

What is Skills First?

SKILLS FIRST Program is a Victorian State Government scheme that provides access to government subsidies training to eligible individuals for specific courses. If an individual is eligible, the government will contribute to the cost of the training.

Am I eligible for a government subsidised training place?

You are eligible for a government subsidised place if you are:

- an Australian citizen; **or**
- an Australian Permanent Resident (holder of a permanent Visa); **or**
- a New Zealand citizen; **or**
- an Asylum Seeker (referred or direct enrolment); **or**
- a referred Victim of Human Trafficking

and

- have a physical presence in Victoria
- have not commenced or scheduled to commence two or more government subsidised courses this year or currently undertaking 2 or more government subsidised courses
- are not currently enrolled in a secondary school
- have not commenced two or more government subsidised courses/qualifications at the same Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level in your lifetime (excluding courses on the Foundation Skills List)

and are **any** of the following:

- under 20 years of age and seeking to enrol in a Foundation Skills course (and do not hold a Diploma or higher qualification or are receiving core skills training in other sectors, and not currently participating in the Skills for Education and Employment program)
- 20 years of age and older and seeking to enrol in VCE or VCAL (Intermediate/Senior)
- 20 years of age and older and seeking to enrol into an apprenticeship (not a traineeship)
- 20 years of age and older and "up-skilling" by seeking to enrol in a course at a higher level than your existing qualification

You can get an indication of whether you may be eligible for government subsidies by completing the [funding eligibility indicator](#)

If you are eligible, the government will contribute to the cost of training.

Your eligibility will be determined by New Futures Training friendly staff when you enrol.

Eligibility requirements for State Government initiatives

New Futures Training offers eligible students access to the following specific State Government initiatives in order to access a government subsidised fee for your course.

Asylum Seekers and Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative

This initiative offers asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge, providing them with a valuable resource in which to be active and successful members of the community. An Asylum Seeker [referred or direct application holding either a Bridging Visa Class E (BVE) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) or Temporary

AWARENESS OF GOVERNMENT FUNDED TRAINING ENTITLEMENTS

Protection Visa (TPV)] may be able to enrol in courses. **Asylum Seekers must meet all Skills First eligibility criteria except the citizenship/residency requirements.**

Following programs must meet all Skills First eligibility criteria except the ‘up-skilling’, ‘two at level in a lifetime’ and/or ‘two “courses in...” in a lifetime’ requirement.

- **Retrenched Employees Program** -This program aims to efficiently transition workers facing retrenchment to alternate employment through the application of appropriate training strategies.
- **Automotive supply chain workers**- To support automotive supply chain employees to undertake training at the same or a lower level as a qualification they may already hold.
- **Back to Work Scheme**-This scheme is designed to assist unemployed youth, retrenched workers, out-of-trade apprentices, and the long-term unemployed back into the workforce.
- **Jobs Victoria Employment Network Clients**

List of acceptable evidence to prove eligibility

The following is a list of all acceptable evidence you can use to prove your eligibility.

- Australian birth certificate (not Birth Extract)
- Current Australian or New Zealand passport
- a current green Medicare card
- an Australian citizenship by descent extract
- a Referral to Government Subsidised Training - Asylum Seekers’ form from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre or the Australian Red Cross
- a proxy declaration for individuals in exceptional circumstances
- Formal confirmation of permanent residence granted by the Department of Home Affairs (or its successor) AND the student’s foreign passport or ImmiCard
- Confirmation obtained from the Visa Entitlement Verification Online System (VEVO) that the student holds a valid Bridging Visa Class E, Safe Haven Enterprise Visa or Temporary Protection Visa.
- Australian Citizenship certificate

If you are under 20 as at 1 January 2021 and the above documents do not contain your date of birth, then you must also provide one of the following:

- current drivers licence
- current learner permit
- Proof of Age card
- Keypass card.

What if I want to study and I don’t meet the eligibility criteria?

You can still study at your choice of training provider if places are available, but you may not be able to access a government-subsidised place.

Do you know you might be eligible for VET Student Loan (only applicable to Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care)? To check if you are eligible, visit following documents on our website:

<http://www.vicsegnewfutures.org.au/new-futures-training/vsl>

[VSL Student Entry Procedure](#) or
[Determining Student Suitability and Enrolment](#)