

SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: January 2022

Welcome to the January issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. We can only hope that 2022 will be a better year despite yet another shaky start.

Training Package Update

SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) due to go live on TGA on 31 January
- [Events](#) Case for Endorsement to go to STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Travel](#) Case for Endorsement to go to STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Tourism](#) Case for Endorsement to go to STA's ahead of the AISC's April meeting
- [Hospitality](#) Case for Endorsement to go to 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](#). The AISC has approved the Case for Change to update 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), 49 units of competency and 2 skill sets (Aquatic Technical Operator and Swimming and Water Safety Teacher).

Training Services NSW Update

COVID-19 updates, guidelines and resources are now available on the [TS NSW website](#) having been updated last week. It outlines the new rules, testing and isolation requirements including mask wearing, QR code check-ins and how to deal with COVID-19 cases in the workplace. Despite no restrictions on the number of people allowed at a hospitality venues or night clubs, density limits of 1 person per 2 square metres still applies. There are additional resources for COVID-19 Mental health, business advice and other support; return to VET Guidelines for face-to-face training and other COVID-19 Support Documents for training providers and businesses.

JobTrainer continues to provide fee-free training courses to gain skills in growing industries with 518 courses offered by 307 providers across 3700 location in a range of industries to choose from. Eligibility requirements have been extended to give broader access for people wanting to learn new skills in Accommodation, Hospitality and Personal Services, Arts and Recreation Services and Wholesale and Retail Services as well as other industries. [Click here](#) for more information.

Skills List Optimisation round 2 consultation. Training Services NSW is commencing its final consultation with stakeholders for underperforming qualifications on the NSW Skills List which are

available for Smart and Skilled (S&S) funding. These qualifications have been identified as underperforming across three key areas; employment outcomes, further study and social inclusion. Preliminary recommendations for the identified qualifications are to retain, remove or cap places.

- Certificate III in Floristry - cap S&S commencements to 440 - 490
- Certificate IV in Retail Management - remove
- Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism - retain (this qualification is part of the current SIT training package review)
- Diploma of Beauty Therapy - cap S&S commencements to 590 – 630 (this qualification has recently been updated and is being scoped as a possible apprenticeship pathway in NSW together with the existing Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy). If you would like to provide any feedback on this project, please contact me at nswitab@skillsiq.com.au

Employers and peak bodies are invited to provide feedback via email or attend a consultation. If you would like to be involved in the second round consultation in early February, please contact marketdesign.implmentation@det.nsw.edu.au or you can [email me](#). Feedback is required to provide a case as to why these qualifications should remain on the NSW Skills List. Following consultation, the Market Design Team will recommend changes to the skills list or impose conditions on the delivery of some of the underperforming qualifications.

NSW Training Awards. The 2022 NSW Training Awards are now open for entries. The NSW Training Awards are conducted annually by Training Services NSW to recognise outstanding achievement in the VET sector. The Awards honour and reward the achievements of students, Trainers/Teachers, Registered Training Organisations, large and medium Employers. There are 12 award categories including individual awards for Apprentice, Trainee, SBAT, VET student, ATSI student, Vet in Schools student and Trainer of the Year as well as organisation awards for large and small training provider, industry collaboration and large and small employer.

The program also identifies VET Ambassadors. During the regional phase applicants that are outstanding in their industry are shortlisted and interviewed. The state phase will evaluate the regional winners and look for character values and virtues that will contribute to the qualities that are required to become an individual Ambassador. Employers, training organisations and students are encouraged to get behind the awards to support and recognise the opportunities that the VET system in NSW provides. [Click here](#) for more information. Please note that award entries close 18 March 2022.

Summer Skills 2021-2022. There is still time for learners aged 16-24 to access fee-free short courses as part of the [Summer Skills program](#). Whether it's barista skills, pool lifeguard or customer service, there are lots of opportunities for young people to jump start their careers by signing up for fee free training (skill sets and statements of attainment) and secure exciting entry level jobs in hospitality, retail, sport and recreation, hair and beauty and many others.

Summer Skills provides a head start for a range of in demand jobs across all regions. Participants need to register by 28 February with completion by 30 April 2022. [Search](#) by region or by course. There is also a [Summer Skills for RTOs](#) page providing a range of branded materials for use by Smart and Skilled providers with approved Summer Skills courses.

Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant (EDAEG) adopts strategies to support Aboriginal people by creating training and employment opportunities. The Grants subsidise the salaries, development and support costs of Aboriginal people in public service agencies and local government authorities. These

could be for permanent employment, temporary secondment or School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. Applications for the grants close 30 June 2022. [Click here](#) for further information.

Supervisor workshops. Starting the year with a new apprentice or Trainee? Head to the [TS NSW webpage](#) to sign up for free face-to-face or virtual workshops to help employers train and supervise apprentices or trainees. The workshops are designed to assist workplace supervisors to effectively supervise and coach apprentices and trainees, improve workplace communication and work effectively with training providers. A series of short video resources are also available.

Industry news, reports and data

Fair Work Ombudsman has released an update regarding unpaid pandemic leave entitlements that have been extended in many awards. Back in April 2020, the Fair Work Commission made determinations varying 99 awards adding unpaid pandemic leave and annual leave flexibility. The determination inserted a temporary new Schedule X into these 99 awards which provide 2 weeks of unpaid pandemic leave. The Commission announced last week that the entitlement to unpaid pandemic leave under Schedule X provision ends for most awards from 30 June 2022. [Click here](#) to see the awards listed with unpaid pandemic leave and the Schedule X end date.

