

Smart and Skilled

SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 225 - 227

March 2024

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1. FINANCIAL CAP REVIEW # 2 OUTCOMES

Financial Cap Review # 2 for the 2023-24 Activity Period has been completed. The review reinforced the need to manage Financial Caps allocations carefully and in consideration of the available budget.

Requests for additional Financial Caps exceeded funds available for redistribution across the market. Requests were evaluated against assessment criteria that were applied to consistently prioritise the reallocation and distribution of available funds. The reallocation approach assessed provider responses and requests against government priorities that included NSW Fee Free tranche 2 qualifications, regional access to training, skills shortages and thin markets. Additionally, current Financial Cap utilisation, and student outcomes and indicators were considered.

a. Providers not receiving a Contract Variation Offer – unsuccessful request

Providers who were unsuccessful in their request for additional or new Financial Caps will not be receiving a contract variation.

b. Financial Cap Review # 3 and Ongoing Monitoring

The department will continue to monitor performance against Financial Cap(s) usage and assess if a provider is on track to utilise Financial Cap(s).

As per the Smart and Skilled Contract and the *Skills Delivery and Management Policy 2023-24*, in the event that the department has identified that there is a high risk and likelihood that a provider will exceed a Financial Cap, the department intends to stop any further enrolments for that Financial Cap. Further notification will be sent to affected providers.

c. Further adjustments for 2023-24 Activity Period

The *Skills Delivery and Management Policy 2023-24* is currently being updated to inform providers about the ongoing process for requests to add qualifications, transfer Financial Caps and/or increase a Financial Cap. The new version will be available on STS Online in early 2024.

Please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps and program/initiatives to your Regional Provider Support Manager or Strategic Relationship Manager.

2. NSW SKILLS LIST UPDATED – VERSION 14.2

The NSW Skills List update covers changes because of:

- a. One addition to the Skills List
- b. An update to a Vocational Training Order (VTO).

Version 14.2 of the NSW Skills List will be available at this link <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/nsw-skills-list>

a. Approved qualification added to the NSW Skills List and Prices and Fees Schedule

The outcomes of the 2023 Skills List addition application process were announced in Smart and Skilled Update No. 222 **Table 1** lists one (1) qualification approved for addition to the Skills List pending availability of a Smart and Skilled provider, which is now being added to v14.2 of the NSW Skills List and Prices and Fees Schedule.

The department will notify providers once an updated Approved Qualifications Activity Schedule (AQAS) adjustment form, allowing requests to add new qualifications to Entitlement Full Qualifications and Targeted Priorities Full Qualifications programs, is available in early 2024. Smart and Skilled providers with the listed qualification on their scope of registration will then be able apply to add it to an existing AQAS.

Approval to deliver new qualifications remains at the department's discretion. Please also note that if approved to add new qualifications, providers should expect to manage delivery of the additional qualifications within existing Financial Caps. Your Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM) or Regional Provider Support Manager (RPSM) can advise you on the application process.

Table 1 – Qualifications added to the NSW Skills List

Qualification code	Qualification title	Available pathway(s)
MSS40122	Certificate IV in Sustainable Operations	Entitlement Full Qualifications

b. Qualifications with extended transition end dates

Table 2 lists 35 superseded qualifications on the Skills List for which ASQA has extended the transition end date. These extensions allow approved Smart and Skilled providers to continue to enrol students. These updates will be reflected on the Skills List and Prices and Fees Schedule v14.2.

