

## Minister Gail Gago

Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills

Thursday, 17 September, 2015

### Training practitioners converge in Adelaide for national conference

More than 1000 delegates from across Australia will attend the largest annual gathering of vocational education and training (VET) practitioners in Adelaide today and tomorrow.

Employment, Higher Education and Skills Minister Gail Gago said the National VET Conference would encourage collaboration and connections across the VET sector, as well as providing a direct economic benefit to the State.

“To improve our economy we need to invest in the skills for the future, drive innovation, and embrace technological advances,” she said.

“This conference, which will inject more than \$2.5 million into the State’s economy, brings together the key industry players to shape the training sector for the future.

“A skilled and adaptable workforce is critical to driving innovation and productivity growth; this means we need to find new ways of doing things, adapt to new and emerging opportunities, and support and expand our existing industries.

“While our economy is in transition, our VET sector here in South Australia is going through its own transition.

“It remains a firm commitment of the State Government to sustain a VET system that will help South Australians find their first job, their next job, or start a whole new career.

“We want to better target training to emerging job opportunities, and to improve our training completion rates – South Australia’s new WorkReady program sets people on that path.

Ms Gago said the State Government was working to deliver the training needed to encourage the growth of the economy.

“This government is dedicated to building a sustainable training, employment and skills system for students, jobseekers, industry and employers.

“In difficult circumstances, we have had to focus on giving people the best chance of getting a job and making a contribution to the South Australian economy and community.

“Conferences like this one give us the opportunity to get together to talk about the challenges and opportunities in vocational education and training.

“Over the next two days, delegates will hear from experts in VET policy and reform, training organisation management and compliance, training and assessment, and much more.”