Victoria: AI-Driven, Business-Ready

The Victorian Government's AI Mission Statement

VICTORIA
State Government

Image courtesy of CDC, showcasing CDC's Brooklyn campus.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to lands and waterways upon which we depend, and we pay respects to their culture and their Elders past, present, and future.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal self-determination is a human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we are committed to working towards social, economic, and cultural equity for Aboriginal Victorians.

We acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal Victorians, and we acknowledge all other people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent living in Victoria.

Accessibility
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Contents

Premier's Message

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the world around us. It is reshaping entire industries and institutions – from how students learn to how researchers make discoveries that can save lives to how filmmakers revolutionise screen production.

With a world-class innovation and research ecosystem, and thriving tech sector, Victoria is ready to lead the nation in AI development and adoption.

Our AI Mission Statement outlines how Victoria will harness our many strengths to drive innovation, boost productivity, attract and facilitate investment, stimulate economic growth and improve the lives of Victorians.

We're delivering on our Economic Growth Statement by unlocking new opportunities in the health technologies and digital technologies sectors, and shaping a future where AI is used responsibly, inclusively, and for the benefit of all.

Victoria is emerging as a leading AI hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Melbourne's CBD alone is home to 188 AI companies and around 22% of all clustered AI firms in Australia – the largest concentration in the country.

With available land, reliable power, strong international connectivity, suitable infrastructure and a supportive policy environment, Victoria is well-equipped to cultivate significant growth in AI and advanced technologies.

At its core, this Mission Statement is about ensuring AI is developed and deployed in ways that are fair, transparent, and accountable.

We will prioritise ethical innovation, strong government leadership, and close partnerships with industry, academia, and the community.

Our skilled and talented workforce will drive the uptake of AI. Backed by our world-class education and training system, we're supporting Victorians to build the skills they need for the jobs of the future.

We are determined to ensure no one is left behind in this transition – from students and workers to businesses and regional communities. Everyone must have a voice and a role in shaping our AI future.

We will lead the way in building an AI-powered economy that is inclusive, ethical, and uniquely Victorian.

We're ready to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity, and we invite industry, investors and Victorians to join us.
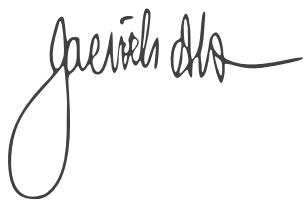
The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP
Premier of Victoria

Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs' Message

AI will play a pivotal role in shaping Victoria's future economy and we cannot afford to be spectators on the sidelines.

With strategic investment and leadership, Victoria is positioned to become Australia's AI capital and a premier data centre hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

Our AI Mission Statement is focused on strengthening our economy and industries while also lifting communities, enhancing public services, and building public trust in the technologies that are becoming part of daily life.

Victoria's thriving tech sector is already at the forefront of Australia's AI landscape, with Australia's single most significant AI cluster based in Melbourne's CBD. This momentum positions us strongly to lead the next wave of innovation.

We are committed to cultivating our local AI ecosystem – backed by the right policy settings, strategic investment, cutting-edge infrastructure, and highly skilled workforce.

Whether in industry, education, government or the broader community, we're supporting Victorians to adopt and benefit from AI – responsibly, inclusively, and confidently.

Our Government is committed to leading by example by modelling the adoption of AI across the public sector and driving its responsible uptake across the broader economy. In close partnership with industry, we will harness AI to boost productivity, foster innovation, and create new opportunities.

Victoria's world-class universities, TAFEs, and research institutions will continue to cultivate the highly skilled talent needed to drive innovation and shape the future of AI.

Through upskilling, reskilling, and continuous learning, we will empower individuals and communities to thrive in an evolving workforce and fully harness the benefits of AI.

This is a defining moment in Victoria's history. We will lead the way in developing and adopting AI, and become the engine room for the jobs, industries, and innovations of tomorrow.

The Hon. Danny Pearson MP
Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs

Leading the way

Victoria is the state of ideas, innovation and ambition – and we're ready to lead the nation in the responsible development and adoption of AI.

Just as the internet revolutionised the way we live, work and do business, AI is moving at pace to reshape the world.

As a leader, an enabler and a facilitator, the Victorian Government is bringing together industry, research institutions, TAFEs and universities, unions, investors and the community to unlock the almost limitless opportunities AI will bring in the short and long term.

Our world-class research and innovation ecosystem, highly skilled workforce and strong track record of investing in industry, innovation and technology make Victoria the premier destination for data centres and the ideal place to invest in AI.

Thanks to our thriving tech sector, we've paved the way for AI adoption, with nearly a quarter of clustered national AI firms already calling Melbourne's CBD home.

