

BACK TO

WORK

Victorian Labor's plan for 100,000 jobs.

EVERY JOB IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

Victoria's employment rate isn't just a few numbers on a page. It's our dignity. It's our families and communities. It's our way of life.

Victoria used to be number one. Under Labor, our state was the engine room of Australian jobs. But under the Liberals, we're falling behind and we're losing jobs every day.

Our economy is in crisis. Some of our biggest companies are closing their doors and leaving our shores and the unemployment rate hasn't been this bad since Ansett collapsed.

Unemployment in Victoria is growing 12 times faster than new jobs. It's increased from 4.9 per cent in December 2010 to 6.8 per cent today. Almost 68,000 more people are out of work.

The Liberals say our economy is in 'transition', but they don't know what we're transitioning to. If our economy has no direction, then we're in danger.

When our state is in crisis and our economy is changing, we need a Government that will step in, not step aside. We need a Labor Government that will get Victoria back to work.

Labor has identified six sectors that have potential for extraordinary economic growth. Six areas in which our state is ready to lead the world.

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

They are opportunities to be seized. They will propel our economic future. They are at the heart of our plan. They'll create the high-skill, high-wage jobs that our state needs.

By creating jobs and growing our industries, an Andrews Labor Government will restore our strength, rebuild our state and get Victoria back to work.



DANIEL ANDREWS
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



1. BACK TO WORK

Victoria is in the middle of a jobs crisis. Youth unemployment is out of control. Some of our biggest companies are closing their doors and their loyal employees have absolutely nowhere to go.

The Liberals have left them behind. An Andrews Labor Government will get them back on track, helping to create 100,000 new jobs with the *Back To Work Act*.

The *Back To Work Act* will establish a \$100 million fund for payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

The legislation will be introduced in the first sitting of Parliament after the State Election. The plan will help create up to 100,000 new jobs in Victoria over the next two years.

The fund will provide payroll tax relief of up to \$1,000 per employee. Costs eligible for relief include training, uniforms, transport and tools. Employers and workers will need to prove costs and eligibility.

Payments will be made as payroll tax rebates (or by cheque, for those employers below the threshold) after workers complete a three month probation.

Commencing July 1, 2015, 50,000 payments will be available per year, for two years. Employers with poor workplace safety records will not be eligible to participate.

This is a path for young people who are out of work. It's a lifeline for loyal employees who've lost their job. It's a second chance for the people that the Liberals have left behind.

2. CONSULT THE EXPERTS

Victorian growth is built on sound planning: consulting with leaders of business and industry, focusing on the long-term and using the best independent advice at our disposal.

Governments come and go, but our long-term priorities always remain. We must put these priorities above our politics. We must plan for the next generation, not the next election.

That's why an Andrews Labor Government will establish the Premier's Jobs and Investment Panel, an independent body of our economic leaders that will change the face of our state.

\$500 million will be set aside to drive growth and create high-skill, high wage jobs in Victoria. The members of the Panel will provide direct advice to the Premier on how it should be invested.

We must also fund major projects in a way that is responsible and sustainable. It's about planning things properly, making the most of our assets and finding the value in everything we do.

Under the Liberals, we've seen three years of procrastination followed by six months of panic. Victorians have been denied vital information. Industry has been deprived of any certainty.

The decisions we make today will determine our prosperity in the future. They must be informed, calm and responsible. That's why an Andrews Labor Government will also:

- Establish Infrastructure Victoria, an independent body to advise on our long-term priorities
- Establish Projects Victoria so those priorities are delivered on time and on budget

Infrastructure Victoria will mean future Governments won't be distracted by politics or able to hide vital information from voters. This expert body will keep the pipeline of major projects full and steady.



PREMIER'S JOBS AND INVESTMENT PANEL

Our economic leaders must have a say in our future. The Premier's Jobs and Investment Panel will give them a voice at the heart of the Government, creating high-skill, high-wage jobs.

The Panel will be comprised of an independent chair and a small number of high-profile Victorians with significant experience in business, including Executive representatives of:

- The Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Australian Industry Group
- The Victorian Farmers Federation
- The Australian Council of Trade Unions

The Panel will provide direct advice to the Premier on strategic investments, worth \$500 million over four years, to be made on behalf of the State.

The Victorian Major Events Company helps make our state the sporting and cultural capital. An even greater effort needs to go into major investment, job creation and supporting promising new ideas.



3. GROW OUR INDUSTRIES

The Liberals like to use the word ‘transition’ but they never wish to explain what it is we’re transitioning to. Our economy will eventually change, but unless we have a plan, it’ll come at a cost.

When Denis Napthine and Tony Abbott abandoned Ford, Holden and Toyota, they sent a powerful signal to every employee and every employer in this state: you’re all on your own.

