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Deputy Premier
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

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\$1.3M for pilot program to develop SA's workforce and foster business growth

A digital skills bootcamp for STEM women in defence and space, AI-enhanced curriculum and culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal people with disabilities are among seven projects the Malinauskas government is supporting through a \$1.35 million pilot program designed to foster workforce innovation in local businesses.

More than 360 participants will take part in the Workforce Innovation Projects (WIP) pilot program that delivers innovative skills and workforce development to SA businesses and their staff.

At least 110 full-time jobs are estimated to be created by the various projects. When contributions from industry are included, the seven WIP's have a combined value of more than \$2.1 million.

The targeted pilot focuses on increasing skill levels and improving workforce supply in partnership with the government by exploring new concepts that deliver effective and relevant workforce outcomes.

The WIP's will benefit local businesses and individuals by overcoming existing workforce barriers for specific industries, regions and cohorts.

WIP projects include:

- **Data Science Hub:** A collaboration between UniSA and Practera, this innovative education program will teach the skills data scientists need and take advantage of AI-enhanced curriculum to support learners and employees to advance their skills in data analytics, visualisation, cloud computing, and data privacy. The project will also deliver internships and a workforce capable of analysing big data, which is vital for growing SA's future economy in the areas of healthcare, defence, business, and education.

- **Textile Knitting @ Ennio:** A project by Ennio International – a textile manufacturer servicing the food and medical industries – aimed at addressing the large skill gap in raw material and circular knitting knowledge. This project will deliver a structured online course to upskill existing local employees and future employees to enable organisational growth and strengthen Australian food and medical industries.
- **Aboriginal Care Ready Project:** Led by Healthy Dreaming, the project aims to address the lack of suitable workforce to provide culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal people with disabilities. The project will support Aboriginal participants in Port Augusta to undertake a tailored disability carer development program providing jobs for local people in the social care sector.
- **Hands On TV:** Supported by one of the state’s leading producers (and creators) of commercial factual entertainment the project aims to address a shortage of skilled workers in the growing factual and reality television space and reduce reliance on interstate workers. The project provides an immersive and practical approach to television training with participants actively involved in the production of a television program that will be broadcast in Australia and overseas.
- **Greenhouse Technical Management:** The project will support industry to adopt new growing practices using modern greenhouse and hydroponic production systems and technologies to improve yield, quality and produce uniformity while recycling wastewater and fertiliser to reduce impact on the local environment. A tailored course will be developed and trialled to build high level technical and management skills and address the undersupply of technical hydroponic workers.
- **Internal Dairy Processing Career Pathway:** Providing a tailored dairy manufacturing pathway for new and existing workers to upskill, this project will increase worker knowledge and create new job opportunities through the development of a skills program utilising digital technology to enable greater regional access and creating a standardised pathway for dairy manufacturing job roles.
- **Tech Start:** A collaboration between global technology leaders Modis and Microsoft, this project supports women aspiring to STEM careers in defence, space and cyber by delivering bootcamp-style training designed to rapidly develop digital capabilities and lead to employment in data analytics and cybersecurity roles. Tech Start will engage with local enterprise partners to improve diversity, delivering a pipeline of talented female workers to hi-tech industries.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Susan Close

This targeted pilot helps businesses to develop a highly skilled and capable workforce in response to the emerging and diverse needs of South Australian industries.

Workforce development projects like these can build business resilience to environmental, social and technical change and position local industry to expand, diversify and compete in current and emerging markets.

These projects have been designed by industry and focus on increasing workforce capability and business productivity and mitigating risks of the current labour supply shortages.

Quotes attributable to the Beth Worrall, Microsoft Australia Social Value Program Director, Public Sector

The intent of Tech Start is to connect South Australian women to the growing number of technology roles associated with some of our newest and most exciting new industries including defence, space and cyber.

We are keen to support people to access the career benefits that technology can provide, these are future focused jobs that offer fantastic conditions and opportunities.