

SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: November 2021

Welcome to the November issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. This bulletin provides updates on SkillsIQ training package projects, Training Services updates, NCVET reports, NSW activities and more.

Training Package Update

SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) Case for Endorsement approved, awaiting Ministerial endorsement
- [Events](#) Draft 2 Consultation closed November
- [Travel](#) Draft 2 Consultation closed November
- [Tourism](#) Draft 2 Consultation closed November
- [Hospitality](#) Draft 2 Consultation closed November

SIR Retail Services

- [Visual Merchandising](#) now published www.training.gov.au

SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services

- [Beauty](#) endorsed and pending publication on www.training.gov.au

SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Fitness](#) now published www.training.gov.au
- [Sport and Recreation and Aquatic and Community Recreation](#) Case for Change – public feedback now closed

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program funding

Just a reminder that there is still time to consider putting on a trainee or apprentice to support your business. The Commonwealth Government extended the 50% wage subsidy available through the [Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements](#) (BAC) program with the \$726m Completing Apprenticeship Commencement program providing 2nd and 3rd year wage subsidies of 10 and 5% respectively. This support is for 270,000 commencements expected under the BAC program up to **31 March 2022**.

Training Services Update

Skills List Optimisation. Training Services NSW identified the following qualifications as having low take up and/or poor student outcomes and were subject to Round 1 consultation, and are now part of the Round 2 consultation.

- Certificate III in Floristry
- Diploma of Beauty Therapy
- Certificate IV in Retail Management
- Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism

The first round of consultation was completed mid this year and focused on the reasons for low performance. Following the first round of consultation the Department has developed a series of recommendations for each qualification based on industry data and consultation. The second round of

consultation is anticipated to begin in December and finish in early 2022. Feedback is required from stakeholders on whether and why these qualifications should remain on the Skills List or if conditions should be imposed on their delivery (such as pending a training package update). Please [email me](#) if you would like to be part of the Round 2 consultation.

[Summer Skills 2021-2022](#) has been launched offering a wide range of fee-free short courses for learners aged 16-24 to give them a skills head start. Skill sets include customer service for retail or hospitality, food safety, food handling, hospitality compliance, pool lifeguard, statements of attainment in beauty, events, fitness, food and beverage, hairdressing, hospitality (Barista Skills, Beverages, Café and Club, RSA, RSG, Outdoor Recreation, Retail, Tourism, Visual Merchandising and Swimming and Water Safety Teacher. You can search by region or by course. These skills will provide employment entry opportunities in skill shortage industries and may lead to further training opportunities. These courses are aimed at school leavers and young job seekers.

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. Enrolments are open and training must be commenced by 31 December and completed 30 April 2022.

[Skilling for Recovery](#). The Smart and Skilled Policy for Skilling for Recovery has been extended with new enrolment and training dates. The policy now specifies the following dates for the enrolment of students and commencement and/or completion of training under Skilling for Recovery:

- Full qualifications: Providers can enrol students up to 31 December 2021 and students may commence training up to 31 March 2022.
- Part qualifications: Providers can enrol students up to 31 December 2021 and training must be completed by 30 June 2022.

Smart and Skilled. The NSW Skills List has been updated due to training package and vocational training order changes (and includes the SIS5.0 Sport, Fitness and Recreation). *Qualification prices and student fees and subsidies v12.2* was updated 27 September 2021 and the *Skilling for Recovery – Priority Part Qualification List v5.10* was updated 24 November 2021. [Click here](#) to access the current versions.

[Connecting Women to Trades](#) grant round. **Applications close Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 5:00pm AEST.** The grant round will enable eligible organisations to engage with Smart and Skilled providers to deliver fee-free part qualifications. Funded projects will offer an introductory experience and targeted support for women considering a career in trades. The objective of this grant round is to increase the representation of women in trades by increasing the appeal of trades, removing cultural and societal barriers and supporting learning to maximise vocational outcomes. Outcomes will be achieved through targeted training (accredited and non-accredited) and career information sessions. Grant amount. The 2021/2022 funding for the Connecting Women to Trades Grant Round is \$200,000 (GST exclusive). Organisations may apply for amounts up to \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

[Careers NSW.](#) The NSW Government launched the Careers NSW pilot program, offering targeted career advice to all NSW residents regardless of age or job status. The program was launched earlier this month by Premier Dominic Perrottet and Minister's Geoff Lee and Victor Dominello. The pilot program provides:

- ✓ a self-service website for all aspects of careers advice
- ✓ connection with Industry Experts
- ✓ tailored guidance with a professional Career Advisor for residents in four priority regions.

One-on-one access to dedicated careers specialists and more than 40 industry volunteers will be available through the pilot in Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast and the state's North West, ahead of the full rollout in 2022. The pilot will initially target 10,000 people in these key regions before being scaled up to include school students from the middle of next year.

Careers NSW is also keen to hear from anyone in the sector that would like to share their passion and industry insights as an Industry Expert. You can do this by visiting the website careers.nsw.gov.au or contacting the team directly at careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au

[School career resources](#). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, most school careers information activities have had to be conducted by zoom. A series of video career updates and resources are now available on the SkillsIQ [NSW ITAB News page](#). These are useful resources for students, parents, carers and career advisers and include snapshots on being a chef, hairdresser, barber, beauty therapist, as well as careers in sport, fitness, recreation, outdoor recreation, hospitality, events, guiding and more.