Victoria offers a competitive energy market, land availability, a talent pipeline, strong research commercialisation, and a culture of innovation and growth.

We will harness the potential of AI and turbocharge its adoption while setting the benchmark for its responsible use to give investors, innovators, businesses and Victorians confidence and certainty.

We're embracing AI with the same spirit of ambition that has made Victoria a global leader in innovation today and will make us Australia's home of AI tomorrow.

Our opportunity

This is a once in a generation opportunity to shape and lead the development of a new industry, a new economy and a new way of life.

Advancements in AI have the potential to generate up to **$30 billion** in Gross State Product for Victoria over the next 10 years.

Victoria is at the forefront of AI development and adoption. We have a unique opportunity right now to lead the country and cement our position as a regional and global leader in innovation and a premier destination for AI investment.

AI is central to the ambitions of Victoria's Economic Growth Statement. Digital technologies (including AI) are one of the five priority sectors for our state that are the backbone of our economy and the engines of our future growth.

Victoria will leverage AI to drive productivity through:

- faster scientific and technological progress
- creating new products and services
- automation and efficiency improvements
- increased labour capacity.

Research tells us AI will improve our productivity and our lives.

Increased productivity is expected to boost average wages and improve the lives of Victorians by creating higher skilled jobs with more meaningful tasks and improving the quality of public services.

Expanding Victoria's AI sector will also attract foreign investment and drive innovation.

By acting now, Victoria will establish the foundations for future growth and higher living standards.

And by prioritising people, we'll ensure workers are better off from the change, not left behind.

Victoria's investment

The Victorian Government is acting now to grow our AI ecosystem by:

- ✔ investing $5.5 million in a **Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan** to harness our land, energy and talent to unlock projects valued at up to $25 billion, establishing the state as the Asia-Pacific hub for sustainable data centres

- ✔ providing $8.1 million for **Digital Jobs – AI Career Conversion program**, offering upskilling and reskilling opportunities to Victorian tech workers, and ensuring no one is left behind

- ✔ providing **streamlined investment facilitation** with the **Investment Front Door**, a single-entry point for business including data centres, on all investment-related engagements with the Victorian Government

- ✔ establishing the right **policy settings** under the Victorian Industry Policy and Economic Growth Statement with a key focus on developing emerging and enabling technologies including AI

- ✔ facilitating significant **AI-related investment** including NEXTDC's $2 billion AI Factory and Technology Campus at Fishermans Bend

- ✔ allocating $150 million for the **Victorian Investment Fund** to further support **investment attraction**, including for AI, and cement Victoria as the place to do business

- ✔ growing the AI ecosystem with a **$10 million investment** in the **Cremorne Digital Hub**, a partner with Boab in the Small to Medium Enterprise Centre for AI

- ✔ driving local AI adoption with a $10 million investment in the **Australian Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Medical Innovation**, reinforcing Victoria's reputation as a hub for cutting-edge medical research.

What is AI?

An AI system is a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment. (OECD definition)

Victoria's AI mission is underpinned by 6 strategic pillars:

Investment attraction and adoption

Data centres and digital infrastructure

Local innovation, products and services

Talent and workforce

Ethical AI use

Public sector adoption

Investment attraction and adoption

Building on our strengths to make Victoria the destination for AI investment and a leading economy in AI adoption

AI may be an emerging sector, but Victoria already has the conditions that give it a unique competitive advantage.

- **We have the land** – scalable and ready for data centres and AI hubs through facilitated industry investment

- **We have the energy** – most reliable in Australia, coupled with growing renewable power

- **We have the talent** – world-leading universities, TAFEs and research institutions providing a strong pipeline of AI-ready skills

- **We have the right supports** – dedicated investment facilitation services such as the Investment Front Door, Investment Coordinator General and Invest Victoria

- **We are supporting increased digital adoption** – the Digital Jobs Program is building AI and digital skills in the priority sectors of construction and advanced manufacturing.

Key actions

Innovation and long-term growth

To attract AI investment to Victoria that will unlock highly skilled, high paying jobs, and support long-term growth, we will:

- optimise existing initiatives and investments delivered through the Economic Growth Statement to support AI adoption and investment

- attract and support investment from local, interstate and international AI and tech businesses seeking to enter, grow or expand in Victoria

- establish a supportive and balanced regulatory environment that enables the AI economy in a sustainable way with appropriate consideration of land, water and energy requirements.

Partnership and support

To accelerate the uptake of AI, we will:

- strengthen partnerships with industry peaks, governments, our world-leading education institutions and businesses from all sectors

- spotlight local talent to make it easier for businesses to adopt trusted, locally built tools

- consider targeted supports to help small to medium enterprises embed AI in their business processes.

