

Mandatory Youth Work Readiness Program in Victoria

Bill 2022

A Bill for an Act to ensure all young Victorians finish schooling with the skills needed to be successful in life and employment. This Bill institutes a framework for a model that allows education to be tailored to each Victorian region's own unique economy. This ensures that young Victorians' curriculum will be relevant to their own future and empowers them to make their own decisions about their life with the best understanding of the economic environment they find themselves in.

This Bill not only seeks to give Victorian youth true empowerment, but also to increase the prosperity of all of Victoria, through exposing young Victorians to industries and the economic climate present within their local communities, it allows young Victorians to be able to properly respond to the needs of their future localities.

This Bill seeks to enhance the future of Victoria through empowering and training its young peoples with the skills they need to be successful within their communities.

A Bill for an Act relating to Mandatory Youth Work Readiness Program in Victoria to be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) To maximise youth outcomes across Victoria;
- (b) To institute a model that facilitates life skills education and work ready education into the schooling curriculum;
- (c) To design a framework that integrates the local economy into school education; and
- (d) To close the gap between community, local industry, schooling, and youth.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill—

- (a) **Board** means the VicJobReady Board (VJRB);
- (b) **Chairperson** means the presiding officer of the VicJobReady Board;
- (c) **Department** means the Department of Education (DoE);
- (d) **Learning environment** means primary schools, secondary schools, specialist learning centres and non-traditional schooling centres.
- (e) **Member** means elected participants of the VicJobReady Board.
- (f) **Minister** means the Victorian Minister for Education.
- (g) **Soft skills** means personal attributes including but not limited to, confidence and resilience.
- (h) **TFN** means Tax File Number.
- (i) **Young person** means any individual from the ages of 6 to age 25.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of VicJobReady Board

- 4.1 A Board shall be established to be known as the ‘VicJobReady’ Board (VJRB).
- 4.2 The region of authority of each board shall be directly tied to the area of scope for each Local Learning Employment Network (LLEN).
- 4.3 The Board shall collaborate with the relevant learning environment to; understand the unique challenges and opportunities that face young people.
- 4.4 Deliver content that is suitable and useful within all forms of learning environments.

Clause 5 VicJobReady Membership

- 5.1 Membership of each VJRB shall consist of:
 - (a) The Chairperson, who shall be the region’s LLEN’s CEO;
 - (b) No fewer than 1, nor more than 3, officers from the Department;

- (c) No fewer than one young person; and
 - (d) No more than 3 other members selected from the local community.
- 5.2 The Minister shall approve each member's ascension for the Board under the following reasons;
- (a) Having expertise in the local community; or
 - (b) Having expertise in the local economy; or
 - (c) Having current experience as a young person.

Clause 6 Content Delivery

- 6.1 Each board shall work with local schools, industries, and communities to deliver targeted curriculum that is;
- (a) Delivered to year levels across primary schooling and secondary schooling;
 - (b) Targeted towards the capacity and needs of a specific year level, and young people's passions and desires;
 - (c) Based on a high-level of understanding of local youth issues that are hindering success in both employment and the local community;
 - (d) Beneficial to the local community and local young people.
- 6.2 Each LLEN Board shall work to deliver content targeted towards local education career staff and advisors.
- (a) Content will cover;
 - (i) The current economic environment of the local region;
 - (ii) The future economic environment of the local region;
 - (iii) Challenges and barriers that local young people face in achieving greater outcomes.
- 6.3 The Board shall deliver content that is relevant to young people. This shall include, but is not limited to;
- (a) Working with relevant authorities to run sessions where young people can apply for a TFN within school hours;
 - (b) Organise networking opportunities with local employers to speak with students regarding local industries;
 - (c) Workplace visits to local businesses;
 - (d) Civic Education;
 - (e) Soft skill facilitation to build skills such as;
 - (i) Confidence; and
 - (ii) Communication.

Clause 7 Certificates and Awards

- 7.1 The Board shall recognise youth participation and completion of the curriculum. This may take the form of;
- (a) Printed and or digital certificates; or
 - (b) Other recognition arrangements that satisfy both the board and requirements of local youth.

Clause 8 Feedback and Improvement

- 8.1 This program shall be reviewed biennially in a report that:
- (a) Is available to the public;
 - (b) Is led by the board with the support of the Department; and

- (c) Is informed by young people who have been involved in the board's work.
- 8.2 The report must include recommendations for improvement of the program.
- 8.3 At any time after one year from the commencement of the Bill, the Minister may seek additional feedback on the program in any way they see fit.