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## 1. Smart and Skilled 2025-26

As the core NSW government skills program, Smart and Skilled remains focused on optimising the delivery of skills and supporting student access and outcomes.

Stabilising funding arrangements is a priority for the upcoming Activity Period, following consecutive years of challenging budget conditions as a result of NSW state budget repair and the end of temporary pandemic-era funding. With tight budget conditions expected to continue, the department has taken additional measures to prepare for the year ahead. These are aimed at providing more certainty in funding arrangements for 2025-26 and minimising further disruptions. The additional time associated with these activities has unfortunately contributed to the undesirable delay to issuing Review Notices.

In 2025-26, Smart and Skilled is expected to be able to deliver a similar level of activity to that funded in 2024-25. There is a shift to further align government funding to the six Critical Skills Areas in the NSW Skills Plan, the National Skills Agreement policy priorities, including foundation skills and Closing the Gap, whilst also maintaining coverage of thinner markets.

Financial cap settings are more conservative in 2025-26 compared to the initial allocations for 2024-25. For individual providers, there may be changes to approved programs, Financial Caps and approved qualifications due to the available funding and the shift in priorities outlined above. Previously unused caps have been reduced or removed. Please refer to the Financial Caps section of this update for more information.

NSW Fee Free waiver places will be available in both semesters of 2025-26 (places are limited), and the Fee Free Apprenticeships and Traineeships initiative which was due to end on 30 June 2025 is extended for commencements up until 31 December 2025.

Details about the Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Pre-vocational and Part Qualifications Program for 2025-26 will be released at a later date.

During this Activity Period, as part of system reforms aligned to the NSW Skills Plan and as [announced by the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education on 13 February 2025](#), TAFE NSW will be removed from the Smart and Skilled contestable funding market within 12 months, during the 2025-26 Activity Period. The department and government are currently working through the details. It is not expected to have an effect on funding arrangements for independent providers.

The department will also be progressing work on regional skills planning, the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act review and areas of funding reform in the NSW Skills Plan, including Performance-Based Contracting (PBC). While the future approach is being determined, the department's commitment to high-quality training delivery and improved student outcomes remains unchanged, as set out in the NSW Quality Framework.

The department continues to monitor Smart and Skilled providers' performance and will transition to using the Student Journey Survey results to strengthen the assessment of student outcomes. Further information and consultation with providers will take place later in 2025.

## 2. 2025-26 Smart and Skilled Review Notice offers

The department has now issued Smart and Skilled Contract Review Notices for the 2025-26 Activity Period. Most providers received an email notification directing them to their Review Notice which is available on the Contract Acceptance page of STS Online.

## 3. Changes to Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions, Operating Guidelines and Related Policies for the 2025-26 Activity Period

There are several changes to the *Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions*, *Smart and Skilled Operating Guidelines* and some related policies for the 2025-26 Activity Period.

### a) Summary of changes to Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions 2025-26

The main changes to the 2025-26 *Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions* are summarised in the table at Appendix 1 of this update.

### b) Summary of changes to Smart and Skilled Operating Guidelines 2025-26

The main changes to the 2025-26 *Smart and Skilled Operating Guidelines* are summarised in the table at Appendix 1 of this update.

### c) Review of Smart and Skilled Policies

The department has reviewed the policy documents that will apply for the 2025-26 Activity Period. Updated versions of the following policy documents have been released:

1. Smart and Skilled Consumer Protection Strategy
2. Smart and Skilled NSW Recognition Framework
3. Smart and Skilled Teaching and Leadership Policy
4. Smart and Skilled Provider Access Policy
5. Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy
6. Smart and Skilled School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Fee Administration Policy
7. Smart and Skilled Student Eligibility Policy
8. Smart and Skilled School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Eligibility Policy

9. Smart and Skilled NSW Quality Framework
10. Smart and Skilled Skills Delivery and Management Policy
11. Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications
12. Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Policy.

These policies take effect from the date the provider accepts a Smart and Skilled Review Notice offer for 2025-26.

