

5 May 2022

The Hon. James Merlino MP  
Member for Monbulk  
Minister for Education  
1635 Burwood Hwy  
Belgrave, VIC 3160

Dear Mr Merlino,

On behalf of the Australian Centre for Career Education (ACCE) and our 950 members, I would like to congratulate you and the Department of Education, Victoria, for the Education Budget, 2022/23. The budget announcement outlining a substantial investment across all ages of education will undoubtedly build on the Department's excellent work in making Victoria the Education State. Of note is the planned investment in:

- the senior secondary pathway reforms to ensure students and the community consider VET pathways as equally important as VCAL pathways;
- VET teacher, trainer and school capacity to deliver high-quality vocational and applied learning;
- greater inclusion for students with a disability and continued assistance for the Disabilities Transport Program;
- a Certificate IV in Teaching an Australian First Nations Language and Diploma in Auslan, and the Advanced Diploma of Interpreting (Auslan) in the languages taught in early childcare settings;
- recruitment of an additional 1,900 teachers, and
- sustaining student mental health services in schools.

While the senior secondary pathway changes are critical for student transitioning and entering the world of work, ACCE is concerned that the budget announcement does not identify an essential investment in career education. From our research into conditions for career practitioners in schools, 2021, qualified career practitioners require additional time to deliver career education and the essential guidance to support the Governments *Transforming Career Education in Victorian Government Schools* plan. As part of their daily work, delivering essential career education to colleagues, students, and parents will be essential to support the new pathway reforms. School career practitioners will require both professional development and assured time allocation to carry out their work and adequately represent the pathway changes in schools and to students and parents.

In addition, the recruitment of an additional 1,900 teachers and investment in VET teacher training and school capacity to deliver vocational and applied learning, we would strongly recommend that the professional development for these teachers includes essential pathways and career planning.

ACCE would welcome the opportunity to deliver this essential training in partnership with the Department of Education, Victoria.

ACCE thanks you for your commitment to improving career education in Victorian schools and we welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues raised in the 2022/23 budget announcement. We look forward to continuing to support Victoria's education reforms.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Gigliotti

CEO