Temporary visa changes. The Commonwealth Government announced changes to international student visas on 18 January to help address critical workforce shortages and encourage the rapid return of international students and working holiday makers. The most notable interim measures include the extension of visas for Temporary Graduates (subclass 485) extending their visas to 30 September 2022, removal of work restrictions on the 40 hours per fortnight on work hours for international students (though they must also continue to maintain their course progression requirements), and visa application charge refunds for students arriving between 19 January and 19 March 2022. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tourism Research Australia has released the National Visitor Survey Monthly snapshot for October 2021. It provides statistics on how Australian residents traveled in the states and territories and nationally during October. Typically, the results are compared to the same month of the previous year however due to the COVID-19 impact in 2020 the results are compared to pre-COVID 2019. Key findings:

- Overnight spend down \$3.8 billion or 51% on October 2019
- Overnight trips 5.3 million down 48% on October 2019
- Nights spent on trip 19.8 million down 46% on October 2019
- NSW spend down to \$443 million 70%
- NSW domestic overnight visitor numbers were down 41%
- NSW domestic overnight spend was down 41%
- Travel results for November are expected to improve as restrictions and border closures ease.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

The Australian Retailers Association has provided an update on retail trading. A robust Christmas trading period saw November sales up 5.8% compared to the same time last year. However, the impact of the Omicron variant has caused significant disruption to trade with 70% of members reporting that they have staff in isolation, and many are limiting trading hours or closing in some locations. The impact is being exacerbated by supply chains. ARA advocacy in NSW has resulted in extended rent relief for business with a turnover of up to \$5 million, though the threshold was previously \$50 million. The

impact of Omicron is ongoing, and more support is needed including free access to RATs for retail workers.

Tourism Accommodation Australia has also reported on the crippling effect of Omicron over the Christmas holiday period. A survey of NSW members reveals the outbreak is having a major impact on the accommodation sector and exacerbated the issues providers were already struggling with around restrictions and borders. Seventy per cent of accommodation providers surveyed have been affected by supply chain issues compounded by testing and isolation requirements.

Restaurant and Catering Australia (R&CA) released its 2021 Benchmarking Report based on its Industry Benchmarking Survey on business conditions in the restaurant, cafe and catering industry. The survey, distributed to 15,000 business owners and managers across Australia, monitors trends in the general business environment, business costs, profitability, labour and skills shortages. Most notable were the challenges of the pandemic in 2021 resulting in an increased reliance on takeaway, increased wages costs and the current staffing crisis. According to CEO, Wes Lambert, the hospitality industry has been crippled by skills shortages, and despite a brief increase in consumer confidence prior to Omicron, the lack of staff availability has made reopening incredibly difficult. The reports key findings include:

- Skills shortages continues to be the biggest problem facing the industry. Despite the uptick in menu prices and consumer demand, the availability of staff to service this increased need has left many operators struggling.
- The reliance on takeaway during the pandemic has had an irreversible impact on both consumer food purchasing habits and business operators. Many operators see delivery platforms and takeaway as a permanent addition to their revenue stream particularly with the inclusion of alcohol with meals.
- Most jurisdictions have temporarily allowed for the purchase of takeaway alcohol with meals from restaurants and cafes.
- The cost of wages and keeping staff employed has increased and is expected to continue to increase over the next year.

R&CA will be presenting the findings of the report a webinar next Monday 31 January at 3pm. [Click here](#) to register to hear from Wes Lambert and the R&CA team report on the lessons of 2021 and solutions for 2022 for the hospitality industry as they unpack the latest business conditions and trends.

RCA also reported that the NSW Government announced the Event Saver Fund for major events that were cancelled or significantly disrupted by CIVID public Health Orders between 15 and 31 December. [Click here](#) for more information and for the application guidelines.

TAE update. The public validation period for TAE 22B online learning and assessment has closed as of 24 January. Draft products in the project 22B include:

- TAED405 Plan, organise and facilitate online learning (unit of competency)
- TAEASS404 Assess competence in an online environment (unit of competency)
- TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (qualification with draft elective units added)
- TAEASS00023 Online Learning and Assessment Skill Set
- TAE Case for Endorsement
- TAE Companion Volume Implementation Guide

Click to view the training products [TAE-Online-Learning-and-Assessment-Products](#).

NCVERs No Frills 2022 – *VET's role in transforming the future* conference will be held 6-8 July 2022 in Melbourne. Submissions to present close 1 March. The focus will be to explore issues relating to the ways VET is adapting, anticipating and activating change in response to shifting future skill demands. [Click here](#) for more information.

AVETMISS RTO Annual Activity fee-for-service data direct reporting opened 1 January and closes 28 February 2022. [Click here](#) for more information.

VOCEDplus looks at micro-credentials as a hot topic in the post-secondary landscape. Recent publications look at the challenges of interpretation and [definition of micro-credentials](#), extending micro-credentials to [micro-apprenticeships](#), [portability](#), flexibility and access, and [work-integrated learning](#). There's a lot to unpack in the micro-credential space. [Start here](#).

The National Careers Institute Partnership Grants Program provides funding for organisations to work collaboratively to improve career outcomes and create education and training pathways. Round 4 application close 7 February 2022. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$350,000 and will be funded for a maximum of 12 months. [Click here](#) for more information.

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