## 4. 2025-26 Financial Caps

Overall, the allocated Financial Caps are expected to fund similar levels of activity in 2025-26 as in 2024-25.

In setting each Financial Cap, the first priority is to support continuing students, which is based on the commitments and a forecast of continuing students at the end of the third quarter of 2024-25.

Most of the allocated Financial Caps can also fund new commencements in 2025-26. The component for new students was determined by the following factors:

- Provider performance classification
- Relative performance on student outcomes and non drop-out rates
- Financial Cap utilisation in 2024-25
- Financial Cap amount in 2024-25, post the Financial Cap Review conducted in August/September 2024
- Delivery of qualifications that align to Critical Skills Areas in the NSW Skills Plan or are priorities under the National Skills Agreement or address thin markets.

### a) Where to find Financial Caps

The Financial Caps for the Entitlement Full Qualifications (EFQ), Targeted Priorities Full Qualifications (TPFQ) and the discontinued Entitlement Foundation Skills (EFS) and Skilling for Recovery Priority Full Qualifications (SfRPFQ) programs are displayed on the Approved Qualifications Activity Schedule (AQAS) for each program.

Providers allocated Financial Caps will receive one or more AQAS.

#### **Please note:**

Providers may be allocated Financial Caps for New Commencing Students only, Continuing Students only or Both New Commencing and Continuing Students. The AQAS specify the Financial Cap type and the amount of Financial Cap.

Where the AQAS indicates a New Commencing cap only, if you have continuing students

- that enrolled and commenced after mid-March 2024, OR
- who were due to complete in 2024/25 but who are now not completing until 2025-26 and the change was not reported prior to mid-March 2025

you should firstly make sure that your Financial Cap covers these continuing student commitments before enrolling a new students that will commence training in 2025-26. You should also contact your Regional Provider Support Manager and ask for the cap to be converted from Commencing only to Commencing and Continuing.

**Please note:**

Financial Caps do not apply to the Entitlement Apprenticeships and Traineeships and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships Programs.

## b) Management of Financial Caps in 2025-26 and related policies

It is important for providers to manage their Financial Caps and training demand within the Financial Caps they have been allocated.

The Smart and Skilled Contract has been amended so that providers are obliged to use 95-100% of each 2025-26 Financial Cap. This is a change from 85-100% in 2024-25.

The department may possibly make **very limited** adjustments in early 2025-26 for continuing students, following a review early in the Activity Period.

## c) The Smart and Skilled Skills Delivery and Management Policy

The *Smart and Skilled Skills Delivery and Management Policy* for the 2025-26 Activity Period outlines the provider's responsibilities and the department's approach to managing the supply of subsidised training and Financial Caps for the 2025-26 Activity Period.

There are important updates to this policy including:

- An increased focus on delivery of qualifications aligned to NSW Skills Plan Critical Skills Areas, National Skills Agreement priorities and thin markets.
- Changes to the Financial Cap Review timeframe, with only one Financial Cap Review being scheduled for July-August 2025 focused on Continuing Student Financial Caps, and no further reviews currently planned for this Activity Period due to the constrained budget.
- Only under exceptional circumstances will Financial Cap transfers be considered by the department in this Activity Period.
- Mergers of Financial Caps of \$10,000 or less may be considered if they fulfil specific criteria, this is prescribed in the policy.

The department reminds providers to:

- Operate within each Financial Cap and not to exceed each Financial Cap.
- Use a minimum of 95% of each Financial Cap and not to underspend their cap and hold onto cap that cannot be used.
- Return excess Financial Cap amounts promptly once becoming aware it will not be used.
- Track Standard Subsidy commitments and usage accurately to avoid exceeding Financial Caps.

## 5. Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications

Providers must apply the additional eligibility criteria for enrolments in the qualifications covered by the policy. The qualifications are shown on the NSW Skills List marked with (T) in the Additional Arrangements column C.

