



Fact sheet

Building a skilled provincial workforce is a key element of *Moving Forward*. Recent initiatives have addressed the shortage of rural doctors, building surveyors and planners in provincial Victoria, and the *Future Farming Strategy* provides new initiatives to build skills and attract young people to farming.

Refocused initiatives as part of *Moving Forward: Update – The Next Two Years* will concentrate on developing local approaches to tackling these shortages.

1. Enhancing the *Make Your Career Happen in Provincial Victoria* campaign

The Government will provide \$3.5 million over two years to implement three elements of the *Make Your Career Happen in Provincial Victoria* campaign: key industry sector state-wide development; attracting and retaining regional skills; and marketing and promotion.

2. Rural Skills Cadetship scheme

The Government will introduce a *Rural Skills Cadetship Program*, providing \$800,000 to support 100 cadetships for full time TAFE and university students to obtain semester break employment in regional areas while studying.

3. Creating workforce development strategies

The Government will provide \$1.8 million over two years to improve skills and expand employment opportunities in provincial Victoria through industry-specific Workforce Development Strategies.

This initiative will help regional industries to plan for their future skills and labour needs, and expand their access to the labour market.

4. Strengthening professional networks

The Government will provide \$50,000 each year for the next two years to support the development of new professional networks in provincial areas, and to strengthen existing ones.

Working with local businesses, economic development bodies and local councils, the Government will provide support for the establishment and growth of professional development networks.

The aim of this initiative is to improve the way individual businesses operating in regional areas attract and retain skilled workers.



5. Building business leadership skills

The Government will provide \$600,000 to develop the leadership skills of business managers and owners in provincial Victoria.

The program aims to improve business decision-making and personal and professional growth, as well as the ability to anticipate and manage change.

6. Extending *Provincial Economic Partnerships* program traineeships

The Government will provide \$500,000 to extend the funding of economic development officer traineeships at regional and rural councils from the existing 12 months to up to 24 months.

The *Provincial Economic Partnerships* program funds the short-term appointment of economic development officer traineeships at regional and rural councils to help to deliver a range of projects that councils cannot undertake with existing resources.

7. Establishing a shearing skills centre of excellence

The Government will provide \$80,000 toward the development of a state-of-the art shearer training facility in Edenhope in the West Wimmera.

To be located at Edenhope Showgrounds, the new facility will produce trained shearers to meet skills gaps as well as help retain young people in rural communities.

*The Victorian Government's provincial economic statement Moving Forward: Making Provincial Victoria the Best Place to Live, Work and Invest was launched in November 2005. This \$502 million program aimed to build on provincial Victoria's strong economic success since 1999, drive further growth and development in regional cities, communities and industries, and attract more people, jobs and investment to regional and rural areas. Consultations conducted by the Government in November and December 2007 showed strong support for the direction taken by Moving Forward, but also highlighted new challenges. Moving Forward: Update – The Next Two Years responds to these consultations. It reinforces the Government's strong support for provincial Victoria, continues to deliver the highly successful Moving Forward agenda and introduces additional initiatives to tackle the challenges ahead. Moving Forward: Update addresses five key areas: **growth and change; industry; skills; infrastructure; and drought and a changing climate.***

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