PREPARING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS FOR CAREERS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The Australian Government has announced it will support a further 12 P-TECH schools across Australia as it continues to expand its innovation and science agenda.

P-TECH Pilots are currently underway at Newcomb Secondary College and Federation College in Victoria. The latest announcement sees the following schools joining the P-TECH Program, with others to be announced:

- Wyong High School (NSW)
- McCarthy Catholic College (NSW)
- Hunter River High School (NSW)
- St Patrick’s Technical College (SA)
- Burnie High School (TAS)
- Parklands High School (TAS)
- Cecil Andrews High School (WA)
- Tec-NQ (QLD)


Why is the Australian Government supporting the P-TECH styled pilot?

- Ensuring future generations of young Australians have the skills to equip them for the workforce of the 21st century is critical for maximising our economic and social wellbeing in an increasingly global and digital age.
- Globalisation, economic reforms and technological improvements are changing the nature of work and the types of jobs that will be available in the future – and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills will play a major role.
- In order to have young people entering the labour market with the capability to meet the growing demand for workers with STEM skills, we need to increase the number of students undertaking STEM studies in senior secondary school, and then in post-secondary education and training.
- Partnerships between schools and industry provide opportunities for students to engage with the world of work and better understand the relevance of their learning to jobs and post-school pathways. The STEM focused P-TECH pilot will test and adapt key elements of this innovative approach to education-industry collaboration in the Australian context.
What are the key elements of the P-TECH model?

• At its core, the P-TECH model is about collaboration – a partnership between education, industry and community – but it is a partnership with a clear purpose:
  
  To provide an industry supported pathway for young people to achieve a qualification that strengthens their employment prospects.

• To achieve this goal requires the education, industry and community sectors to work together to put in place the key elements that make up the P-TECH model, including:

  **Innovative curriculum.**

  A key aspect of designing the learning program includes the way existing Australian Curriculum and Australian Qualification Framework recognised education and training is sequenced (or ordered) to achieve the best outcomes for students.

  **Innovative approaches to learning.**

  Partnerships between schools and industry enable innovative approaches to the way learning is delivered; approaches that would not be possible if schools, or industry, acted in isolation. Working together, schools and industry can provide opportunities for students to engage with the world of work and better understand the relevance of their learning to jobs and post-school pathways.

  **Industry mentoring and support.**

  The mentor relationship between young people and industry personnel provides continuity of support for students to achieve a post-school qualification. The mentor relationship will ensure the students’ learning stays on track and provides opportunities for guidance to help young people make informed decisions regarding their education, training and employment options.

  **A post-school qualification.**

  Schools will partner with other education providers (TAFEs/RTOs or universities) to deliver elements of the P-TECH learning program (either on-site or off-site) and achieve a diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree. A strong relationship between the school, industry and post-school institution(s) will provide a seamless pathway and continuity of support for students as they transition from school to further education to complete their post-school qualification.

  **Links to employment.**

  Collaboration between the education and industry sectors strengthens the connection between student learning and the skills that employers need. It improves young people’s prospects of employment, including opportunities for employment with industry partners.

How is the P-TECH model different?

• The P-TECH pilot will draw on many elements that exist in schools today, such as mentoring, workplace visits and industry and school collaboration. However, what is different about the P-TECH model is the way it brings all of these elements together. The focus on a long-term partnership between educators, employers and community, the combination of elements that make up the model and the sequencing of student learning is what makes it unique.

• Senior secondary students involved in the P-TECH pilot will be on a pathway to achieve two qualifications. Firstly, their Senior Secondary Certificate, which will feature technical and vocational education components. P-TECH students will then extend their studies beyond secondary school to achieve a STEM related diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree.

• The P-TECH model enlists the support and expertise of industry to help prepare students for the world beyond school at a time in their lives when they are making decisions that will influence their career path.

• The support and opportunities provided through the P-TECH model are particularly important for those young people living in communities with high youth unemployment and where the labour market is shifting to a modern knowledge and skills-based economy.

• Collaboration between the education and industry sectors strengthens the connection between student learning and the skills that employers need. In addition, the relationships students develop with their mentors and the school’s industry partners improve their prospects when employment opportunities are available with a partner organisation, or within the partners’ broader business networks.
Ministers Welcome to P-TECH Students in Geelong & Ballarat

View video message at www.ptech.org.au

‘We wish P-TECH students the very best and we look forward to celebrating your future successes.’

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham
Minister for Education and Training

The benefits of becoming a P-TECH industry partner

The P-TECH model allows industry to have valuable involvement in the learning and development of young Australians to ensure that they are entering the labour market with the skills they need to succeed at work.

There are many forms of support industry can provide including but not limited to:

• working with teachers to align classroom learning to the skills employers need;
• providing opportunities for hands-on workplace learning;
• supporting authentic project-based learning (either in the workplace or at school);
• offering mentor support for students
• enabling access to the latest technologies used by industry
• providing traineeships, apprenticeships or internships as part of the P-TECH program

With the assistance of industry, the P-TECH program ensures students will enter the labour market with the skills to succeed.

For further details please contact: info@saaf.org.au or visit: www.ptech.org.au

Background

In January 2016, Australia’s first 2 P-TECH pilots commenced in Ballarat and Geelong, Victoria. All of the more than 80 year 9 students at Newcomb Secondary College (Geelong) are participating in the first year of the P-TECH pilot.

At Federation College (Ballarat), over 20 students are actively involved in a dedicated P-TECH learning program. Other year 10 students from Federation College are undertaking P-TECH STEM based electives.

The first USA P-TECH school was established by IBM and a consortia of education partners in 2011 in New York City.

To find out more background, visit www.ptech.org.au/p-tech-us

Quick Facts

• Jobs requiring STEM skills grew at about 1.5 times the rate of other jobs over the past few years.

• Nearly 44% of Australian workplaces that require STEM skills have trouble recruiting qualified technicians and trade workers, according to the Australian Industry Group.

*Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Australian Government has engaged the Skilling Australia Foundation to assist local stakeholders to work together to implement P-TECH learning programs in Geelong and Ballarat.
St Patrick's Technical College students

CONNECT

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