

# TECH/ SCHOOLS

A GUIDE FOR  
YOUR SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER



The Victorian Government is making Victoria the Education State, so every community has access to great schools, and every child gets the chance to succeed in work and life.

With rapid global and economic change, new insights are needed to make learning more meaningful and relevant to take advantage of emerging industries and new career opportunities. Victoria has always relied on people and minds to create jobs. But our kids will need to be smarter, more creative and well-rounded than ever before. As part of our Education State plan, we're better preparing

our kids for this future by investing in our schools, building the capacity of our teachers, and ensuring funding is targeted so that every child has every chance to succeed.

We've also introduced 10 ambitious Education State targets to drive improved outcomes for students, and a comprehensive new curriculum with subjects such as respectful relationships and coding to help our kids learn the skills that industries want, and abilities that employers expect.

The \$125 million Tech School Initiative will take this further, by establishing 10 leading-edge Tech Schools that will bring together schools, TAFEs, universities and industry to connect students with their futures.

Each Tech School will be governed by a local partnership and will provide exciting new opportunities for young people to discover and develop the skills they need for life-long learning and future careers.

The Education State is underway, and I look forward to working with our 10 Tech School communities to develop exciting and engaging learning opportunities.

**The Hon James Merlino MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education

# MARITA CHENG

## TECH SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR



Our Tech Schools Ambassador, Marita Cheng, is founder of Robogals, an organisation that sends university students and professionals into schools to teach young girls about robotics. The organisation has run workshops for more than 41,000 girls across five continents. Marita's work on Robogals saw her named the 2012 Young Australian of the Year. Marita is also founder of 2Mar Robotics, a company that develops robotic arms and telepresence robotic assistance for people with disabilities. Marita has a passion for encouraging young people to become interested in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

## A MESSAGE FROM MARITA

The Tech Schools initiative has captured my imagination and interest because it taps into my love of inspiring more students to go into STEM education, training and careers.

When I was at school, my mother would tell me to do the household chores. While I did them begrudgingly, I would dream of the day when a robot could do all my chores for me!

In high school, I participated in a workshop on robotics; it sparked my interest and opened up my mind to a career in engineering, an option I hadn't considered before.

Fast forward a few years and I was on my way to university to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronics)/Bachelor of Computer Science, the course that would give me the tools to be a roboticist.

I hope that Tech Schools will help thousands of young students explore their interests and expose them to the global opportunities that a career in STEM can offer.

I'm supporting this initiative because it gives students the opportunity to learn using cutting-edge technology and, most importantly, it will inspire kids to think about a career in STEM and think, 'yeah, I can do that!'

I'm sure these learning centres will create a wave of tech-savvy learners ready for the 21st century, and I can't wait to see what they do.