Table 2 – Superseded qualifications with end dates extended by ASQA

Qualification code	Qualification title	Previous end date	Extended end date
AHC20116	Certificate II in Agriculture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC20416	Certificate II in Horticulture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC30116	Certificate III in Agriculture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC30716	Certificate III in Horticulture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC32816	Certificate III in Rural Operations	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC40116	Certificate IV in Agriculture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC40416	Certificate IV in Horticulture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC50116	Diploma of Agriculture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
AHC50416	Diploma of Horticulture	22/01/2024	22/01/2025
CHC51115	Diploma of Financial Counselling	12/12/2023	14/12/2024
CPC31511	Certificate III in Formwork/Falsework	31/12/2023	31/12/2024
FWP20121	Certificate II in Forest Operations	23/01/2024	31/01/2025
FWP30121	Certificate III in Forest Operations	23/01/2024	31/01/2025
HLT37115	Certificate III in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support	23/11/2023	31/07/2024
HLT54115	Diploma of Nursing	31/12/2023	12/03/2024
MEA40918	Certificate IV in Aircraft Surface Finishing	20/11/2023	21/11/2024
MEM20413	Certificate II in Engineering Pathways	17/12/2023	31/01/2024
MEM30319	Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MEM30405	Certificate III in Engineering - Electrical/Electronic Trade	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MEM30505	Certificate III in Engineering - Technical	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MEM40412	Certificate IV in Engineering Drafting	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MEM50212	Diploma of Engineering - Technical	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MEM60112	Advanced Diploma of Engineering	17/12/2023	31/01/2025
MSF30113	Certificate III in Furniture Finishing	6/12/2023	31/01/2024
MSF30818	Certificate III in Flooring Technology	19/12/2023	31/01/2024
MSF31113	Certificate III in Cabinet Making	6/12/2023	31/01/2024
MSF40118	Certificate IV in Interior Decoration	6/12/2023	31/01/2024
MSF50218	Diploma of Interior Design	6/12/2023	31/01/2024
MST20616	Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology	20/12/2023	31/01/2025

Qualification code	Qualification title	Previous end date	Extended end date
MST30819	Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology	20/12/2023	31/01/2025
MST50119	Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Merchandising	20/12/2023	31/01/2025
SIS20115	Certificate II in Sport and Recreation	11/12/2023	31/12/2024
SIS40115	Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation	1/09/2023	31/12/2024
SIS50115	Diploma of Sport and Recreation Management	11/12/2023	31/12/2024

c. VTO changes affecting the NSW Skills List

Following updates to a NSW VTO, one (1) superseding qualification detailed in a previous Smart and Skilled Update will be able to be delivered via a traineeship pathway under Smart and Skilled (listed in **Table 3** below).

Table 3 – VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications

Qualification code	Qualification title	Available pathway
UEP30322	Certificate III in ESI Generation	Traineeship

3. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (ECEC) RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) UPGRADE INITIATIVE – UPDATE

Thirteen (13) Smart and Skilled providers in NSW have been endorsed to participate in a full qualification RPL initiative to support educators in the ECEC sector.

The initiative will support existing educators (students) in updating their pre-2013 qualification and attaining the CHC30121 Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care to meet the pre-requisite requirements for entry into the CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

The initiative is now underway, and candidates have commenced the new online RPL process. All applicants must be enrolled by 15 April 2024.

If any providers are aware of interested educators and wish to direct them to the approved RTOs for upskilling, please contact the ECEC Workforce Team at tsnw.ece.workforce.development@det.nsw.edu.au.

1. BE RECOGNISED THROUGH THE 2024 NSW TRAINING AWARDS

The NSW Training Awards are the premier awards for vocational education and training (VET) in NSW and can raise the profile of your organisation, increasing industry awareness of your commitment to workforce skills development.

The awards are a great opportunity to recognise and showcase the outstanding work you are doing in the VET space – just ask [Marine Rescue NSW](#).

There are a number of organisation award categories open to both RTOs and employers:

- Large Training Provider of the Year
- Small Training Provider of the Year
- Industry Collaboration Award
- Large Employer of the Year
- Small Employer of the Year

For further details on the 2024 NSW Training Awards, including eligibility and selection criteria, online entry and submission tips, go to education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/nsw-training-awards.

Entries for this year's awards **close 11.59pm, Sunday 31 March 2024**.

Unless otherwise directed in the information above, please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps and programs/initiatives to your Strategic Relationship Manager.

Please contact Training Services NSW Customer Service & Operations at TSNSWCust.Service@det.nsw.edu.au for:

- technical support with issues such as system/information access and functionality and reporting
- further information for students or employers (unless otherwise directed).

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled Providers only.