

SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: March 2022

Welcome to the March issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. Again, there has been more disruption caused this month with floods impacting our central and northern coastal regions as well as vast areas of Sydney. The impact of the devastation will last for years for the many who lost their homes and businesses and will need to rebuild. This will also impact the state's economic recovery alongside the increasing costs of fuel, household grocery products and labour costs.

Training Package Update

SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) project is complete. 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 SIT units including the updated RSA unit.
- [Events](#), [Travel](#), [Tourism](#) and [Hospitality](#) training package products have been submitted for consideration at the AISC's meeting in April.

SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Sport and Recreation and Aquatic and Community Recreation Training Package Draft 1 Consultation](#) is now open and closes Tuesday 19 April. Draft 1 includes 5 qualifications, 3 skill sets and 43 units of competency. The qualifications are: SIS10115 Certificate I in Sport and Recreation, SIS20115 Certificate II in Sport and Recreation, SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation, SIS40115 Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation and SIS50115 Diploma of Sport and Recreation Management. [Click here](#) to register for one of the 5 general information webinars, or you can log in and provide comment through the SkillsIQ [Online Feedback Forum](#).

Tickets now available for the SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum

Kick start careers with sustainable jobs for local people; driving economic recovery by rebuilding skills to boost the recruitment and retention of staff.

The SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum will be held on Thursday 26 May 9am to 4pm at the Business Western Sydney Business and Events Centre, Parramatta Square: the heartland of Sydney's economic and jobs growth.

Hear from the experts and join the discussion on how to kick start careers with sustainable jobs for local people to drive recovery in a post-COVID landscape that is struggling with skills shortage. We will explore how the service industries must position themselves as employers of choice by providing sustainable jobs for local people. We will also provide an update on VET reform, the skills landscape in NSW through Smart and Skilled and the opportunities and challenges of the post-pandemic world of work.

The line-up of speakers includes the NSW Minister for Skills and Training, The Hon. Alister Henskens, David Collins, Executive Director, Training Services NSW, Wes Lambert, CEO of R&CA, Claire Field from Claire Field

and Associates and Dean Minchington from WorkforceIQ and more. We have the opportunity to share our ideas to reposition the service industries to provide strong and exciting careers for young people that are underpinned by vocational education and training.

If you would like to participate in the Forum as a sponsor or be an exhibitor, please contact me at nswitab@skillsiq.com.au. Tickets for this event are now available through [Eventbrite](#).

SkillsIQ 2022 Skills Survey

Last chance to have your 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 before it closes on 31 March 2022.

NSW Update

The NSW Skills List is open to applications. NSW Department of Education is taking applications to add qualifications to the NSW Skills List. The List identifies the VET qualifications eligible for a government subsidy under Smart and Skilled. The purpose of this process is to ensure the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program is helping to meet the skills needs of NSW. Click [here](#) to view the current Skills List Skills List Management Policy. Submit applications through [SurveyMonkey](#) **by 5pm Friday, 8 April**.

Applicants must provide evidence of:

- industry demand
- improved post-training outcomes for students
- a requirement to gain entry level employment in an occupation or industry
- supports business development, jobs growth or enhances community wellbeing in a region/town
- supports setting up and/or sustaining small business
- supports disadvantaged/equity groups
- is central to successfully implement a specific government strategy, policy or program.

The impact of COVID-19 may be considered in the Department's assessment process. Applications are assessed by a panel with extensive experience in VET. The panel reviews the evidence and recommends to the Minister for Skills and Training which qualifications should be added to the Skills List. Contact marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au for more information.

JobTrainer funding as previously reported, there has never been a better time for Jobseekers, students and workers to access fee-free training in full and part qualifications. JobTrainer is the \$640 million program joint funded by NSW and Australian Governments with over 200,000 vocational training places funded in NSW as part of the program. Enrolment has been extended to 31 December 2022. Find further information on the [JobTrainer webpage](#).

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. 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.

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 for use until 30 June 2022.