CASE STUDY: AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MEDICAL INNOVATION (ACAMI)

Launched in September 2024, ACAMI based at La Trobe University is the world's first university innovation centre specialising in applying AI to accelerate the discovery and development of vaccines, immunotherapies and other medical innovations.

ACAMI is delivering new AI capabilities and supporting Victoria's medical research sector to access and adopt AI, reinforcing the state's reputation as a hub for cutting-edge, AI-enabled medical innovation.

ACAMI is backed by a $10 million Victorian Government investment and powered by Australia's first NVIDIA DGX H200 supercomputing platform, demonstrating the State's commitment to global leadership in healthcare innovation, local AI adoption and investment attraction.

Image courtesy of La Trobe University.
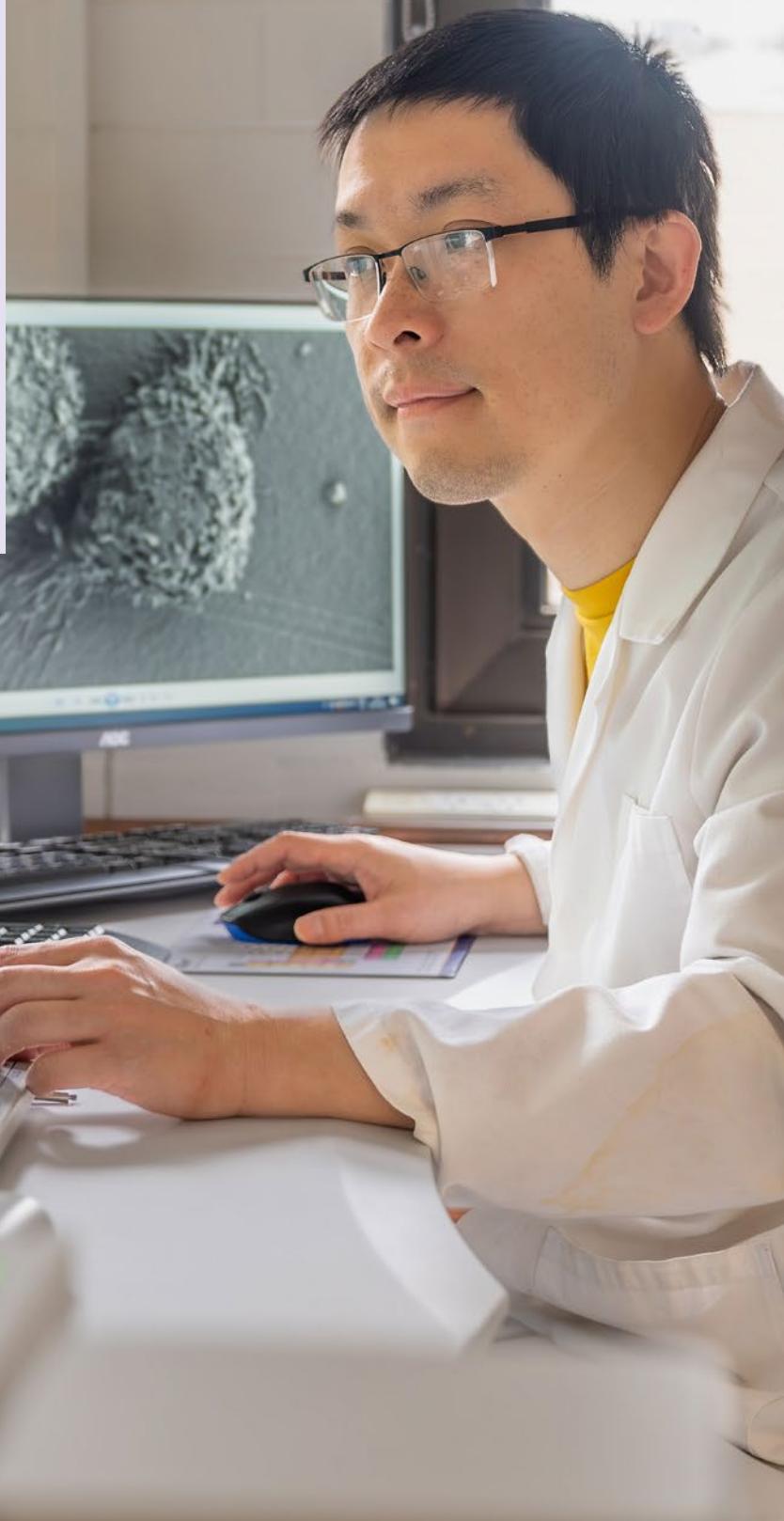
Data centres and digital infrastructure

Victoria is an emerging data centre hub within the Asia-Pacific region

Data centres are the backbone of the digital economy. They generate, store, refine, analyse and distribute vast amounts of data across global networks.