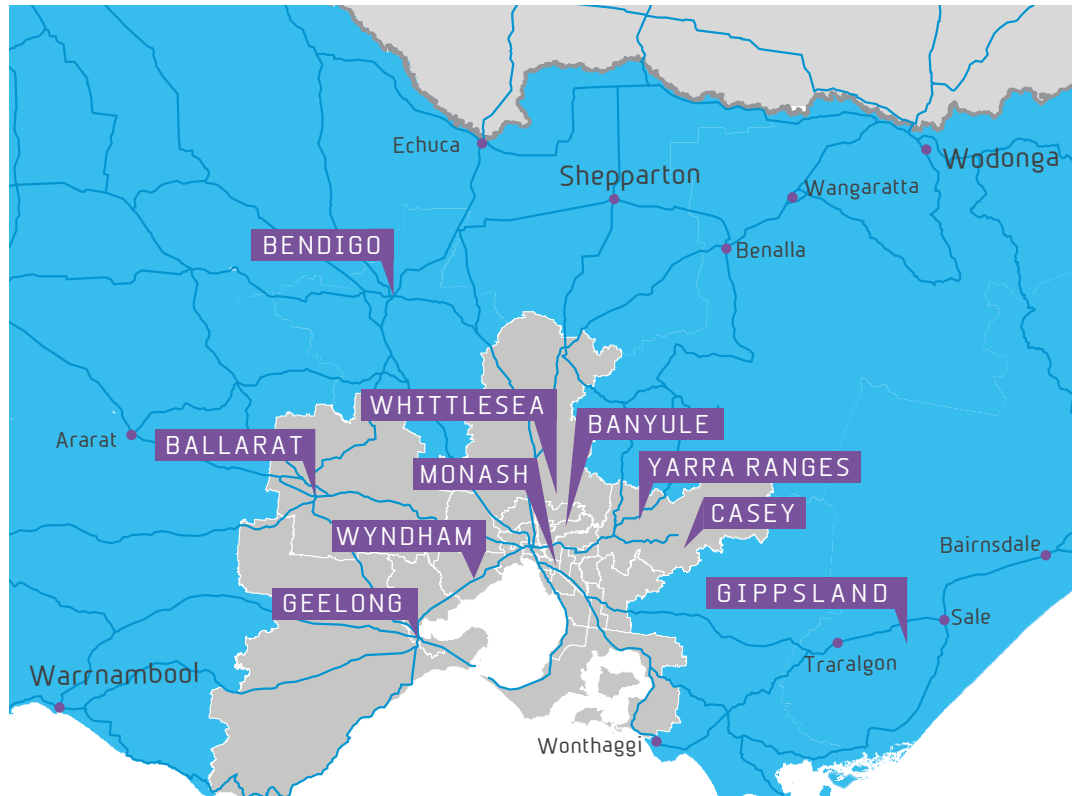
A handwritten signature of Marita Cheng in black ink.

**Marita Cheng**

# TECH SCHOOLS - CONNECTING STUDENTS TO THEIR FUTURES

The Tech Schools initiative is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to creating the Education State by ensuring every Victorian has access to a great education. This exciting initiative will invest \$125 million to create 10 high-tech centres of learning that will use leading-edge technology, discovery and innovation to deliver the skills and training that Victorian school students will need to flourish in the rapidly changing global economy.

There will be Tech Schools for both government and non-government secondary school students in:



## THE VISION: A HIGH-TECH LEARNING CENTRE SHARED BY MANY SCHOOLS

Tech Schools will operate differently from traditional technical schools and secondary colleges. They will be aimed at innovative break-through thinking, shared learning environments and practical problem solving and will be managed and operated by a partnership of local schools, local government, TAFE, university and industry partners. Tech School students will still be enrolled in their local secondary school but will attend classes at a Tech School campus that is shared by many other schools in their region.

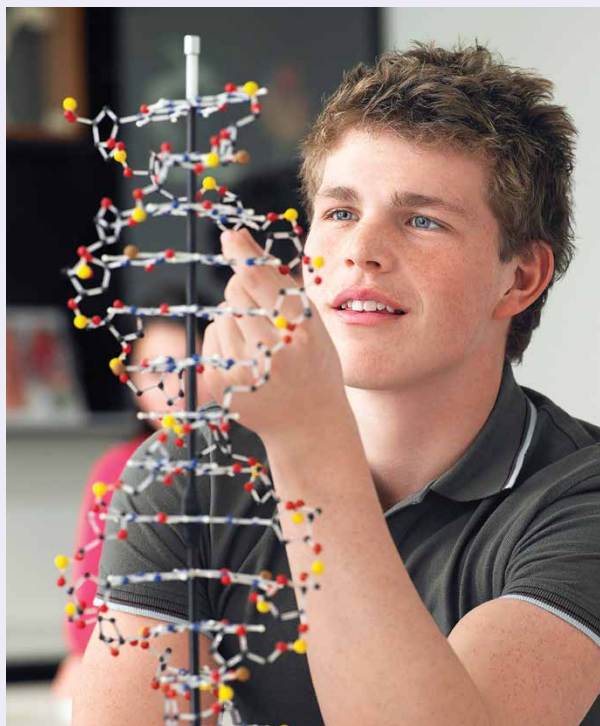
Each one will be unique because the local partnership and school community will shape what their Tech School specialises in and the learning opportunities it offers. Each will be managed collectively by the partnership and, where possible, be located on TAFE or university campuses, thus introducing students to the tertiary education environment and smoothing their pathways into post-secondary education and training.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR A HIGH-TECH WORLD

