ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Enhanced Education & Skills Outcomes

A regional workforce pipeline that connects schools, TAFE, universities, industry and local government.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is seeking a Victorian Government commitment to strengthen the connection between education, training and industry to ensure regional Victoria has the skilled workforce required to support economic growth, improve productivity and create sustainable careers.

Victoria's future prosperity depends on education being viewed not as a separate system, but as an integrated workforce and economic development strategy. Schools, TAFEs, universities, industry, employers and local government should work together to develop the workforce required for the industries of today and tomorrow.

Regional communities are uniquely positioned to lead this approach through the strong relationships that already exist between education providers, employers and community organisations. As a major service centre for North East Victoria, Wangaratta is strategically positioned to become a leading education, training and workforce development hub that supports regional growth and productivity.

Advocacy Ask

Commit to a Statewide Education and Skills for Regional Productivity Policy that strengthens education-industry partnerships, expands school-to-work pathways, supports regional skills development and better aligns workforce planning with regional economic growth.

What will it achieve?

Regional employers continue to experience workforce shortages across key industries, while many young people leave regional communities to pursue further education and do not return. Stronger connections between education, training and employment will help address these challenges and ensure workforce development aligns with regional economic priorities.

The policy would:

- Build a stronger pipeline of skilled workers for regional industries ✓
- Increase labour productivity and business competitiveness ✓
- Improve workforce participation and employment outcomes ✓
- Support the retention of young people in regional communities ✓
- Attract and retain skilled workers in regional Victoria ✓
- Strengthen regional investment and economic growth ✓
- Improve the resilience of regional industries and businesses ✓



6 Policy Reform Priorities

1	Establish Regional Industry Skills Partnerships that connect schools, TAFEs, universities, local government, industry and economic development agencies.	
2	Expand school-to-work pathways through apprenticeships, traineeships, workplace learning, industry mentoring and vocational education.	
3	Grow regional TAFE and higher education capability aligned with local industry demand.	
4	Support lifelong learning through flexible training, micro-credentials and reskilling opportunities.	
5	Encourage greater industry participation in workforce development through mentoring, placements and curriculum collaboration.	
6	Build future workforce capability in digital technology, artificial intelligence, automation, advanced manufacturing, sustainability, entrepreneurship and leadership.	

Who will help deliver it?

- **Victorian Government**
- **Schools**
- **TAFE providers**
- **Universities**
- **Industry and employers**
- **Local government**

