

## SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: October 2021

Welcome to the October issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. Finally, the Greater Sydney region has been released following more than 100 days in lockdown, though some restrictions remain in place. This bulletin provides updates on SkillsIQ training package projects, NSW economic recovery strategy, the road to re-opening, Training Services update, skills reform and the announcement of the 2021 Training Award winners.

### Training Package Update

#### SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) Case for Endorsement approved at the October AISC meeting, now awaiting Ministerial endorsement
- [Events](#) Draft 2 Consultation commencing in November
- [Travel](#) Draft 2 Consultation commencing in November
- [Tourism](#) Draft 2 Consultation commencing in November
- [Hospitality](#) Draft 2 Consultation commencing in November

#### SIR Retail Services

- [Visual Merchandising](#) endorsed and pending publication on [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)

#### SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services

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

#### SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Fitness](#) endorsed and pending publication on [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)
- [Sport and Recreation and Aquatic and Community Recreation](#) Case for Change available for public feedback until 9am Monday 1 November 2021.

[TAE Training Package](#) is also under review with Phase 1 consultations running from October to November. These consultations will assist in clarifying the purpose, objectives and scope of the review, with insights to shape the next version of the TAE Training Package. Phase 2 consultations from February to March 2022, will involve open forums and feedback sessions to assist in obtaining detailed input on units, emerging skills and training product recommendations.

### NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy

Last week, NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet launched the NSW [COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy](#) underpinned by \$2.8b on support and recovery measures and a 260,000 jobs creation plan including:

- \$500m on restoring consumer and business confidence,
- \$250m to support jobs and skills,
- \$200m to boost recovery in the regions and
- \$495m for education support.

To date \$5.6b has been paid out through JobSaver payments to businesses (inclusive of 50% Commonwealth contribution), \$2.3b paid through COVID-19 Business grants, \$542m in micro-business grants and \$74m in social and community support. NSW Government aspires to recover 260,000 jobs by December quarter 2022. COVID-19 business and income support payments (COVID-19 Disaster payments, JobSaver, Micro-business grants and Emergency Hardship payments) taper out as vaccination milestones are reached through to the end of November.

Other support includes:

- \$250m expansion of the Stay and Discover voucher (with a \$50 accommodation voucher),
- \$250m expansion of the Dine and Discover voucher
- \$100m for the apprenticeships and traineeships program
- \$25m Sport and Recreation Recovery and Community Rebuild grant
- \$66m Alfresco Restart package for hospitality and other outdoor activities
- \$50m for the CBD revitalization
- \$100 million for skills training to extend JobTrainer by an extra 103,000 training places, fund a new ICT Traineeships program, and additional School-based apprenticeships and traineeships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**.

### **Update on the road to re-opening**

Training Services released its [Return to Vocational Education and Training Guidelines](#) earlier this month. The guidelines provide a structure for the return to face-to-face training delivery for providers, learners and employers, as well as providing flexibility and clarity in light of the needs of different Local Government Areas and changing health advice. It also includes requirements for VET delivery in Schools settings. The Guidelines will be updated if the NSW Health advice changes.

Service NSW has released a range of resources for peak bodies, employers and businesses to use to support the Service NSW app proof of COVID-19 vaccination. In addition to ensuring a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) is in place, businesses will need to check customers and staff are fully vaccinated, before entering their premises. To make this process quicker and easier, the Service NSW app can now show a person's COVID-19 digital certificate when they check in using the NSW Government QR code. The toolkit includes newsletter/web copy, social media tiles, guides and posters to help peak bodies, employers and businesses communicate about this new proof of COVID-19 vaccination feature in the Service NSW app. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **COVID Contact tracing and isolation rules for business**

Further advice has been provided this week on contact tracing and isolation rules for business. As NSW commences reopening, COVID-19 will continue to circulate in the community. It's important for business owners and managers to know the updated advice for testing, isolation and contact tracing. This advice may be updated by NSW Health as case numbers and evidence changes.

NSW Health guidelines – [Contact Risk Assessment for Community and Workplace Settings](#) enables businesses to assess workplace risk if a COVID-19 case (such as a customer) is identified on the premises, and confirms the actions to be taken. The Service NSW QR Code check-in system will remain in place and used to notify people who were in the same venue as a positive case. Encourage your customers to follow the advice given to them by NSW Health.

If a staff member tests positive, whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated they must self-isolate for 14 days and follow the advice from NSW Health. Refer to your COVID Safety Plan and risk assessment approach for further instructions on notifying other staff. You will need to;

- Tell that worker to return home directly and follow [advice from NSW Health](#)
- Notify SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50
- Ensure the safety of the workplace and other workers through disinfecting and [cleaning the work place](#)
- Inform NSW Health if any close contacts are identified: [MOH-PHEOVMT@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-PHEOVMT@health.nsw.gov.au)
- Advise any worker identified as a close or casual contact to immediately leave the workplace, be tested, return directly home and follow NSW Health advice.