Tech Schools will use leading-edge technology, discovery and innovation to deliver the education programs and training our students will need to compete in the global economy. They'll be encouraged to explore their interests and discover how far their passions can take them in their education and life journey.

Each Tech School's unique education program will complement the area's existing education provision and training pathways, and will focus on these three areas:

## STEM: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



There is a shift going on right now in the Victorian and the global economy that requires people with education and training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Developing the STEM skills of students will ensure Victoria's young adults are "job ready" for the jobs and industries of the future.

While Victoria's current educational achievement in STEM is generally strong, our overall performance has remained static over the past decade and is not keeping up with the highest-performing jurisdictions. It has been estimated that 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations require STEM skills and knowledge<sup>1</sup>. Tech School programs will place a strong emphasis on STEM and some of the great careers these sectors offer.

**Tech School programs will make STEM real, accessible and exciting, giving students practical experience and confidence.**

<sup>1</sup> *Lifting our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Skills*, Australian Industry Group.

## THE PROGRAMS

### Years 7 to 10

Tech Schools will provide engaging discovery and "taster" programs for Years 7 to 10 to build their awareness and understanding of the many exciting training, work and career possibilities in their future. These educational programs and master classes will inspire and engage students through interactive learning, using leading-edge technology, and teaching programs focused on discovery, innovation and learning by inquiry.

### Years 11 and 12

Tech Schools may provide vocational education and training (VET) courses for Years 11 and 12. They will complement the region's existing VET provision with a focus on preventing duplication and addressing any gaps. The Tech Schools will also provide enrichment and extension courses, and offer access to higher education through master classes. Learning advanced technology and essential employability skills will also be important to ensure students are equipped for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

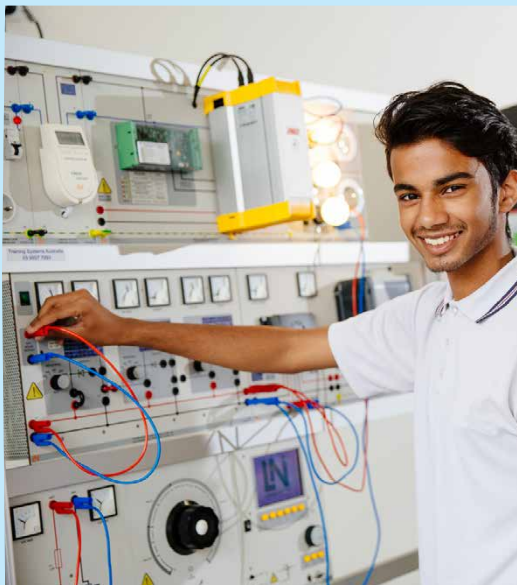


## STRENGTHENING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS



Tech Schools will focus on building students' interpersonal and creative skills, and their ability to grasp new ideas fast and move smoothly between employers, industries and even occupations. This means enhancing their employability skills such as communication, analytical skills, planning and organisation, problem solving, initiative, self-management and teamwork.

## LINKING EDUCATION TO GROWING INDUSTRIES



The Victorian Government has identified six priority sectors that have potential for extraordinary economic growth and the capacity to create high-skill, high-wage jobs. These are medical technology and pharmaceuticals, new energy technology, food and fibre processing, transport, defence and construction technology, professional services and international education. STEM is integral to most, if not all of these sectors.

