

# MEDIA RELEASE

6 October 2014

## Government support gives green light to NMIT transformation

NMIT has taken a significant step forward towards achieving its transformation program with the announcement on October 2 that its submission for the TAFE Structural Adjustment Funding (TSAF) had been successful. The institute also announced that it will consolidate its NMIT and Melbourne Polytechnic brands under the one name – Melbourne Polytechnic.

During the announcement, the Premier of Victoria, Dr Denis Napthine, and the Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Mr Nick Wakeling, confirmed the Victorian Government's support for the Institute in providing \$19M worth of investment through TSAF to facilitate the implementation of a program of transformational initiatives.

Premier Napthine said "We, as a government, are pleased to work with Melbourne Polytechnic ... to provide \$19 million up front to help Melbourne Polytechnic transform into this new modern, responsive, and flexible 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and vocational training (institute)."

The most visible and immediate transformational initiative will be the unification of the institute's campuses and training centres under a new logo and single brand of Melbourne Polytechnic. Previously, only the Prahran campus had been fully branded as Melbourne Polytechnic.

"I think Melbourne Polytechnic is a great name for a dynamic institute that really is delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century vocational education and training," added Premier Napthine who noted that a rebranded NMIT was "building on its great history ... and transforming that into a Melbourne Polytechnic that (will) become an absolute leader – not just in Victoria but also across Australia, across the Asia Pacific and the world."

Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Nick Wakeling, said he "was delighted to see that our \$19 million investment will support the institute to evolve into a modern training facility that's going to meet the training needs of Victorians."

Embracing the global trend in providing blended dual sector vocational and higher education training and development from certificate level qualifications to master's degree, Melbourne Polytechnic provides a comprehensive range of student learning options.

"With the substantial changes in the education landscape, Melbourne Polytechnic provides a more contemporary representation of our educational offerings through a more globally appealing brand entity," said Ron Gauci, Interim CEO of the new Melbourne Polytechnic.

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“The investment by the Victorian Government is a substantial vote of confidence in the transformation agenda. The funding we have successfully secured will also enable us to restructure the organisation to be more efficient, effective and productive. It provides much needed capital to invest in more advanced systems and processes that enable us to better manage our business and be far more responsive to the market opportunities. It will also enable Melbourne Polytechnic to manage and utilise our assets far more effectively and productively for the provision of quality education,” said Mr Gauci.

“These initiatives in turn are specifically designed to provide the very best student experience and enhanced academic learning environment.”

The new Melbourne Polytechnic entity will be in effect immediately, although the full changeover of signage, stationery and the like will take some months to complete. The transformation program remains in progress with completion expected to be towards 2017.

**ENDS**

### **INTERVIEW/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Media enquiries should be directed to the NMIT Communications Officer, Anita Coia, on 03 9269 1251 or [anitacoia@nmit.edu.au](mailto:anitacoia@nmit.edu.au)

### **ABOUT MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC**

Melbourne Polytechnic offers the perfect combination of higher education and vocational learning, delivered by teachers with real-world experience and expertise. Through a network of six metropolitan campuses and a regional campus in Ararat, Melbourne Polytechnic offers a range of degrees, certificates and diplomas across the whole higher education and vocational training spectrum.