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Building the Plumbing
Workforce of the Future

PRESS RELEASE - Andrews Government announces \$4M additional funding for the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) Narre Warren

The Andrew's State Government announced today in the 2018 Budget, a further \$4 million in funding to assist in building the new state of the art Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) campus in Narre Warren.

PICAC Narre Warren is being purpose-built to deliver the specific skills the Victorian economy needs now, and will increasingly need in the future.

The training facility has been designed to utilise the very latest technological advances in water reticulation, heating and cooling systems, training delivery, safety, new product innovation and sustainability practices. It will incorporate world leading facilities in welding and gas fitting, and will be Victoria's first Net Zero Energy training facility and a test case in showing how smarter energy systems can be incorporated into building designs. The first generation of Net Zero Energy plumbing professionals will be trained at PICAC Narre Warren.

Construction has commenced on the \$35M training facility. It is located in Victoria's south eastern suburban growth corridor, the heart of one of the State's fastest growing regions. It will be accessible by the Monash Freeway and within walking distance of the metropolitan train network.

PICAC has strategically located its new facilities in high population growth regions, and where economic transition is impacting the local employment outlook. PICAC Narre Warren aims to retrain workers from declining industries for careers in specialised environmentally sustainable plumbing. The PICAC model also focuses strongly on providing training opportunities for people from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds.

PICAC Chair, Carmel Coate said: "The 2018 Andrews Government budget announcement of a further \$4 million for PICAC Narre Warren is fantastic news for the industry and for the future of training in Victoria. PICAC is a proven model for the development and delivery of world class training for the plumbing, fire protection and related industries. PICAC Narre Warren is a truly innovative, world class training facility that is focussed on providing the skills necessary for the jobs of tomorrow."

About PICAC

PICAC is a practical training centre and a centre of excellence for the plumbing, fire protection and HVAC industries. PICAC began as an initiative that brought together key industry employee and employer groups to ensure that those who design, install and maintain plumbing, fire protection and HVAC systems in current and future building stock have access to state-of-the-art training facilities and highly-skilled training professionals. While many traditional training providers struggled to keep pace, PICAC has continued to meet the evolving demands of the workforce, training over 5000 individual students in over 500 individual courses. PICAC's success was recognised in 2015 when awarded both the Victorian and Australian Small Training Provider of the Year Awards. Since opening in Brunswick in 2008, PICAC has expanded and opened its second campus in Geelong in 2016, and its third campus is currently under construction at Narre Warren and due to open in 2019.

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