

SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: February 2022

Welcome to the February issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. There is much happening as our international borders re-open, COVID-19 restrictions ease and businesses try to return to a more normal world despite ongoing skills shortages.

Training Package Update

SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) Project is complete. However, it will be published in line with the full SIT training package following the AISC meeting in April. This is to ensure that all the SIT qualifications will have the same updated versions of the cross sector units including the updated RSA.
- [Events](#) Case for Endorsement is currently being reviewed by STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Travel](#) Case for Endorsement is currently being reviewed by STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Tourism](#) Case for Endorsement is currently being reviewed by STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Hospitality](#) Case for Endorsement is currently being reviewed by STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting

SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services

- [Beauty](#) published on www.training.gov.au

SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Fitness](#) published on www.training.gov.au
- [Sport and Recreation and Aquatic and Community Recreation](#) This is a Training Package update for 6 qualifications (SIS10115 Certificate I in Sport and Recreation, SIS20115 Certificate II in Sport and Recreation, SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation, SIS31015 Certificate III in Aquatics and Community Recreation, SIS40115 Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation and SIS50115 Diploma of Sport and Recreation Management), 2 skill sets (Aquatic Technical Operator and Swimming and Water Safety Teacher) and 49 units of competency.

SkillsIQ 2022 Skills Survey

Stakeholders are invited to have their say on the workforce issues that industry is facing. The last two years have been particularly challenging for Australia's economy, with every industry and business experiencing some level of disruption due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. While businesses continue to navigate their operations in line with COVID-19 requirements, it's evident that the skill needs of many industries have significantly evolved. SkillsIQ wants to hear from stakeholders to better understand the workforce issues being faced. The results of the skills survey will be used to report to government to help drive policy and industry changes to address the current workforce challenges. [Click here](#) to access the survey. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The survey closes 31 March 2022.

Hold the date! SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum – Thursday 26 May 9am to 4pm Parramatta Square Business & Events Centre. Tickets will be on sale shortly through Eventbrite.

NSW Update

Our Shout – free RSA places. Earlier this month, 5,000 fee-free Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) places were made available to workers and jobseekers to help to ease staffing pressures on licensed hospitality venues across the state. All places were snapped up within weeks of release.

Grant opportunity – Get Back in the Game. Due to the success of the previously named Regional VET Pathways and EPPP RVP programs, funding has been extended to June 2024 for the newly combined and expanded Get Back in the Game (GBIG) program. Grant applications open 21st February and close 20th March 2022 with the program ready to commence in April 2022. The program will deliver services to support young people, aged 15 to 19, disengaged from education and training and struggling to make effective transitions into sustainable employment, to re-engage in education and training and support their transitions to employment. GBIG service providers will deliver industry grounded career and transition advice, mentoring and brokerage of transitions of disengaged young people into education, training and/or employment. The program will be managed locally by one lead provider per region – although consortium applications are welcomed. The program will operate across 14 regions and 144 schools. [Click here](#) for more information.

NSW Training Awards. Don't forget to get your application in for the [2022 NSW Training Awards](#). Nominations from outstanding individuals, employers and training organisations across 12 categories in the VET sector are being sought for the annual awards and entries close on 18 March 2022.

Regional Youth initiative. Applications are open for the \$10.4 million Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative. This is funded through the NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiative and NSW and Commonwealth governments flood and storm disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The initiative is centered on improving access to programs and resources to help young people recover, build resilience, strengthen community networks and improve mental health and wellbeing within affected regional communities. There are 3 grant programs included in the initiative:

- large grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for storm and flood affected regions (open until 31 December 2022),
- large grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for Regional NSW (open until 31 December 2022)
- Small grants under \$10,000 for regional NSW ((open until 31 March 2023).

Programs that may be eligible for funding include community events and social activities, sport and recreational programs, cultural and community connection programs, and peer support programs, mentoring and training for children and young people. [Click here](#) for further information.

Sports Grants for a total of \$2.8 million to deliver mental health and community wellbeing projects – tenders open until 7 March. There are 2 types of grants; Fast Track up to \$30,000 and Standard from \$30,000 to \$150,000. The grants are available across NSW. Sporting bodies can deliver projects that support the general or specific population groups that will make a positive difference in mental health and wellbeing for their members and community. Funding can be used to expand an existing mental health, resilience or wellbeing project, introduce a new project, team up with an existing service provider or support local member clubs to run community health and wellbeing events. [Click here](#) for more information.

Easing of restrictions. The NSW Government has brought the easing of restrictions forward which will have particular benefit for the hard hit hospitality sector.

From 18 February 2022:

- No density limits
- QR check-ins only for nightclubs, and music festivals with more than 1,000 people

From 25 February 2022:

- Masks are mandated on public transport, planes, and indoors at airports, hospitals, aged and disability care facilities, corrections facilities, and indoor music festivals with more than 1,000 people;
- Masks are encouraged for indoor settings where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others and for customer-facing retail staff to protect vulnerable people who must access these premises and services;
- The 20,000 person cap on music festivals is removed, with singing and dancing permitted.

Vaccination requirements will remain for indoor music festivals over 1,000 people, with attendees required to have at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Stay NSW Vouchers. Accommodation providers -don't forget to register for the **Stay NSW vouchers**. Once registered accommodation providers can also automatically accept the **Parents NSW vouchers** as well. From February, one person from each eligible household can apply for the Parents NSW vouchers consisting of 5 x \$50 vouchers (\$250 in total) to be used at registered Discover NSW businesses and Stay NSW businesses for entertainment and recreation activities and accommodation bookings up to 9 October 2022. [Click here](#) for more information. NSW residents over 18 years of age can apply for a \$50 accommodation voucher. Dine & Discover vouchers are still available with 6 x \$25 per NSW resident to be spent to support participating dining, arts and recreation businesses. The Dine & Discover vouchers can be used until 30 June 2022.

