



# Better integrated tertiary system: Expanded Industry 4.0 Advanced Apprenticeship Pilot

## Overview

Under the Job-ready Graduates Package (the package), an additional \$3.7 million in grant funding will extend the existing \$3.6 million Industry 4.0 Diploma pilot for a second year, enabling participating students to complete a two year Associate Degree. The Associate Degree will deliver additional higher-level technical skills, and directly articulate into a Bachelor degree on completion if desired. The extension of the pilot will further boost the capability of local value chains and strengthen university-industry collaboration in teaching and research.

The pilot is being delivered across six partner universities, with students drawn from local business and manufacturing sectors. Participants are not classified as Commonwealth supported students, and are not eligible for the Higher Education Loan Program. The pilot also aims to facilitate the development of potential microcredentials embedded within the Associate Degree.

## Frequently asked questions

### How does the partnership with Siemens demonstrate better tertiary options?

The Government was originally approached by Siemens with the opportunity to build on the 'advanced apprenticeship' style model trialled by Swinburne University and Siemens in the VET sector, which involves industry-specific course content delivered to existing employees. Siemens proposed trialling a similar program in higher education, in collaboration with six universities with Industry 4.0 Testlabs and existing relationships with Siemens. As part of this collaboration, Siemens is making a significant contribution of software licenses to support the development and delivery of the course curricula.

### What does the expansion of the pilot to a second year achieve?

Employees participating in the pilot will acquire higher-level specialist knowledge and technical skills beyond the content of a single year Diploma, enabling the Department to evaluate a much more robust model for higher apprenticeship-style courses in higher education. The expansion will further embed industry partnerships with participating universities, deepen links with local businesses, and encourage the culture of collaboration between higher education and industry that is so important for enabling us to provide the skills needed in the modern workforce.