

# Media Release

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**For immediate use**

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## **Apprenticeship as good as any other vocational qualification or degree**

“For too long a trade qualification has been seen, by some groups, as a second rate qualification. Some think that going to University is the be-all and end-all of professional learning, and if you don’t make the grade, you might consider going into a trade. This is not correct. In my opinion, a trade qualification is the highest recognition there is of a skilled, well-trained, industry-ready professional,” VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym said.

Speaking at last night’s prestigious VACC Auto Apprenticeship and Trainee Graduation and Awards Ceremony at Crown Palladium, Mr Gwilym told graduates, parents and industry and business leaders, that an apprentice qualification was as good, if not better, than any other vocational qualification or degree.

“Congratulations to the graduates, you should be very proud of yourself. Your qualification is recognised and supported by industry, desired by employers and signifies you are a professional. You have put in just as many, if not more, hours; completed both theoretical and hands-on training and are workplace ready,” said Mr Gwilym.

Mr Gwilym also told parents their support and contribution to the process was invaluable.

“The automotive retail, service and repair sector is dynamic, and requires well trained and work ready apprentices. There are plenty of job opportunities and future career paths for your son or daughter”.

VACC’s award winning Auto Apprenticeship Group Scheme is the largest employer of auto-apprentices in Victoria. It has exceptional completion rates and the retention rate is 90 per cent, well above the national average of around 50 per cent. Skills and training is tailored to produce well-rounded and responsible members of the community. For the workplace, VACC provides training, mentoring and leadership. In addition, apprentices receive valuable hands-on, work experience with a VACC host employer who inevitably becomes their full time employer once they have completed their apprenticeship. And they are equipped with life skills, through personal development programs including finance, communications and drug and alcohol advice.

VACC President Peter Savige presented 90 certificates to graduates, schools-based apprentices, Diploma of Automotive Management graduates, and made six presentations to Outstanding Achievement Award winners.

For more, visit [www.autoapprenticeships.com.au](http://www.autoapprenticeships.com.au)