## 6. NSW Skills List updated – Version 16

The NSW Skills List has been updated. This update covers changes due to:

- Updates to Training Packages.
- Updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs).
- Review of qualifications with Trade-related (T) tag.
- Updates to the prices of two qualifications.
- Updates to tags on Skills List for NSW Fee Free qualifications.

Version 16.0 of the NSW Skills List is now available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/nsw-skills-list>

The Smart and Skilled Qualification Prices and Fees Schedule has also been updated to cover changes to the NSW Skills List and qualifications price increases (detailed below). Version 16.0 is now available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/qualification-prices-fees>

Versions 16.0 of the NSW Skills List and Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule are effective as of 1 July 2025 and apply to training that commences on or after 1 July 2025.

### a) Updates to the NSW Skills List

The NSW Skills List has been updated due to revisions to the following Training Packages:

- Automotive Retail, Service and Repair

- Information and Communication
- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management
- Electrotechnology
- Maritime
- Floristry

## b) VTO changes affecting the NSW Skills List.

Following updates to NSW VTOs, a number of superseding qualifications detailed in previous Smart and Skilled Updates can now be delivered under apprenticeship and traineeship pathways under Smart and Skilled. These qualifications are shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates.		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
AUR32721	Certificate III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology	Apprenticeship
MST30519	Certificate III in Leather Production	Traineeship
ICT30524	Certificate III in Telecommunications Technology	Apprenticeship
MAR20324	Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal)	Traineeship, School-based Traineeship
MAR20424	Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal)	Traineeship

**Table 1: VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates.**

Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
MAR30824	Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 Near Coastal)	Traineeship
MAR30924	Certificate III in Maritime Operations	Traineeship
MAR40224	Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 1 Near Coastal)	Traineeship
MAR40324	Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Master up to 45 metres Near Coastal)	Traineeship
AUR30220	Certificate III in Bicycle Workshop Operations	Traineeship
SFL30115	Certificate III in Floristry	Traineeship
UEE40920	Certificate IV in Industrial Electronics and Control	Traineeship

### c) Courses removed due to expiry

There are 5 accredited courses outlined in **Table 2** which are due to expire on or before 30 June 2025. These courses have been removed from the NSW Skills List v16.0.

**Table 2: Accredited Courses due to expire on or before 30/6/2025**

Qualification code	Qualification title
10841NAT	Advanced Diploma of Professional Dance Performance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
10861NAT	Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Advocacy
22472VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults
22473VIC	Certificate II in General Education for Adults
22476VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults (Introductory)

The following 22 qualifications outlined in **Table 3** have been in transition since NSW Skills List v15.2, are set to expire by 30 June 2025 and have been removed from the NSW Skills List v16.0.

**Table 3: Qualifications in transition due to expire on or before 30/6/2025**

Qualification code	Qualification title
AHC20320	Certificate II in Production Horticulture
AHC20720	Certificate II in Nursery Operations
AHC21020	Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC21621	Certificate II in Landscaping



**Table 3: Qualifications in transition due to expire on or before 30/6/2025**

Qualification code	Qualification title
AHC30221	Certificate III in Dairy Production
AHC30620	Certificate III in Production Horticulture
AHC30820	Certificate III in Arboriculture
AHC31021	Certificate III in Parks and Gardens
AHC31120	Certificate III in Nursery Operations
AHC31319	Certificate III in Sports Turf Management
AHC31421	Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC31818	Certificate III in Beekeeping
AHC32422	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology
AHC40320	Certificate IV in Production Horticulture
AHC40620	Certificate IV in Nursery Operations
AHC40920	Certificate IV in Conversation and Ecosystem Management
AHC41019	Certificate IV in Agribusiness

**Table 3: Qualifications in transition due to expire on or before 30/6/2025**

Qualification code	Qualification title
AHC41119	Certificate IV in Irrigation Management
AHC50320	Diploma of Production Horticulture
AHC50520	Diploma of Arboriculture
AHC51519	Diploma of Viticulture
AHC51019	Diploma of Sports Turf Management

## 7. Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications updates

### a) Qualifications with T tag removed

The department reviewed non-apprenticeship pathways for trade-related (T) qualifications and removed incorrect T tags from 26 qualifications in NSW Skills List v16.0, as shown in **Table 4**.

