



Media Release – Immediate Release

More P-TECH Schools to Be Added to Innovative Education Pilot.

Monday 30th May 2016:

Skilling Australia Foundation welcomes today's news of the Turnbull Government's plans to extend the P-TECH (Pathways in Technology) program announcing a new pilot at McCarthy Catholic College with a new employer partner, PwC.

"Australia is at a pivotal crossroads where equipping young people with 21st Century Skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is now a national imperative. It makes sense to expand a model that has received broad interest from educators, communities and most importantly students in the initial pilot sites" said Skilling Australia Chairman, Mr Frederick Maddern OBE.

In order to have young people entering the labour market with the capability to meet the growing demand for skilled workers, we need to increase the number of students undertaking STEM studies in senior secondary school, and then in post-secondary education and training. "Globalisation, economic reforms and technological change are re-shaping the nature of work and the types of jobs that will be available in the future – and STEM skills will play a major role" Mr Maddern said.

In the 2 pilot schools already up and running, students are being provided opportunities to engage with the world of work and better understand the relevance of their learning.

The P-TECH model was designed around collaboration and partnerships to expand opportunities for young people. "Existing partnerships in Geelong and Ballarat between schools and industry are already delivering learning experiences that would not be possible if schools, or industry, acted in isolation – and this improves a young person's prospects of employment" Mr Maddern said.

The first 2 Australian pilots in Geelong and Ballarat commenced in January 2016 and have attracted strong interest from local students wanting to explore meaningful and relevant career pathways. These initial sites are supported by employer partners in Geelong including Barwon Health, GMHBA, Bendigo Bank, Opteon and Tribal Campus. IBM, who co-founded the first US P-Tech school in 2011 is also the industry partner in Ballarat, Victoria.

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Skilling Australia Foundation www.saf.org.au works with a large network of educational institutions, employers and support groups to help young Australians make their transition into the workforce. In 2015 the Foundation was appointed by the Australian Federal Government to implement the P-TECH (Pathways-In-Technology) secondary school STEM learning programs in Geelong and Ballarat.

For more information on the P-TECH pilot visit: www.ptech.org.au

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