AI thrives on access to trusted, high-quality data. Through initiatives like DataVic and other open data programs, Victoria is strengthening the foundations for AI innovation while ensuring data is accessible, transparent and responsibly managed.

At our world-class universities and research institutions, high-performance computing (supercomputers) supports complex research in fields like genomics, climate modelling and materials science.

Digital infrastructure that is critical to these AI-powered operations is typically housed in specialised data centres.

More than 40 data centres are already located in Victoria, underpinned by a strong investment pipeline and multi-million-dollar commitments from leading companies like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, NEXTDC, AirTrunk and CDC.

We're an attractive investment destination because of our existing mature and competitive ecosystem, as well as the availability of land, power, international connectivity and a supportive policy environment.

High-performance computing uses supercomputers and computer clusters to solve complex problems and analyse massive datasets far beyond the capabilities of a standard desktop or laptop.

High-performance computing infrastructure, along with other digital infrastructure like fibre-optic cables provides the processing power and resources necessary to realise AI's full potential.

Key actions

AI precincts

To attract investors and capitalise on existing capabilities, we will facilitate industry investment in new AI-focused precincts with high-performance computing and interconnection that are powered by recycled water and renewable energy.

Co-ordinated approach

Data centres, like all major infrastructure, need energy, water, planning and land allocation.

To deliver at the scale and speed required to meet exponential demand, we will balance the need for timely access to land, water and energy with the security and sustainability of Victoria's water and energy supply.

Public-private partnerships

To provide the high-performance computing capabilities needed for AI development and talent attraction, we will:

- support Victoria's high-performance computing research capabilities while retaining data and skills sovereignty
- take advantage of new and existing National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy commitments
- advocate to the Commonwealth Government to establish a national network of high-performance computing AI capabilities that encompasses skills and infrastructure.

We're making it more attractive, sustainable and easier to invest in data centres and digital infrastructure in Victoria.

Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan

We are investing **$5.5 million in a Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan** to unlock projects valued at up to $25 billion, establishing the state as the Asia-Pacific hub for sustainable data centres.

We will use transport, energy and water usage data, including recycled water, to determine where data centres can be built sustainably. We will also partner with TAFEs to create the workforce needed to staff them – in construction, operations and digital – ensuring those jobs come to Victoria – and stay here.

CASE STUDY: $2 BILLION FISHERMANS BEND TECH HUB

In 2025, NEXTDC announced a landmark $2 billion investment to build a next-generation digital campus and AI data centre at Fishermans Bend, Port Melbourne.

The 'AI Factory' will deliver world-class infrastructure to power advanced computing, cloud services and AI applications.

The Victorian Government has backed the project as a cornerstone of the Fishermans Bend Innovation Precinct, recognising its potential to create high-skilled jobs, attract global technology partners and accelerate AI adoption across priority industries.

By partnering with leading industry players such as NEXTDC, Victoria is demonstrating how government action can catalyse private sector investment in AI infrastructure. This ensures the state is equipped with the digital foundations needed to drive economic growth, resilience and competitiveness in the global AI economy.

The Fishermans Bend project will add to NEXTDC's infrastructure across Melbourne, including its M3 data centre in West Footscray (pictured). Image courtesy of NEXTDC.

Local innovation, products and services

Supporting the translation of local AI into commercial opportunities

Victoria already has a dynamic AI ecosystem with 188 AI companies (22% of Australia's clustered AI firms) based in Melbourne's CBD.

Startups in Victoria allow research to be transformed into tangible economic and social benefits. For example, through Launch Vic, Victoria's startup agency, the Victorian Government has enabled the creation of Boab, Australia's first scaleup accelerator and investment program for AI startups.

A strong and connected research and development ecosystem is a foundation for success, enabling startups and scaleups to mature into globally leading firms.

Key actions

Victorian-developed intellectual property

To meet domestic and international demand, and support and catalyse the development of local AI capability and products, we will:

- support incubators, accelerators and industry partnerships to translate research and innovation into world-leading solutions, backed by strong intellectual property rights
- provide access to government procurement pathways and export opportunities that allow startups and scaleups to mature
- promote academic-industry partnerships including access to high-quality datasets and infrastructure
- foster innovation through strategic investments into businesses.

Innovation, development and commercialisation hub

To attract and grow AI businesses and deliver long-term sovereign benefits to Victoria, we will:

- encourage experimentation and adoption in line with ethical standards
- facilitate innovation precincts that are magnets for industry investment, accelerating spillover benefits into Victoria's priority sectors.

