

# Media Release

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**For immediate use**

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## **VACC supports renewed focus on Victoria's training providers**

Having worked closely with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), VACC welcomes the recent action taken against low quality training providers and abuse of government funding.

VACC supports the Minister for Training and Skills, Steve Herbert, and the disqualification of some employers from hiring apprentices, following an investigation into employers and Government funded training providers which resulted in 60 training contracts being cancelled and 39 contracts voluntarily cancelled.

"VACC supports quality training, which provides employers and apprentices with the best possible outcomes. The Victorian Government's investigation into low quality training is important and has our total support," VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym, said.

"The disqualifications show that the industry has high training standards and that quality providers, employers and the automotive industry will not tolerate second rate training. The automotive industry is highly skilled and specialised and it is imperative that future apprentices are fully equipped for the work place and that employers receive the quality apprentices they require," Mr Gwilym said.

VACC says parents in particular should view the disqualifications in context. Just 8 employers were disqualified and the remainder of the training contracts that have been cancelled were due to insufficient training and support provided by one training provider. VACC hopes parents, and students, see the recent government action to control quality of training as a positive and that quality training options will result in better career prospects for next generation auto apprentices.

VACC is the largest employer of auto apprentices in Victoria and provides apprentices with valuable on-the-job experience supervision and targeted skills training, ensuring the apprentice is fully skilled and workshop-ready when qualified. The VACC Group Apprenticeship Program connects apprentices with host employers and has above-average national and state retention rates.

VACC will continue to support Minister Herbert's investigations into quality training and supports the on-going review of training providers and standards.