Each Tech School will focus on a particular industry sector and liaise with industry representatives to ensure its programs are relevant and its technology is cutting-edge. The Tech Schools will be uniquely positioned to help students experience and apply knowledge and skills for those Victorian sectors expected to provide strong economic and employment growth.

# MAKING OUR VISION A REALITY

## THE ROLE OF MY LOCAL SCHOOL

If your school is in one of the 10 Tech School locations and is part of the local partnership group, the Government will work alongside your school and the other local partnership members to establish a Tech School that meets the unique needs of the students in your area. From there, any participating school in the area can send its students along to access the range of programs and facilities.

## LOCALLY MADE, GLOBALLY READY!

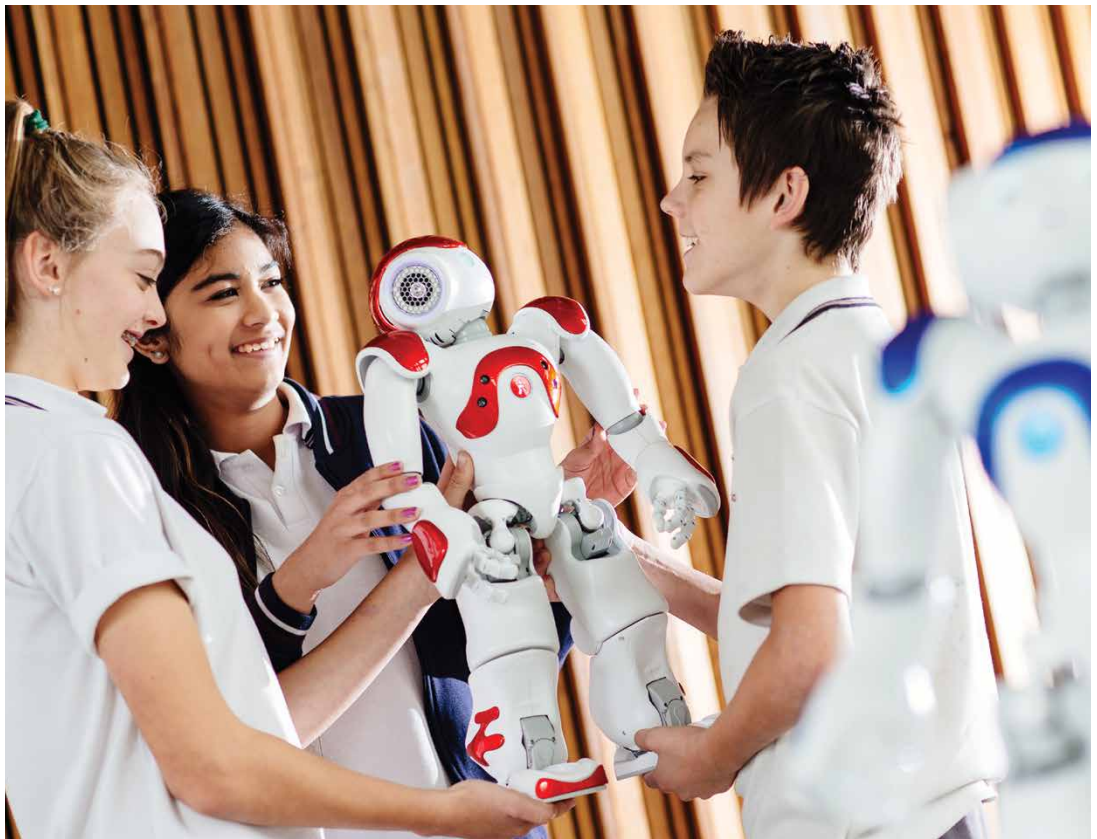
The local partnership for each Tech School will include secondary schools, TAFE institutes, universities, local government and industry-body representatives that will lead development, and eventually manage and operate each one. Importantly, the collaboration between these partners ensures development and operation are driven by local knowledge, insight and needs with a focus on skills and training for future jobs and industries.

Partnerships will be supported to design and equip each Tech School with opportunities for students, parents and community members to learn more about the focus and programs of each campus.

