

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Victorian Skills Commissioner Hears about Gippsland Skills Needs**

Victoria's first Skills Commissioner, Neil Coulson was in Traralgon on Wednesday hearing from industry, employers and education groups about developing future skills and training courses for Victoria.

Committee for Gippsland CEO, Mary Aldred said that the productive round table discussion included participants from across the Gippsland training and skills sector as well as local employers.

"It was great to have many passionate skills and training providers in the one room contributing to the discussion about the needs and opportunities in developing the skills needed in local industry and business.

"The roundtable discussion formed part of the consultation process by the Skills Commissioner into developing the Funded Courses List which was a key recommendation from the State Government's VET Funding Review released in December 2015.

Ms Aldred also said that the Funded Course List will inform targeted government investment in skills valued by industry, by identifying a smaller number of highly valued courses with moderate to high outcomes, moving to higher quality delivery.

"A more targeted Funded Course List will be developed for implementation from 2017 onwards comprising courses that represent the best value to the Victorian economy, focussed on training that has a close link to job outcomes or to further education.

"Part of the discussion was around what courses are successfully enabling people to gain employment and which courses are failing to deliver the training and skills required by industry and how can these be developed to provide greater efficiencies in the training sphere.

"It was particularly good to hear about how pathways to employment through education could be improved and how to best facilitate learning and skills development.

"The discussion was very constructive on how to increase the skill level of the labour market and support industry growth and restructuring," Ms Aldred said.