Export opportunities

As well as helping Victorian ideas to grow, we will support local AI products and solutions to access global markets to help solve some of the world's most pressing challenges.

CASE STUDY: FUNDING LOCAL AI COMPANY, UMPS HEALTH, FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL UPTAKE

Umps Health is a Victorian company applying AI to deliver proactive, home-based healthcare. Its technology provides early support in the home, helping to ease pressure on the health and aged care system and address the projected shortage of more than 100,000 aged care workers by 2030. Providing proactive care to older Victorians ensures they can remain safe, well and independent at home.

In 2024, Breakthrough Victoria invested $2 million in Umps Health, underscoring the Victorian Government's commitment to supporting local startups and advancing AI-enabled healthcare innovation. Its flagship smart home platform, Umps Link, combines wearables and AI to generate real-time insights into changes in health and wellbeing.

Breakthrough Victoria was established in 2021 as a private investment company for Victoria, transforming the state's economy by supporting successful intellectual property and research commercialisation.

An Umps Health wearable device, part of its AI-powered Umps Home product suite. Image courtesy of Umps Health.

Talent and workforce

Prioritising workers in the AI economy

AI will be a powerful enabler in Victoria's future workforce and is already being adopted by employers. By automating repetitive tasks and processes and providing smarter insights, AI will allow people to spend more time on high value work and human connection. Right across the economy, AI will unlock new job opportunities and enable greater creativity, faster problem solving, better decision making and a stronger focus on people. People are our economy. We can – and must – maximise the benefits of AI while protecting our people. That's why we're committed to supporting Victorians to build AI skills from an early age and throughout their careers.

Learning

AI is transforming the digital landscape in our learning institutions, driving innovation, providing new ways to learn and improving access to learning.

Already, 6 Victorian universities have AI centres. The growth in AI curriculum will see it become a critical skill from primary education onwards. The very nature of AI is that it constantly evolves, so lifelong learning is not a catchcry, it's a must.

AI literacy must start at an early age as an essential skill, and students must be equipped with both the right technical skills and the ethical foundations to enable Victoria to lead in an AI-enabled economy.

Adapting and upskilling

With increased knowledge and application of AI comes an increased need for adaptability.

Lifelong learning through continuous upskilling and reskilling will position Victorians to adapt to changing patterns of AI use in their current and future jobs.

As industries adopt AI at different speeds, we must ensure training and support are targeted and responsive, so every sector can benefit at the right time.

Connecting

Strong partnerships are the foundation of how Victorian tertiary institutions work hand-in-hand with industry.

This deep connection will ensure the skills developed in tertiary study are directly applicable to AI in the workforce, so that industry has access to the right workers with the right skills.

Key actions

Training and reskilling

To ensure Victorian tertiary graduates have flexible and sustainable AI skills that can be used across professions and industries, we will:

- encourage the use of AI to improve effectiveness and productivity of the tertiary education system, while maintaining quality and integrity
- develop and incorporate industry-informed AI capabilities in all TAFE and VET sector training and curriculum
- form a tertiary education coalition for improved learning and technology adoption and adaptation
- develop students' skills in critical thinking about AI application and assessing AI outputs.

Lifelong workforce learning

To equip Victorians with valuable AI workplace skills that drive generational change, we will:

- demonstrate the benefits of AI investment and employee upskilling to businesses
- continue to support reskilling and upskilling workers through *Skills First* subsidised training and the Victorian TAFE network
- provide micro-credentials to upskill the workforce and embed AI-related skills in vocational qualifications
- start early by developing the AI literacy of primary and secondary students
- advocate for national training products to support the development of AI talent to take advantage of AI opportunities.

AI skills attraction and retention

To keep Victoria at the forefront of AI adoption and development, we will:

- develop AI talent to take advantage of AI opportunities
- advocate to the Commonwealth Government for a migration system that is accessible to people with new and cutting-edge AI skills, particularly for industries that stand to gain the most from accelerated AI adoption.

Digital Jobs – AI Career Conversion program

The Victorian Government is investing **$8.1 million for AI career conversion support**, providing upskilling opportunities for tech workers and other professionals whose roles are most at risk of being disrupted by AI. Modelled on the successful Digital Jobs program, this initiative will ensure Victorian workers are supported to move into AI enabled roles.

Investing in AI capability will strengthen business competitiveness in Victoria's key industries and support local job creation as AI transforms how we work.

CASE STUDY: AI IN RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an important pathway to qualifications for experienced workers, but existing processes are time-consuming, resource-intensive and inconsistently applied across the TAFE Network.