Other initiatives and programs

DESE – Workforce Australia. DESE is seeking interest from organisations and individuals to become members of the Workforce Australia – Workforce Specialists Panel to deliver the Workforce Specialists Initiative 2022-28. Workforce Australia commences 1 July 2022 and will be supported by the Workforce Specialists Panel. Members will be engaged on an as needs basis to deliver a range of projects to meet workforce needs of key industries and occupations by connecting them to suitable job seekers receiving Workforce Australia Services, Workforce Australia Online Services or Workforce Australia Transition to Work. Workforce specialists will work with industry, businesses, employment providers, the Department and other stakeholders to initiate, co-design and deliver Workforce Specialist Projects. The Request for Proposal provides advice on the service requirements, selection criteria and evaluation process. Proposals need to be submitted by 3pm 21 March 2022. [Click here](#) to access the tender site and related documents.

Commonwealth Scholarships Program for Young Australians. Round 4 VET scholarships up to \$13,000 are open for applications until Friday 11 March. In NSW the scholarships are available in Grafton (including Coffs Harbour) and Gosford. Applications are for Certificate III to Advanced Diploma in [targeted occupations](#) identified in projected growth industries and in-demand occupations within each region. These include tour guide, hair or beauty salon assistant, and a range of sport and recreation coaches and guides. Scholarship recipients are eligible for up to \$5,000 per year for up to 2 years with an additional \$3000 for completing a 20 day paid internship and host employers will receive \$1,500 per intern hosted.

This is part of the Australian Government's \$585 million Skills Package, Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow. [Click here](#) for more information.

Youth Jobs PaTH program opportunities for employers and young job seekers. Youth Jobs PaTH helps prepare young people aged 15-24 with the right skills, so that they are job ready for an industry employer. Youth Jobs PaTH also helps employers find and recruit the right young person for their business. It allows the employer to trial a young person in the workplace (through a 4 to 12 week internship) and receive a wage subsidy of up to \$10,000 if that young person goes on to be hired by the employer. The program provides Employability Skills Training to equip young people for work and help them understand the expectations of employers. The training helps ensure that the young candidates have vital skills such as presentation, communication and teamwork as well as training tailored to specific industry or employer needs. [Click here](#) for more information.

Time is running out. Apprenticeships and Traineeships wage subsidy through the Commonwealth's Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) incentive program ends 31 March. If you are considering taking on a new apprentice or trainee to boost your business talk to your apprenticeship centre now to recruit and enrolled before the cutoff date of 31 March 2022. Your business may be eligible for up to 50% wage subsidy for the first year for taking on a new apprentice or trainee under this program. Contact your [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#).

Floristry and the ACCC enquiry into order gatherers. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is investigating the floristry industry and the operations of online order gatherers following reports that some large national suppliers are making misleading representations online that they are local florists when that is not the case. The ACCC is asking florists to share their experiences about their dealings with order gatherers in an [online survey](#). The survey closes on **28 February 2022**.

Industry news and reports

NCVER report on [the online delivery of VET during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Part 2). It provides insights into the RTO experience in the rapid transition to online delivery in response to the pandemic, and how this might shape online VET delivery in the future. The NCVER RTO survey results show that 61.8% of RTOs surveyed intend to use more blended online and face-to-face learning in the future, and 22.1% are likely to permanently shift more units or parts of qualifications online. The shift to online presented both challenges and opportunities for RTOs. Those training courses with a high proportion of practical components were particularly challenging to shift online, with many RTOs transitioning theoretical components online and delaying the practical elements.

NCVER VET Student Outcomes 2021 report. Key findings include higher proportions of students had improved employment status after training comparing 2020 results with 2021 whether full qualification, short course or subject only completers and part completers. [Click here](#) for the full report.

Skills reform

VET for Secondary Students – request for input. In partnership with State and Territory Governments, the Australian Government is seeking views on the delivery of VET to secondary students to inform the development of a National VET for Secondary Students Strategy. You can have your say to provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities to improve VET delivered to secondary students and help set policy directions for the National Strategy. You can register to participate in one of 6 virtual Industry Roundtable sessions on a range of dates commencing Monday 28th February. [Click here](#) to register. Online feedback forms are also available for either [industry/employer](#) representatives or other

[stakeholders](#) including schools and training providers. [Regional, rural and remote delivery](#) feedback is also being sought through a separate survey.


Final Industry Clusters Industry Briefing – registration is open for the third and final briefing to be held on Thursday 3 March at 2pm. [Click here](#) to register. The briefing will provide relevant information to potential applicants on the funding model, next steps, timeframe, FAQ and panel Q&A.

TAE update. Phase 1 consultations on the TAE update have concluded and Phase 2 consultations (based on specialist project working group feedback sessions and individual/group interviews) are being conducted across February and March. Draft 1 will be available for public review from 24 March. Draft 2 will be available for public validation from 10 June. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback via the Living Issues Register accessed through this [survey link](#), or by email at info@skillsforaustralia.com.

Reminder - hold the date for the **SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum** – Thursday 26 May 9am to 4pm Parramatta Square Business & Events Centre. Tickets on sale shortly.

Please send any events, news or activities you'd like to share for the March edition.

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SkillsIQ would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and sea throughout Australia and extend that respect to Elders past and present. SkillsIQ also recognises those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future Elders and leaders.

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