

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **DRIVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARGINALISED AND DISADVANTAGED**

A transport and construction focused training program called GROW is providing opportunities to motivated people from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds to gain the practical skills and knowledge needed to break into the workforce.

At Buckley Street today, Member for Essendon Danny Pearson, encouraged local people to apply to join the program and called on local community groups, schools and training organisations to help spread the word about it.

The GROW program seeks to introduce people from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds – including asylum seekers, refugees and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – to training and employment opportunities in the transport and construction industries.

As part of the program, participants visit several major transport operators and study to achieve recognised qualifications, such as Train Track Safety Awareness and Construction White Card - certificates which are needed to work in construction and railway environments.

More than 100 people, including those from refugee and asylum backgrounds (33.1%), Aboriginal backgrounds (5.6%) and people with disability (2.8%) have completed the program with the Level Crossing Removal Authority since the program started in October last year.

The program has achieved a 22.5% female participation rate overall, with the most recent intake achieving 50%.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority works closely with partners Transdev, Metro Trains Melbourne, Metro Academy, Bombardier, Yarra Trams and V/Line to deliver the program, which is part of the Victorian Government's Training for the Future initiative.

At the end of GROW, participants are provided with contact details of the program partners they meet throughout the week and supported by the Level Crossing Removal Authority to network and apply for roles with these organisations.

Many participants from the GROW program have gone on to secure employment in the construction industry, including the removal of level crossings and other rail infrastructure projects across Melbourne.

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They have secured work in a diverse range of jobs, including engineering, project management, administration and a wide range of apprenticeships and traineeships.

How can I register my interest with the Level Crossing Removal Authority?

Email [grow@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](mailto:grow@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au) or call [1800 105 105](tel:1800105105). For languages other than English, please call 131 450.

For more information visit [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au) or watch the video [youtube.com/watch?v=Dh\\_zgOOBruU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Dh_zgOOBruU).

## Quotes attributable to Member for Essendon Danny Pearson:

*"We know that many people from new and emerging communities want to make a positive contribution to society, but they often have limited employment opportunities and pathways available to them."*

*"GROW is a great example of how we can work together to reach out and assist those communities."*