In 2023, RPL accounted for less than 4% of completed VET subjects nationally. This limits the sector's ability to meet growing workforce demand through streamlined skills recognition.

Through Victoria's Economic Growth Statement, $3 million in funding was provided for Bendigo Kangan Institute (trading as VETASSESS) to develop an AI-enabled RPL tool that automates document review, generates assessment tasks, and supports real-time guidance for candidates and assessors.

Improving the speed and accuracy of prior learning recognition ensures that:

- students are adequately recognised for their skills and experience
- employees can reduce their administrative burden and focus on higher value tasks
- employers are able to access the skilled workers they need.

Image courtesy of Bendigo Kangan Institute of TAFE, showcasing digital learning
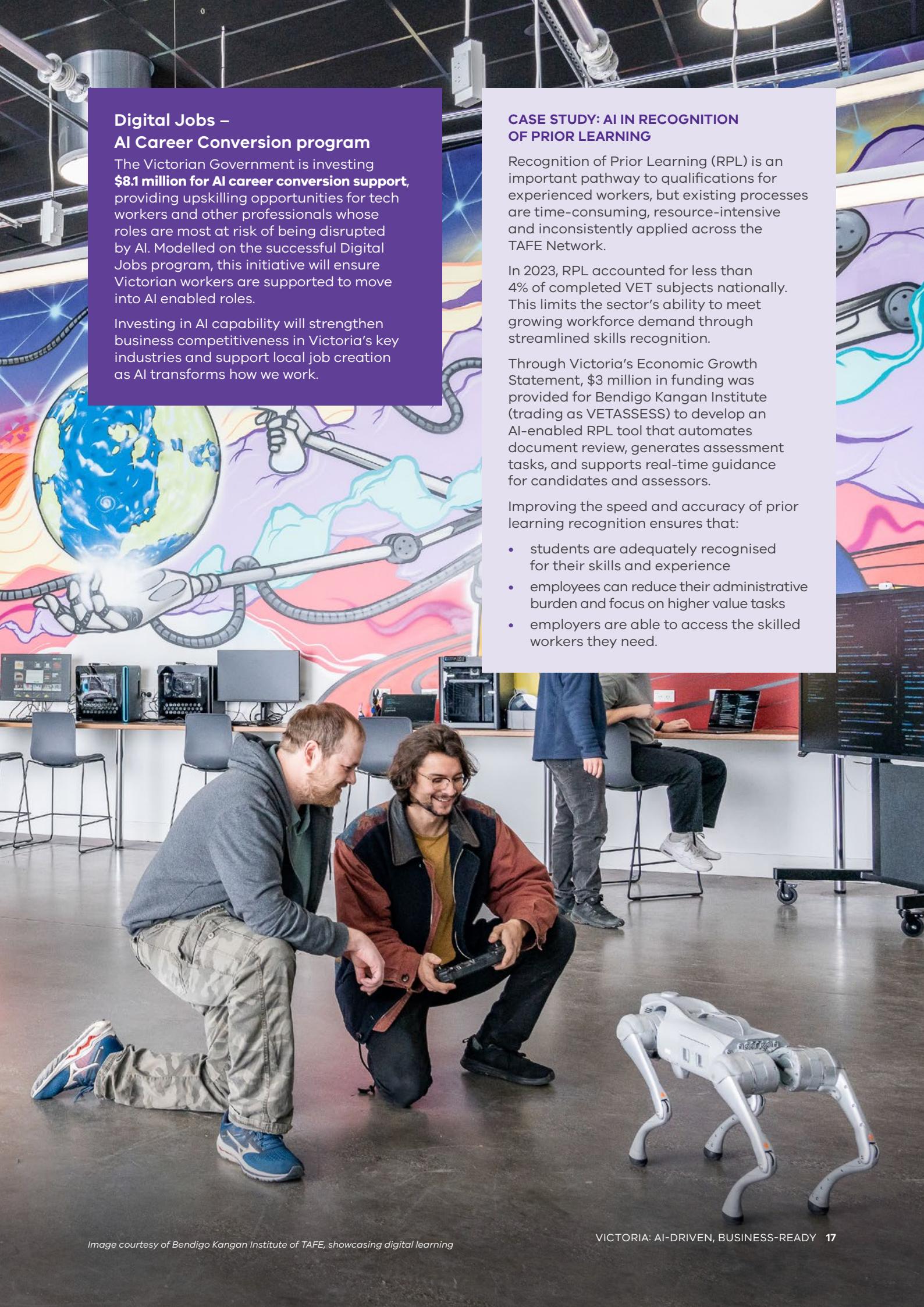
Ethical AI use

Building community confidence and social licence

Every reasonable person accepts that there are opportunities and risks in the adoption of AI. The challenge is how we negotiate that balance – and how we ensure the community has trust in its use.