**Table 4: Qualifications with trade related (T) removed**

Qualification code	Qualification title
AUR20220	Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology
AUR20520	Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technology
AUR21020	Certificate II in Motor Sport Technology

**Table 4: Qualifications with trade related (T) removed**

Qualification code	Qualification title
FBP31121	Certificate III in High Volume Baking
AUR20920	Certificate II in Automotive Body Repair Technology
AUR20820	Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
AUR20320	Certificate II in Bicycle Mechanical Technology
AUR30220	Certificate III in Bicycle Workshop Operations
AUR30116	Certificate III in Automotive Administration
AUR21120	Certificate II in Automotive Sales
AUR20420	Certificate II in Automotive Electrical Technology
AUR21220	Certificate II in Automotive Underbody Technology
SIT31021	Certificate III in Patisserie
AUR21920	Certificate II in Automotive Tyre Servicing Technology
UEE40920	Certificate IV in Industrial Electronics and Control
MEM50119	Diploma of Engineering – Advanced Trade

**Table 4: Qualifications with trade related (T) removed**

Qualification code	Qualification title
MEM31419	Certificate III in Engineering – Fixed and Mobile Plant Mechanic
UEE32225	Certificate III in Electrotechnology Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
ICP31420	Certificate III in Prepress Graphic Design Production
ICP31220	Certificate III in Printing
MEM31519	Certificate III in Engineering – Tool Making Trade
SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management
AHC31120	Certificate III in Nursery Operations
AHC31124	Certificate III in Nursery Operations
AUR31220	Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology
UEE40420	Certificate III in Electrical - Instrumentation

## b) Qualifications with T tag added

The review of the Trade Related Pathways (T) qualifications identified 13 qualifications that were not T tagged where this is required; the NSW Skills List v16.0 addresses this. **Table 5** lists the affected qualifications.

**Table 5: Qualifications updated to reflect trade related (T) pathway**

Qualification code	Qualification title
AUR30520	Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology
AUR30620	Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology
AUR31020	Certificate III in Automotive Sales
AUR32721	Certificate III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology
ICT30524	Certificate III in Telecommunications Technology
MEM31322	Certificate III in Engineering Refrigeration and Airconditioning
MEM31622	Certificate III in Engineering – Patternmaking Trade
PMB40121	Certificate IV in Polymer Technology
RGR40221	Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey)
RII30920	Certificate III in Civil Construction
UEE32120	Certificate III in Appliance Service
MEM31322	Certificate III in Engineering – Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
MEM31622	Certificate III in Engineering – Patternmaking Trade

## 8. Updated tags on Skills List for NSW Fee Free qualifications

Qualifications available under the NSW Fee Free initiative for commencements from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 are tagged as 'NFF Jul-Dec 2025' or 'NFF-C Jul-Dec 2025' (for NSW Fee Free Construction) on the NSW Skills List v16.0.

## 9. Price changes for the 2025-26 Smart and Skilled Activity Period

### a) Review of prices

Training Services regularly reviews and updates qualification prices and fees. Qualification price changes are being introduced and will take effect for training that commences on or after 1 July 2025. These qualifications can be delivered under Smart and Skilled when this update occurs.

Version 16.0 of the Smart and Skilled Price and Fees Schedule reflects these changes and can be accessed at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/qualification-prices-fees>

All questions relating to qualification prices and student fees can be emailed to [marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au).

The following 2 qualifications with price increases are outlined in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Qualifications with Price Adjustments			
Qualification code	Qualification title	Current Price (Skills List v15.2)	New Price
MEM50822	Diploma of Applied Technologies	\$13,330	\$14,970
AHC51920	Diploma of Applied Agronomy	\$8,440	\$13,280

## 10. NSW Fee Free (NFF)

### a) NSW Fee Free arrangements - July to December 2025

The next round of NSW Fee Free places is now open. Enrolments can commence from the day after acceptance of the 2025-26 Smart and Skilled Review Notice. Training must commence from **1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025**.