For a more detailed step by step list of actions to take go to [Guidance for businesses with a worker who tests positive for COVID-19 | NSW Government](#).

If multiple employees test positive for COVID-19, the business must inform NSW Health if three (3) or more employees test positive for COVID-19 in a seven (7) day period. Further advice regarding actions required will be provided by NSW Health. Notify SafeWork Australia of COVID-19 outbreaks here [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) | SafeWork NSW](#).

Workers who have tested positive for COVID-19 can only return to work after they are medically cleared and have completed the required isolation period and are no longer infectious. Workers who are contacts can return to work once they have completed any testing and isolation period.

The following NSW Health resources provide further information:

- [confirmed COVID-19 cases](#)
- [people suspected to have COVID-19](#)
- [close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19](#)
- [casual contacts](#)

After returning to work, employers should provide staff, visitors, contractors and customers with safety information that includes:

- [Symptoms](#) of COVID-19
- Where to seek advice and help
- Reminders not to enter the premises if they are unwell
- Advice on [physical distancing and personal hygiene measures](#)
- Infection control measures the business operator has put in place
- Any other specific advice provided by public health authorities.

Businesses can reduce the risk of closure or staff going into isolation by implementing COVID-19 Safety Plans. Other proactive steps businesses can take include:

- Encouraging all staff to be vaccinated

- Ensuring all workers and patrons check in via the Service NSW QR code and maintain class lists where face to face training has recommenced to assist contact tracers.
- Implementing regular onsite testing programs for workers or in-home testing kits (when approved by the TGA)
- Maintaining COVID safe behaviours; mask wearing, physical distancing, access to PPE and sanitising, increased cleaning regimes
- Improving indoor ventilation or filtration. For more information about ventilation click here [COVID-19 guidance on ventilation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-guidance-on-ventilation).

The [NSW Government website](https://www.nsw.gov.au) continuously updates the identified COVID-19 case locations in NSW. Visit the website regularly and encourage staff to do the same. Follow the instructions if you have visited one of the locations. For further information and FAQs, visit [Training Services NSW](#).

Links to other COVID-19 resources including mental health, business advice and other support:

- [Sample Risk Assessment Tool](#)
- [NSW Government – Health and wellbeing](#)
- [Service NSW - Mental Healthy Workplaces](#)
- [NSW Health Facebook 'video'](#) with 3pm daily public A&A session
- [Guidance for businesses with linked COVID cases](#)
- [General COVID safe advice for businesses](#)
- [ASQA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Compliance arrangements](#)
- [Service NSW – Supporting NSW during COVID-19](#)
- [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#)

### Training Services Update

Another round of Skills List Optimisation consultations began in October, with the purpose to simplify student choice and ensure government funding is targeted towards qualifications that support good student outcomes and the changing needs of industry. Ninety qualifications were identified with low training activity (less than 10 commencements between 2018 and 2020, excluding apprenticeship pathways and those with any licensing requirements). This round identified the Certificate III in Business to Business Sales (SIR30316) and the Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation (SIS40115) – though this qualification is now part of a Sport and Recreation Training Package Products Case for Change. Training Services Training Market Design team are seeking feedback on any barriers to access that may be impacting these qualifications. Please [contact me](#) if you would like to provide feedback to the Training Services Market Design Team.

### NSW Training awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 [NSW Training Awards](#), announced on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Chelsea McInnes won the School Based Apprentice / Trainee of the Year, following her completion of a Certificate II in Hospitality with Trident Fish and Grill in Alstonville in Northern NSW. “My passion is to serve my community through food. Being able to combine my HSC, work and a trade qualification has made school much more interesting. I’ve also gained a mentor and a serious head start in a career I love,” said Chelsea. Gabriella Adeline won the Vocational Student of the Year having completed a Certificate IV in Patisserie and now commenced an apprenticeship with Woodcut Restaurant at Sydney’s Barangaroo. She has also been selected for the Australian Pastry World Cup Team competing at the Coupe du Monde Patisserie in France in 2023. Chelsea and Gabriella go through to the Australian

Training Awards 2021 being held on Thursday, 18 November. Tyler Pockran won the 2021 People's Choice Award for School Based Apprenticeship / Traineeship of the Year. He is completing a Certificate III in Commercial Cookery apprenticeship at Tetsuya's Restaurant in Sydney. When interviewed, Tyler said, "my course changed me personally and professionally. Everyday I'm ready to give 100% no matter what. We've quickly gone from being a team to becoming a family. An SBAT should be at the forefront of every student's mind. I'm so happy I'm achieving my dream."

