

Back To Work: Victorian Labor's Plan for 100,000 Jobs

October 2014

On 6 October 2014, Victorian Opposition Leader, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, announced that, if elected, a Victorian Labor Government would implement *Back To Work*, a series of measures designed to create 100,000 full time jobs in the State for the unemployed.

For access to Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on *Victorian Labor's Plan For Jobs and Growth*, click [here](#).

For access to Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on *Project 10,000: Victorian Labor's Transport Alternative*, click [here](#).

The \$1 billion jobs fund includes:

- The *Back To Work Act* – a \$100 million payroll tax relief fund;
- The *Premier's Jobs and Investments Panel*;
- The *Future Industries Fund* – a \$200 million grant program to support job-creating projects;
- The *Regional Jobs Fund* – a \$200 million investment fund to support job creating projects in Regional Victoria; and
- The establishment of new reverse super trade missions and International Victorian Government Business Offices.

In announcing the suite of measures, Mr Andrews outlined that Labor believes in “rewarding and incentivising those companies who give a young worker their start, who give a worker who has been retrenched or those who have been unemployed for a long time a second chance”.

For access to the *Back To Work* policy document, click [here](#).

For access to the Opposition Leader's press release on the announcement of *Back To Work*, click [here](#).

Back To Work Act

This legislation, to be introduced in the first sitting week of the new Parliament, is designed to help create 100,000 new jobs in Victoria over the next two years.

The \$100 million fund, commencing on 1 July 2015, will provide payroll tax rebates of up to \$1000 per employee for eligible costs associated with training, uniforms, transport and tools.

The scheme will be capped at 50,000 payments per year, for two years.



Premier's Jobs and Investments Panel

The Panel, comprised of an independent chair and a small number of high profile Victorians with significant experience in business, including representatives from the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), the Australian Industry Group, the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions, will provide direct advice to the Premier on strategic investments.

The investments, worth \$500 million over four years, will be made on behalf of the State.

Furthermore, an elected Labor Government will establish *Infrastructure Victoria* – an independent body to advise on Victoria's long term priorities and *Projects Victoria* – to ensure these priorities are delivered on time and on budget.

Future Industries Fund

The \$200 million *Future Industries Fund* will support job-creating projects by providing grants of up to \$1 million to firms and companies specialising in six identified high growth areas, including:

- Medical technology and pharmaceuticals;
- New energy technology;
- Food and fibre;
- Transport, defence and construction technology;
- International education; and
- Professional services.

In light of significant manufacturing job losses in the State, these industries will be significantly strengthened to enable the economy to transition into these growth areas.

Additionally, general grants of up to \$500,000 will be made available to any company engaged in manufacturing, engineering and emerging sectors where \$3 is contributed by the company for every \$1 awarded by the Government.

Regional Jobs Fund

If elected, an Andrews Labor Government has committed to establishing a \$200 million fund to grow the regional economy, as well as guarantee a minimum \$1 billion in funding to upgrade and repair regional roads.

The *Regional Jobs Fund* would support job-creating projects around proposals such as the upgrading of manufacturing and processing plant facilities, expansion or relocation of large companies into Regional Victoria and companies investing in renewable energy.



Reverse Super Trade Missions and International Business Offices

Over the first term of a Victorian Labor Government, four reverse trade missions, alternating between Greater Melbourne and Regional Victoria, will be held to pursue new contracts, develop exports, meet with existing partners, showcase Victorian goods, services and technologies, and identify legal and regulatory barriers to overseas trade and growth.

Three new Victorian Government Business Offices will also be established in South America, Singapore and Turkey, in order to support Victorian businesses hoping to expand into rapidly growing overseas markets.