Other reports and updates

NCVER reports - Apprenticeship and Traineeship commencements. The latest data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) shows apprentice and trainee commencements grew sharply by 47,785 (or 114%) in the June quarter 2021 compared to the June quarter 2020. In NSW there were 12,500 commencements (up 67.8% from June quarter 2020).

As of 30 June 2021, there were 341,385 apprentices and trainees in-training, an increase of 73,665 (27.5%) compared with 30 June 2020. For NSW those figures are 106,740 in-training, up 25.5% from the June quarter 2020. Compared with the June quarter 2020, nationally, completions were up 21.2% to 17,795. For NSW those completion figures are 5,140 (up 23.6% from June quarter 2020). [Click here](#) to view the report.

The Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business, Stuart Robert hinted that next week's Federal Budget could see an extension to the Boosting Apprentice Commencements wage subsidy though at a lower rate than the current 50%. Speaking at last week's National Apprenticeship Employment Network Conference, the Minister heralded the success of the Commonwealths **Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements** subsidy. It resulted in 220,000 apprenticeship commencements during the pandemic as part of a \$13 billion injection into skills. Around 78,000 businesses (a quarter of all employers) took advantage of the subsidy to take on new apprentices. The wage subsidy is due to expire at the end of this month. Together with JobTrainer, 325,000 students have accessed free or low-fee full and part qualifications. JobTrainer has been extended to December 2022 with an additional \$500million in Commonwealth funding and matched state funding. He referred to the National Skills report that indicated a million jobs will be created over the next 5 years and 90% of those will require post-school qualifications. Additionally, 38% of skills shortages are in occupations with a VET pathway and the government is keen to continue to encourage employers to offer apprenticeship pathways. He also commented the VET reform agenda which includes better alignment VET and university qualifications.

Stay tuned for more announcements in tomorrow's *Federal Budget*, which is sure to be followed by a date for the next Federal election. The Government has just announced that it is 'backing Australia's future tradies, plumbers, tilers and chefs with a \$365.3 million investment to support an extra 35,000 apprenticeships and traineeships, with the extension of the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidies. This will build on the 385,000 apprentices now in training and boost the pipeline of workers that we will need to build a stronger economy. BAC will deliver certainty for businesses to hire more apprentices and trainees to support skills and jobs.' [Click here](#) to read the full media release.

The National Skills Commission (NSC) has released a range of reports through its Labour Market Insights. The NSC released the February 2022 Recruitment Experiences and Outlook Survey which reports a record high level of recruitment activity in February 2022.

The National Skills Commission surveys around 1,200 employers each month to find out about their experience when recruiting staff as well as whether they are expecting to increase staffing levels. This provides insights on labour market conditions and guides resources to help job seekers understand what employers are looking for.

Over half of employers, (53%) surveyed were recruiting or had recruited in the past month representing an 11% increase on the previous month at 42%. Perhaps unsurprisingly, 62% reported difficulty with recruitment down from the January high of 68%. The outlook for the next 3 months is that a third of employers surveyed expect to increase their staffing levels. [Click here](#) for more information.

It also released the [Internet Vacancy Index](#) report revealing that online job ads rose by 3.6% to 269,700 in February 2022. In NSW it increased 3.8%. Nationally, over the past 12 months there have been 2,912,500 online jobs advertised, significantly higher (up 60.4% or 101,600 job ads) compared to pre-COVID levels.

Industry news

Skills Reform update. Last week the VET regulatory authority, ASQA announced that it will be responsible for training package assurance from 1 January 2023 once the new Industry Clusters are in place. The AISC and Industry Reference Committees will remain in place until 31 December 2022. "Skills Ministers have agreed to undertake a post-implementation review of the new industry engagement arrangements to assess whether the system is working as intended, and to make further improvements where required. ASQA will initially take on the training package assurance function until 31 December 2024, subject to the outcomes of this review". [Click here](#) to read more.

Reminder - hold the date for the **SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum** – Thursday 26 May 9am to 4pm Parramatta Square Business & Events Centre. Tickets are now available through [Eventbrite](#).

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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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