### Skills reform

As announced earlier today, Skills Ministers have now considered the advice of the Transition Advisory Group (TAG) regarding new industry engagement arrangements. Skills Ministers have agreed with the proposed approach to implement the industry engagement reforms. These reforms include the establishment of Industry Clusters through a two-step grant process, the functions of the independent assurance body, and the wind down of existing arrangements with the Industry Reference Committees (IRCs), Skills Services Organisations (SSOs) and the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC).

Minister Robert, as Chair of the Skills National Cabinet Reform Committee (Skills Committee), launched the implementation plan by publishing a [Ministerial Statement](#) providing the outcomes of the Skills Committee meeting and issuing a [media release](#) to announce the reforms.

### ASQA reforms

Last week, ASQA released its [Regulatory Risk Priorities for 2021–22](#). ASQA updates its priorities regularly to ensure it responds to the most current issues in the sector. The risk-based approach is used to determine the most significant risks to achieving ASQA's purpose, which is to ensure quality VET and the integrity of national qualifications issued by training providers. ASQA's Self-assurance model means that providers effectively self-assure their practices to ensure they have the systems and processes in place to critically examine their performance and student outcomes on an ongoing basis. This year ASQA is focusing on co-designing and implementing regulatory approaches that focus on self-assurance, excellence in training outcomes, and continuous improvement.

Risk Priorities for 2021–22 include:

- International student delivery (including offshore delivery)
- Online learning
- Aged care/disability support sector
- Trainer and assessor capability
- Specified training products with risk exposure (their research identified that the Certificate III and Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery warrant closer scrutiny to reduce the incidence of non-compliance over time)
- COVID-19 response
- VET in schools
- Monitor areas of increased funding
- Targeting risk of non-compliance with specified clauses of Standards

### NSW Market Comparison Tool and LifeLauncher

The NSW [Market Comparison Tool](#) has been designed to assist users choose a training provider or course to help them achieve their career goals. Users select by course name or select from a list, add a postcode or suburb and radius and even delivery mode to find the course and career suited to their interests. Students, school leavers, job seekers, mature workers, apprentices and trainees have over 500 different

jobs and careers on offer and accessed through vocational training including upskilling and reskilling. It provides information on VET training options, providers, resources and job guides.

You may also like to have a look at the new [LifeLauncher](#) platform, providing help to students to search careers, industries and courses all in one place. There are career quizzes to help students to identify their passions, interests and characteristics with career matching to a range of courses and career options. It provides industry overviews, careers and job characteristics with data and the course pathway into these careers.

### NCVER's latest releases

[The VET for secondary school students: insights and outcomes](#) report has been released. This research examines the merits of VET for students at school in preparing them for work, further study or further training from the perspectives of students, parents, industry and employers. The report findings are based on a survey of students and parents about their motivations and aspirations, Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), as well as consultations with industry stakeholders and employers and case studies.

Key findings include:

- Enrolments vary from 230,000 to 260,000 over past 10 years
- Certificate II is the most popular VET qualification (131,000 in 2020)
- Certificate III is increasing in popularity (89,000 in 2020)
- School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships represent 7.4% (led by Business Services, Retail Services, Tourism, Travel and Hospitality)
- 41% of surveyed students wanted an ATAR and 68% wanted their VET studies to count towards their ATAR
- 64% said one of the reasons they did VET was to get a qualification, 50% said to help them get a full time job after completing school
- 70% decided to enrol in the VET course themselves
- 79% parents encouraged their child to enrol in a VET course while at school
- 75% parents reported that the benefit was for their child to get a qualification

[Apprentices and trainees 2021 March quarter data](#) is now available with a note of caution in comparing data during this COVID-19 period. Key findings show:

- 329,585 apprentices and trainees were in training as at 31 March 2021 (20.7% increase on March 2020)

Quarterly training activity showed:

- commencements increased 35% but completions decreased 9.4%
- 2.5% of all workers were employed as a trainee or apprentice
- 11.9% of workers in trade occupations were either apprentices or trainees

12 months commencement data showed.

- 186,745 commencements (up 28.5% on 2020)
- 85,425 trades (up 27.4% on 2020)
- 101,315 non-trades (up 29.5% on 2020)
- 117,860 males (up 25.5% on 2020)
- 68,880 females (up 33.9% on 2020)

Of note also is the significant increases in full time (29%), non-trade (29%), older workers 25-44 years (45%) and 45 and over (58%).

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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