Trust

Victorians need to know that AI is being used by government and businesses in ways that are transparent, accountable and aligned with their values.

By embedding safe and responsible principles into how we use and deploy AI, Victoria can set the benchmark for responsible use, aligning with emerging national and international standards to give certainty to innovators, investors and the public.

However, any safeguards must be balanced. Too much red tape risks slowing the development of local AI solutions and discouraging business uptake.

Victoria's challenge is to cultivate AI practices and put in place safeguards that enable innovation to flourish while building community trust.

Safeguards

National copyright law and industrial relations law frameworks remain a key tool for Intellectual Property (IP) and worker protection. But the scale of the data that AI uses to train itself, and international cross-jurisdictional complexities, will stretch those frameworks' limits.

Co-ordinated action between Victoria, other states and territories, and the Commonwealth Government will be key to addressing privacy, IP, and worker challenges to build trust in AI and ensure it is deployed fairly.

Key actions

Governance

To safeguard our institutions, build the social licence, and uplift the safety and trust needed for widespread adoption, we will:

- develop appropriate forums for engagement, including with industry and employee groups
- be leaders in the ethical use of AI in the public service and identify potential risks and opportunities
- ensure alignment with Commonwealth Government ethics regulations and guidance.

Awareness

To improve public awareness, which will support Victorians to safely use AI, we will:

- work with business, industry and the community to deliver education campaigns
- integrate ethical AI training into the Victorian skills system.

Protecting workers

To upskill workers, we will:

- establish principles to guide employers in preparing for the widespread adoption of AI tools
- investigate supports for cohorts of displaced workers who may be impacted by AI adoption including through access to reskilling opportunities.

Engagement with First Peoples

Partnering with First Peoples in the adoption of AI can positively contribute to self-determination. We will:

- explore First Peoples' self-determined opportunities in relation to AI, acknowledging that First Peoples have not benefited to the same extent as other Australians from previous technological advancements
- work through the Treaty process to advance First Peoples' self-determined outcomes with regards to data sovereignty and determine how to best leverage the economic and cultural opportunities presented by AI.

Protecting IP holders

To provide Victoria's world-leading artists and creators fair remuneration and control over how their works are used, we will:

- consider principles for ethical AI use in the creative industries aligned with Creative Australia's principles for generative AI and creative work
- work with the Commonwealth Government to ensure IP laws and regulations are fit for purpose.

CASE STUDY: USING AI TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AT THE CORONERS COURT

The Coroners Court of Victoria is piloting an AI tool to improve workflow efficiency while prioritising ethical use and staff wellbeing. The pilot operates within a secure, isolated environment with robust safeguards ensuring no private data is shared externally.

The tool analyses large volumes of case material to identify key information, supporting coroners, solicitors and investigators to work more efficiently. This enables legal professionals to redirect their focus towards more complex cases and higher-value tasks including direct support for clients and individuals within the justice system.

Reducing staff exposure to traumatic material is a core objective underpinning the Court's approach to digital innovation. A separate AI prototype focused on automatically redacting distressing images is also being developed.

Image courtesy of The Coroners Court of Victoria.

Public sector adoption

Government leading by example

AI is already in the early stages of use across the Victorian Government with different AI use cases being piloted in departments and agencies.

Wider adoption offers a chance to:

- uplift productivity in the Victorian public sector
- improve service quality and efficiency
- meet growing community expectations for fast, reliable and digital-first services.

Transforming service delivery

AI can transform state and local government frontline services, taking on routine tasks, freeing staff to focus on higher-value work and creating more personalised experiences.

In health, AI is already supporting some doctors by summarising notes and supporting administration, enabling them to focus on providing expert care. For example, the AI-powered scribe platform Heidi Health was developed right here in Victoria.

Modelling AI adoption and supporting its spread across the economy

A clear commitment to AI adoption by the Victorian Government will provide a strong market signal, encouraging investment, innovation and partnerships with industry.

By embedding responsible and transparent AI practices, the Victorian Government will set the standard for industry, community and other levels of government.

Demonstrating improvements in service delivery not only builds public trust but acts as a use case that drives AI adoption across the wider economy. This includes considering the ways First Peoples can self-determine how enterprise-level AI uses their data held by the Victorian Government.

Key actions

Increase productivity

To drive an increase in government productivity and deliver high-quality, modern services for all Victorians, we will:

- identify areas where AI use can deliver the highest benefits
- upskill public servants on how to use AI to improve public service delivery
- define a pathway for AI-ready digital infrastructure, to help equip public servants with AI tools to streamline their work.

