

SMART and SKILLED UPDATE June 2025

1. REVISED TIMING OF 2025-26 SMART AND SKILLED CONTRACT REVIEW NOTICES

The department intends to offer Smart and Skilled Review Notices to eligible providers for the 2025-2026 Activity Period.

Review Notices which were expected to occur in May 2025. Providers are now advised to expect their Contract Review Notices during the week ending Friday 6 June 2025. The Review Notice acceptance period will be two weeks from the date the review notices are offered.

The department acknowledges that this timing is likely to be challenging for providers and is working to have the Review Notices issued as soon as possible.

Providers are encouraged to address any outstanding issues with ASQA registration status. Providers' details should also be kept up to date both on training.gov.au and for access to the department's portal, STS Online.

A subsequent Smart and Skilled Update will be distributed at the time Review Notices are offered, providing important information about Smart and Skilled contract documents and Approved Qualifications Activity Schedules, including Financial Caps.

2. 2024-25 FINANCIAL CAP MANAGEMENT UPDATE

In 2024-25, funding requirements for apprenticeships, traineeships and continuing students has exceeded forecasts. To responsibly manage the 2024–25 budget, the department has taken a more conservative approach and will continue to do so for the remainder of the 2024–25 Activity Period.

What this means for affected providers with uncommitted financial caps:

- The department will vary financial caps by withdrawing uncommitted amounts. This will be calculated as of the date of this communication.

- A notice of variation will be emailed to each affected provider that has uncommitted financial cap amounts. These emails will be sent by Regional Provider Support Managers (RPSMs).
- In accordance with section 21.3 of the Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions, all affected providers are receiving one month's notice from the date of this update. The department will implement these changes through a contract variation following the one month's notice.

If your estimated usage is less than the financial cap on your AQAS, this difference represents the uncommitted amount that will be withdrawn through a variation one month from the date of this Smart and Skilled update, or earlier if agreed. The department will vary financial caps by withdrawing uncommitted amounts calculated as of today.

Please note: If your financial cap(s) is fully committed at the date of this Update, this variation will not impact your organisation.

