

TVET launches phase 4, opens Tafea TVET Centre

By Anita Roberts

AUSTRALIA WILL BE FINANCING THE next phase of the 'skills for economic growth program' for the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Sector Strengthening Program in Vanuatu for another four years.

Phase 3 of the program ended on June this year.

The Australian High Commissioner in Vanuatu, Jeremy Bruer, announced that the program will be expanded to phase 4 during the opening of the newly built Tafea TVET Centre.

Earlier this week, the Minister of Education, Jean Pierre Nirua and the Deputy Prime Minister Joe Natuman, traveled to Tanna with a delegation led by Commissioner Bruer for the inauguration of the new office at Isangel. This adds the number of Australian funded TVET Centres in Vanuatu to four.

Located in the provinces of Sanma, Malampa, Torba and Tafea, these centres are established under the Ministry of Education and Training.

They coordinate and finance national accredited skills training and business development coaching services to support inclusive economic growth across all provinces.



Cake cutting to mark the new Tafea TVET Centre's new office on Tanna

Construction of the Tafea TVET Centre was financed by the Australian Government while the government of Vanuatu provided land.

It was built according to

international standards by locals using local supplies and has accessibility for people with disability.

A design of the new phase between the two parties is scheduled over the

coming months to identify the areas of the national skills systems that needed ongoing strengthening, strategies and actions that are required by all stakeholders to adhere to.

It will also explore ways to expand the successful 'TVET for Tourism' model to other priority economic sectors, including agriculture and handicraft production.

Expansion of the TVET Centre network into additional provinces will depend on resourcing of TVET Centre staff by the Vanuatu Government in line with approved national structures and human resource allocations.

Commissioner Bruer also announced that the Australian Government, in partnership with the government of Vanuatu, has now also approved an additional 'Tafea Tourism Recovery' grant.

This new initiative will be led by the Department of Tourism with the implementation support of the skills for tourism team operating in Tafea.

In addition to providing subsidized materials for the construction of local tourism bungalows destroyed by cyclone Pam, the grant will also support the establishment of a Tafea Call Centre.

Based on the successful models established in Sanma, Malampa and Torba, the Tafea TVET Call Centre will provide online access to the international tourist market for local tourism businesses across Tafea.