The two Tranches under NSW Fee Free are:

**NSW Fee Free Tranche 2** - Fee free places are available in qualifications that support priority industries and cohorts.

**NSW Fee Free Construction** - additional fee free places in qualifications as well as pre-apprenticeship part qualification training places that support the construction industry are also available.

Details of the arrangements for commencements from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 for both tranches are outlined below. The arrangements for NSW Fee Free January to June 2026 will be announced in the last quarter of 2025.

### b) Priority Qualifications – July to December 2025

The list of qualifications available under NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 and NSW Fee Free Construction for July to December 2025 are at the latest [NSW Skills List](#).

NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 qualifications are tagged as 'NFF Jul-Dec 2025' and NSW Fee Free Construction qualifications are tagged 'NFF-C Jul-Dec 2025' on the NSW Skills List.

**Please note:**

- If there are any changes to priority qualifications for either tranche, providers will be notified via a Smart and Skilled Update.
- Qualifications no longer on the NSW Skills List have been removed from NSW Fee Free.

### c) Core Qualifications – Tranche 2

Last semester, a list of Core Qualifications was identified to help providers plan more effectively and with greater predictability around fee-free courses available under the NSW Fee Free initiative. This set of core qualifications remains in place.

## d) Limited places available

There is a very limited number of fee free full places available for the July to December 2025 period, for both NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 and NSW Fee Free Construction. This is to ensure that fee free places are available in each semester covered by the initiative.

To assist providers, manage enrolments, the department will be providing regular Smart and Skilled updates indicating the percentage of places filled. Once places have been filled, the waivers (see waivers section) will be turned off at very short notice.

This means providers should not offer a fee free place to the student until they have completed a Notification of Enrolment through STS Online and a Commitment ID is generated confirming that the student has a fee free place.

It is recommended that given the limited number of fee free places available, providers should strive for equity of access and consider a cap on the number of NSW Fee Free places an individual student can access with the provider.

### Please note:

- The waivers for NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 and NSW Fee Free Construction may be turned off at different times because fee free places availability and budgets for the two Tranches are separate.
- TAFE NSW receives a separate allocation of fee free places to independent providers under the NSW Fee Free initiative. The timing of when waivers end will be determined by the pace of take up of waivers from TAFE NSW and independent providers.
- Once NSW Fee Free waivers are turned off, the department will not reopen the waivers, and no further NSW Fee Free enrolments will be possible for that semester.

## e) NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 and NSW Fee Free Construction - July to December 2025 Waivers

Program	Enrolment / CID Creation	Commencement of training	Select Relevant Waiver
<b>NSW Fee Free Tranche 2</b>	The day after acceptance of the 25/26 Smart and Skilled Review	01/07/2025-31/12/2025	<b>W681</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 – General  <b>W682</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans



	Notice to 31/12/2025*		<b>W683</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans - Recognised Partners
<b>NSW Fee Free Construction ONLY</b>	The day after acceptance of the 25/26 Smart and Skilled Review Notice to 31/12/2025*	01/07/2025-31/12/2025	<b>W684</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 – General  <b>W685</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans  <b>W686</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans - Recognised Partners

\*Unless otherwise advised.

**Please note:**

- The Notification of Enrolment confirmation which shows the CID will indicate whether the student is fee free. Once you have this confirmation, you can advise the student they are eligible for a NSW Free Free place.
- Training **cannot start** prior to 1 July 2025.

## f) NSW Fee Free Construction Pre-apprenticeship training

Details regarding NSW Fee Free Construction Pre-apprenticeship part qualifications will be distributed in a future Smart and Skilled Update.

## g) Further information on NSW Fee Free

If you have any questions regarding NSW Fee Free, please contact your Regional Provider Support Manager.

# 11. Fee-Free Apprenticeships and Traineeships extended to 31 December 2025

The department is pleased to confirm a six-month extension of fee-free apprenticeships and traineeships for students who commence their Smart and Skilled training up until 31 December 2025. Fee-free apprenticeships and traineeships remove financial barriers for students and support a strong pipeline of skilled workers to build the NSW economy.