Governance

To ensure safe and responsible adoption across the public sector, we will:

- develop appropriate review and assurance mechanisms, including the provision of advice and guidance to the Victorian Government on AI adoption within the public sector
- support public servants to understand the risks and limitations of AI, critique AI-generated content and embed responsible and ethical use into everyday practice
- implement clear security settings and fit-for-purpose infrastructure to protect private and sensitive data
- adopt best practice ethical standards for the use of AI.

Industry partnership

To develop leading AI solutions and support adoption, we will:

- work with Victorian researchers and industry to develop tailored AI solutions for public sector deployment
- make it easier for local AI companies to work with government
- work with councils to accelerate AI adoption in their operations and make it easier for business to get the approvals it needs to operate, grow and invest.

CASE STUDY: PILOTING A VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR DEVELOPED AI CHATBOT, VICGOV CHAT

From April to July 2025, the Victorian Public Sector ran a pilot of VicGov Chat, a closed loop AI chat assistant developed by the Department of Government Services in partnership with Cenitex. VicGov Chat was designed to mitigate risks posed by public AI tools by offering a compliant, closed-system alternative; an AI product developed by government, for government.

The tool can help workers quickly and easily summarise documents, get tailored advice on internal policies and help with preparing documents.

The pilot engaged 1,000 users across multiple departments, led by the Department of Government Services. The pilot was highly successful with around 80% of users reporting that VicGov Chat saved them time and reduced inefficiencies, ensuring that Victorians benefit from a public service that can focus on high value tasks to deliver the services that matter.

Following the success of the pilot, the VicGov Chat tool is available for use by Victorian Government departments and agencies.

Become part of the AI state

If you're ready to become part of the AI state, visit djsir.vic.gov.au/ai-mission-statement to learn more about the opportunities Victoria provides.

or scan QR code
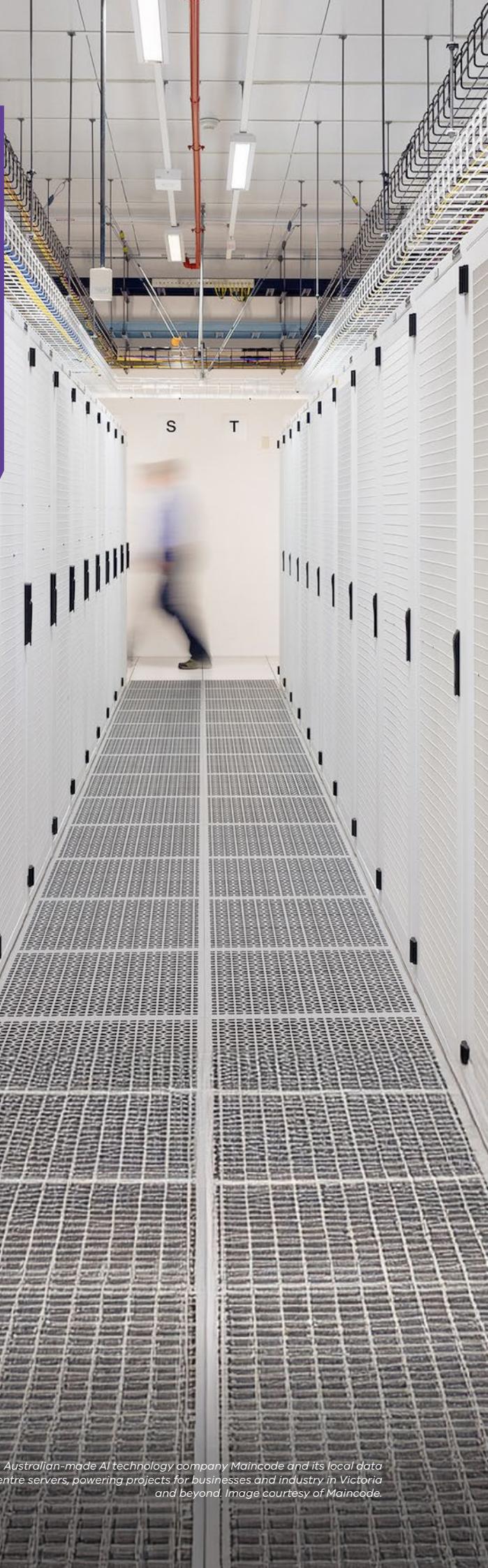
Australian-made AI technology company Maincode and its local data centre servers, powering projects for businesses and industry in Victoria and beyond. Image courtesy of Maincode.