Each Tech School will have a director and support staff in place to ensure it delivers the high-tech education, training and skills our students need to connect them to their futures.

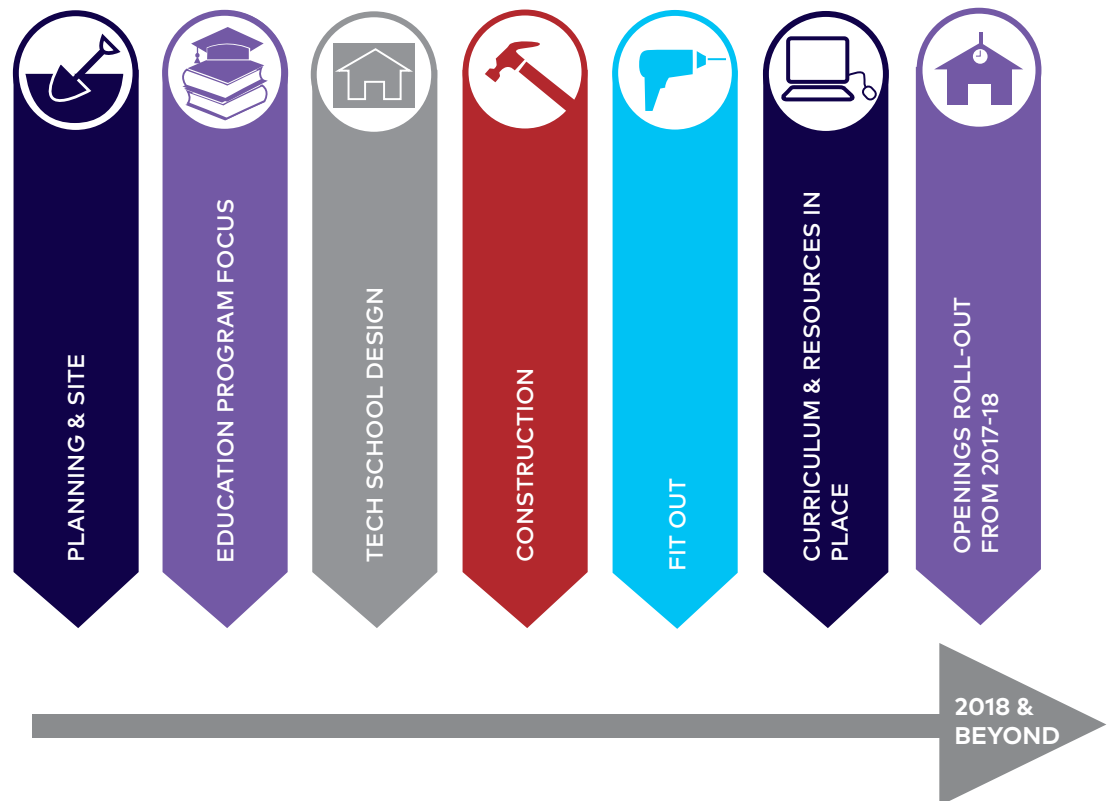
## ACCESSIBLE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Tech schools will also be learning centres that the whole community can access, providing opportunities for community, industry and school collaboration. Each Tech School partnership will develop plans for how their campus can be used by the community outside of school hours. This may include holiday programs or makers workshops geared towards building STEM skills and providing access to the latest technology for many community members.



## THE ROAD AHEAD

The Tech School initiative will progress through the following stages of development, with each site completing project milestones depending on when the Tech School is scheduled to open. These new learning centres will be established in waves, with the first wave open in 2017 and the second in 2018.



The end result will be 10 exciting, high-tech and unique learning centres that will give our students the skills and capabilities they need for their future.

## STAY INFORMED

To stay informed on Tech Schools visit: [techschools.education.vic.gov.au](https://techschools.education.vic.gov.au)  
or contact us at: [tech.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:tech.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au)





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