That’s not leadership. Labor believes that Governments have a real role to play, working with business, experts and workers to grow our traditional industries and invest in emerging sectors.

Significant growth can be achieved in medical technology and pharmaceuticals, new energy technology, food and fibre processing and transport, defence and construction technology.

Victoria’s expertise in international education and professional services mean these parts of our economy are also primed for growth. We need to turbocharge these industries and give our economy something to transition to.

An Andrews Labor Government will:

- Establish a \$200 million Future Industries Fund to drive the six high-growth sectors
- Keep the financial and services sectors in Victoria, making them stronger and more efficient
- Partner with companies that provide the most sustainable and secure jobs for all Victorians

People deserve trust and confidence. An Andrews Labor Government, working with businesses and workers, will keep our industries strong and our future certain.

We’ll find a future for the thousands of Victorians who dedicated their professional lives to putting Australian cars on Australian roads, and we’ll grow our whole economy in the process.

FUTURE INDUSTRIES FUND

Current government grant programs are unfocused and uncertain. All new ideas have their merits, but all grants need a direction. Labor will focus on our six areas of future growth.

Victorian Labor’s \$200 million Future Industries Fund will offer grants of up to \$1 million to firms and companies specialising in the high-growth sectors.

The grant would support, for example, car component manufacturers developing and building new products or wind turbine manufacturers looking to expand their operations. Recipients would contribute a matching figure.

General grants of up to \$500,000 will also be available to any company engaged in manufacturing, engineering and emerging sectors. Companies seeking general grants must contribute \$3 for every \$1 awarded.

Eligibility criteria will be developed in partnership with industry, but they will focus on projects that create the most jobs and projects unlikely to succeed without government support.

4. SUPPORT OUR REGIONS

From the Mallee to Mallacoota, Victoria's regions power our state, furnish our homes and feed our families. We would be nothing without them.

Supporting businesses, workers, farmers and growers in regional Victoria is the path to our prosperity – from traditional industries, to tourism and technology.

Under the Coalition, Regional Victoria is only getting four per cent of the funding for major projects, despite being home to 25 per cent of our state's population. Locals have been abandoned.

Businesses are closing up, TAFEs are shutting down and roads are falling apart. Young people are leaving their home just to find work. But the Liberals and Nationals have turned their backs.

An Andrews Labor Government will:

- Establish a \$200 million Regional Jobs Fund to grow the regional economy
- Guarantee a minimum \$1 billion in funding to upgrade and repair regional roads

Labor will also establish Regional Business Centres to provide expert advice and assistance to businesses looking to expand or relocate to regional Victoria.

Regional Cities Clusters will also be established, bringing together representatives of regional businesses, research centres and government to collaborate, innovate and increase competitiveness.

REGIONAL JOBS FUND

Labor's \$200 million investment fund will support job-creating projects. Likely proposals would include:

- Manufacturing and processing plants upgrading their facilities
- Incentives for large companies to move to, or expand into, regional Victoria
- Marketing support for regional businesses who are exporting internationally
- Companies investing in renewable energy

Labor understands the importance of funds dedicated to regional jobs. That's why we supported SPC Ardmona and that's why we'll establish the Regional Jobs Fund in Government.

The Regional Jobs Fund will form part of Labor's broader package for economic growth in Regional Victoria, to be announced in the coming weeks.





5. WORK WITH THE WORLD

Trade missions aren't just about transactions or occasional visits. They're about partnerships - building enduring links between major economies and communities, sharing our skills and ideas.

Labor supports Government-led international trade missions that build relationships with trading partners overseas. But we have just as much to gain by bringing people here.

An Andrews Labor Government will establish *reverse* super trade missions, bringing delegates from across the world to the State of Victoria. Inbound trade missions will:

- Be a chance to pursue new contracts, develop exports and meet with existing partners
- Showcase Victorian goods, services and technology to international business leaders
- Help identify legal and regulatory barriers to overseas trade and growth

Missions will focus on emerging and growing industries, including medical technology, professional services, international education, new energy, food and fibre, transport, defence and construction.

Four missions will be held over the first term of a new Labor Government. They will alternate between Greater Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

The State Government also needs to support Victorian businesses hoping to expand into rapidly-growing overseas markets, especially those in emerging economies.

An Andrews Labor Government will establish three new Victorian Government Business Offices – one in South America, one in Singapore and one in Turkey.

Both South America and Turkey are home to two of the world's fastest growing economies. Singapore is a major financial and trade hub. Our presence in these regions is crucial.

**THIS DOCUMENT BUILDS ON VICTORIAN
LABOR'S PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- *Plan for Jobs and Growth*
- *Plan for Jobs and Growth: A Focus on Geelong*
- *Local Jobs for Local Workers*
- *Project 10,000: Victorian Labor's Transport Alternative*

You can find these at www.danielandrews.com.au/policies



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