NCVER's latest releases

NCVER has released its latest report, [The best of both worlds? Integrating VET and higher education](#) How do we better align VET and higher education to enable students to move between, and benefit from, both sectors. How do we promote seamless and integrated pathways between the two sectors?

Currently, loosely integrated qualification pathways exist amid a range of limited, variable and complex credit arrangements left for student to navigate.

This project is focused on more highly integrated VET and HE qualifications, those that can be described as 'consecutive', 'concurrent' or 'embedded'. These integrated models provide clearer linkages and pathways between VET and HE qualifications, enabling better student engagement with both. This project explored the characteristics of such arrangements, determining whether and how they might be implemented more broadly.

Issues in apprenticeships and traineeships – a research synthesis has been released. It provides an overview of aspects of and issues with apprenticeships and traineeships including completions, incentive payments, other support, the interface with training providers and the current model of apprenticeship training. The lack of consistency (harmonisation) across states and territories has made the system difficult for national employers to navigate. The historical apprenticeship model is being challenged by changing industry, social and economic conditions. Read more [here](#).

News updates and reports:

Changes to international border arrangements due to come into effect from 1 December, have been thrown into disarray following the arrival of the Omicron variant. Today, Prime Minister Scott Morrison defended the "temporary and cautious" pause in some overseas arrivals as a result of the Omicron variant. Australia's borders are tipped to open once again on December 15, with the Federal Government holding an early belief the Omicron variant is "manageable" and "showing some signs that it may be milder" than feared. According to Reuters, the delay is a blow to Australia's A\$2 trillion (\$1.4 trillion) economy, with employers long calling for a resumption of arrivals of students and skilled migrants to ease labour shortages.

There will still be a mad scramble to get staff back into the tourism, travel and hospitality jobs and boost skills as the staffing shortages continues to bite. According to Accommodation Australia president

Leanne Harwood, the sector is heading to top 100,000 job vacancies following the impact of 21 months of lockdown. Without international tourism, and confusion with state borders, the tourism industry has been in hibernation. [Click here](#) to get the full report from Accomnews.

The announcement of the return of skilled workers and international students has also brought widespread sighs of relief and estimates of 200,000 people beginning to arrive in Australia now from mid-December having just been pushed back from 1 December at this stage. Tourism Accommodation Association (TAA) CEO, Michael Johnson is happy to hear of the return of international students and Working Holiday Makers (WHM), as TAA has been advocating long and hard on this issue to support the arrival of international visitors from December. [Read more.](#) [R&CA](#) has also been advocating hard with the Federal Government to ease restrictions and allow fully vaccinated eligible visa holders to start to fill some of the critical shortage jobs.

AATIS Stakeholder Survey 2021-2022

The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service (AATIS) invites industry stakeholders to provide feedback on the service they provide including the Australian Apprenticeship Pathways (AAPathways) website, MyGain YouTube channel, enquiry service, social media presence, Industry Insiders and Careers Bulletin newsletters, AATIS Schools Guide, Induction Kit, downloadable resources and promotional materials, Partners Program for industry organisations and individuals as well as their webinar series, workshops and information sessions. If you use AATIS and its resources, please complete this 10 minute confidential [AATIS survey](#) to help to inform their work, future projects and resource development and updates.

Events

The SkillsIQ NSW Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Industry Advisory Committee were invited to join with Northern Rivers stakeholders for a joint forum in Ballina on 22 November. Jane Laverty from Business NSW Northern Rivers led discussion on staffing and workforce development issues with Damon McCarthy Skills Broker and Tracy Bolt RIEP officer at Training Services Lismore, Michael Thurston from Destination North Coast, Tim Williamson from RDA North Coast and Peter Skorupanovic from the DESE Local Jobs Program and many more. The forum focused on developing short, medium and long term strategies for workforce and skills development and business continuity for the tourism and hospitality sector, as well as addressing how to boost the image of careers in the sector.

The SkillsIQ NSW Wholesale, Retail and Personal Services Industry Advisory Committee (WRAPS IAC) regional forum was held via zoom on Monday 29 November 2021. Liana Nadalin from Training Services Newcastle, Karla Notman, the Hunter DESE Local Jobs Program Employment Facilitator and Amanda Watson, the Public Affairs and Policy Manager of Business Hunter, provided much needed insights on the various programs and funded initiatives in place to support regional businesses to recruit and retain staff through the provision of funded training including full and part. The second session identified how to work together to link training, skills and jobs across agencies with discussion by Jeffrey Cooke from Apprenticeship Support Australia, Michael Brolly from the Gosford Training Hub, John Purcell from Career Links and Sandy Chong, President of the Australian Hairdressing Council and founder of Head Hunter Recruitment. Petrina Waddell, Skills Broker and Gary Sewel, Regional Industry Education Partnership (RIEP) officer, outlined the important role of connecting the dots between industry and skills and engaging young people in vocational careers while still at school.

The SkillsIQ NSW Sport and Recreation roundtable is being held on Friday 3 December from 10am to 12 noon in Parramatta. There are only a few seats still available so please contact me if you would like to participate in this roundtable event.

Please contact me with any comments, feedback or content for the November issue.

Kind regards,

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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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