courses were delivered in 2016 with 16 participants (half of whom were retrenched Ford workers) and a 100% completion rate. Employment outcomes to the sector for graduates have been very positive.

Geelong Future Industry Project

- Development of a world-first pilot manufacturing plant for the production of short nanofibres.

For more information
about Skilling the Bay visit
www.skillingthebay.org.au

the
Gordon