During this period, student fees – approximately \$2000 for apprentices and \$1000 for trainees – will continue to be covered for individuals who commence their apprenticeships and traineeships training with a Smart and Skilled provider by 31 December 2025.

## 12. TBA

### a) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled Provider Access Policy

The main changes to the *Smart and Skilled Provider Access Policy* are:

- Approach to Smart and Skilled Provider Application (SSPA)
- Clarification of Pre-qualified List Use and Smart and Skilled Contract Requirements
- Introduction of Comprehensive SSPA Assessment Criteria
- Additional Indicators for Established NSW RTO Status

### b) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy

The main changes to the *Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy* are:

- A hierarchy of fee exemptions, concessions, scholarships and waivers.
- Updated acceptable evidence for veterans.
- Clarified the evidence required for a student who has experienced a domestic and/or family violence.
- Updated the end date for Fee Free A&T.

## c) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Fee Administration Policy

The main changes to the *Smart and Skilled School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Fee Administration Policy* are:

- Added fee free training for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Updated acceptable evidence for veterans.

## d) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled Student Eligibility Policy

The main changes to the *Smart and Skilled Student Eligibility Policy* are:

- Added clarification that providing a valid USI is an eligibility requirement
- Amended the name of the relevant registration authority to reflect that from 6 May 2025 Home School students will need to be registered with the department

## e) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Eligibility Policy

The main changes to the *School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Eligibility Policy* are:

- Added clarification that students must be enrolled in an accredited school in NSW
- Alignment with Smart and Skilled eligibility policy inserting a requirement to provide a valid USI at enrolment
- Added clarification that SBAT arrangements are approved under *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001 NSW*

## f) Summary of changes to the NSW Quality Framework

The main changes to the *NSW Quality Framework* are:

- Reinforced the connection between the NSW Quality Framework, the NSW Skills Plan and the new National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Outcome Standards for Registered Training Organisations) Instrument 2025 (“new RTO standards”).
- Outlined that data collected via Student Journey Survey and training data is used to determine student’s outcomes and providers classification and connecting Performance-Based Contracting with the NSW Skills Plan.
- Listed all student outcomes indicators and training data used to assess student performance.

## g) Summary of changes to the Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications

The *Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications* (Trade-Related Policy) has been updated for clarity and links.

Providers offering full qualifications covered by the Trade-Related Policy are reminded to ensure that all students meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the policy, including:

- Students must provide evidence that they meet the work experience requirements (a minimum of 2 years is required).
- Students must qualify for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- RPL must be reported in accordance with the policy requirements.
- Students must be currently working in the relevant industry – or have worked within the industry in the past 5 years - that relates to the trade qualification they will be undertaking.

Please note that the eligibility criteria apply to all students, including those eligible for NSW Fee Free and/or who meet any other Smart and Skilled fee-free categories.

## 13. Update of Enrolments for NSW Fee Free Programs (July to December 2025)

The NSW Fee Free - Jul to Dec 2025 and NSW Fee Free Construction - Jul to Dec 2025 full qualifications enrolments remain open to Smart and Skilled providers.

A further update on the status of this program will be included in a Smart and Skilled update within the next 14 days (or earlier - depending on the progress of enrolments utilising the available places).

NSW Fee Free Program	Waivers	% of places enrolled against target
<b>NSW Fee Free Construction</b> (NFF-C) - Jul to Dec 2025 Full Qualification Places (excludes pre-apprenticeship places)	<b>W684</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 General <b>W685</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 NSW Veterans <b>W686</b> - NFF CONSTRUCTION Jul-Dec 2025 NSW Veterans - Recognised Partners	32%
<b>NSW Fee Free Tranche 2</b> (NFF) - Jul to Dec 2025	<b>W681</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 – General <b>W682</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans <b>W683</b> - NFF Jul-Dec 2025 - NSW Veterans –	45%

	Recognised Partners	
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