

Welcome to the September issue of the SkillsIQ NSW enews. As the Greater Sydney region enters its 13th week of lockdown, restrictions and stay-at-home orders ease for some LGA's while others tighten. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel with international travel and a home quarantine trial on the agenda in NSW. This bulletin provides updates on SkillsIQ training package projects, NSW and Commonwealth government updates and the 2021 Training Award Finalists.

Training Package Update

SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- [Cookery](#) Case for Endorsement to go to the AISC for its October meeting
- [Events](#) Draft 2 Consultation pending
- [Travel](#) Draft 2 Consultation pending
- [Tourism](#) Draft 2 Consultation pending
- [Hospitality](#) Draft 2 Consultation pending

SIR Retail Services

- [Visual Merchandising](#) AISC approved and pending State and Territory Skills Ministers' endorsement.

SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services

- [Beauty](#) AISC approved and pending State and Territory Skills Ministers' endorsement.

SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Fitness](#) AISC approved and pending State and Territory Skills Ministers' Endorsement.

Update on the road to re-open

NSW Government announced last week that NSW will start to reopen once the 70% double vaccination target is reached which is expected to be around mid-October. The Reopening NSW roadmap and Public Health Orders are being finalised. Fully vaccinated people (and those with medical exemptions) will have access to freedoms allowed under the roadmap. These freedoms include the reopening of hospitality venues, retail stores, personal services salons, gyms and indoor recreation facilities and sporting facilities including swimming pools as well as major outdoor recreation facilities and stadiums, whilst being compliant with specified social distancing, mask wearing and COVID check-in requirements. It is expected that responsibility for enforcement (similar to the QR code process) will fall to the business to monitor patrons and ensure unvaccinated people do not enter venues with fines for operators who do not comply. Venues and business owners are considering the additional cost of security to manage patrons and train existing staff on compliance procedures.

Vaccine passports will provide the key for the roadmap with the vaccine certificate being integrated with the Service NSW app making the venue check-in process easier. A 2-week pilot will commence 6 October. Once the 80% double dose target is reached, the government intends to broaden freedoms to include international travel, community sport and major events.

Borders, travel and vaccine passports.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government is moving closer to testing the new Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD) platform for major Australian airports. It will replace the *Incoming Passenger Card* and allow inbound passengers to complete the DPD on their mobile device or computer. It will be faster, streamlined and allow for certified COVID vaccine certificates to be digitally uploaded. It will also facilitate data sharing between state and territory health departments to enable swift verification of information provided by passengers. The system will also allow Australian travelers to use MyGov to upload proof of vaccine to a QR code linked to their passport. The platform is entering its testing phase before being rolled out through major Australian airports, taking us a step closer to international travel and welcoming inbound traveler's, tourists, students, and skilled workers.

Grants and funding opportunities

[COVID-19 Business Grant applications](#) through Service NSW have been extended to 1 October. The grant provides a one-off payment to help businesses with cashflow support for the first 3 weeks of lockdown.

The NSW Office of Sport has opened its second and final round of the \$100 million Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund which is available to sport and recreation organisations and councils. The first round resulted in \$54 million awarded to 91 projects. Round 2 sees up to \$46 million available for projects to improve sport facilities and recreational spaces and enable greater participation in sport and active recreation. Grants from \$100,000 up to \$1 million are available for a range of projects including lighting, amenity buildings, clubrooms, change rooms and grandstands. Applications close 8 October. [Click here](#) for more information.

Training Services Smart and Skilled Update

The latest Smart and Skilled Update is available [here](#). Smart and Skilled providers are invited to submit an intent to participate in delivering part qualifications for the Summer Skills 2021/22 program. Summer Skills targets 2021 school leavers and other young people aged 16 to 24 years and provides them with access to skills in industries where there are immediate job opportunities in, for example, Hospitality, Retail and Sport and Recreation. The part qualifications are listed under the [Skilling for Recovery Priority Part qualifications list](#). Students can enrol from 8 November to 28 February and all training must be completed by 30 April.

A heads up that all [Skill Up from Home](#) part qualifications training must be completed by 30 September. A reminder also that **Job Trainer** has been extended from 30 September to 31 December 2021. Enrolments have surpassed 230,000 nationally since its inception in July 2020. Providers can enrol students in full qualifications up to 31 December and students may commence training up to 31 March 2022. Those enrolled in part qualifications must complete training by 30 June 2022. TNI applications may continue to be submitted through TS regional offices.

Skills List Optimisation Round 2 consultations will begin in October for the following qualifications identified as 'under-performing' due to low enrolment, low completion, or student outcomes data.

Training Services Training Market Design team will be seeking feedback on any proposed changes to the NSW Skills List or impose conditions on the delivery of qualifications on the list.

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

Please [contact me](#) if you would like to provide feedback and/or be involved in further consultation with the Training Services Market Design Team.

[NSW Training awards](#). A quick reminder that you have until 5pm on Monday 27 September to cast your vote in the People's Choice Awards in the Apprentice, Trainee, School-Based Apprentice/Trainee, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award categories. Overall category and People's Choice winners will be announced on Saturday 9 October at 4.30pm over [Facebook Live](#).

Skills reform

[DESE VET Qualifications Reform Survey](#) has been extended to **10am Monday 27 September**, and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on how new qualification design concepts might work in practice. DESE conducted a series of webinars earlier in September to provide advice and respond to questions on the new qualification design concepts. The Skills Reform agenda is focused on 3 key areas: simplifying, streamlining and rationalising national VET qualifications across industry occupation groupings and the Australian Qualifications Framework; strengthen the role of industry and employers in the VET system; and supporting high-quality training delivery.

NCVER's latest release

NCVER has released its latest report [Unpacking the quality of VET delivery](#) which is timely considering the VET reform process the sector is currently undergoing. This is the first report of a larger project and seeks to determine what RTOs and educators consider constitutes good-quality delivery and how it can be better measured, sustained, and improved. The aim is to capture how RTOs gather, use and value information on the quality of their delivery, while taking into account their student characteristics, qualification profile and operating environments.

Key messages of the report are:

- The VET sector is complex and diverse; hence effective or quality delivery requires context and 'fit for purpose' delivery approaches
- Defining quality and the quality of delivery is not simple and quantitative and qualitative data throughout the student life cycle is needed to develop a 'true picture' of quality
- Quality measures for RTOs reflect the impact delivery has on their clients, while balance meeting immediate needs, developing longer-term skills and personal capabilities
- A 'one size fits all' set of measures of delivery quality may not serve all purposes – RTOs are not uniform
- Critical factors impacting quality delivery include the policy and regulatory environment, quality of training packages and ability to translate them into training programs, types of students they service, availability of trainers, leadership and culture, and professional development in building quality.

Fair Work update

A reminder that changes to casual employment laws come into effect from Monday 27 September 2021. Employers (other than small business employers) will need to have assessed whether any existing casual employees (employed before 27 March 2021) are eligible to be offered to convert to permanent employment. Employers will need to make a written offer to convert casuals to permanent or write to employees explaining why they won't be made an offer. This assessment needs to be done by 27 September. Employees have 21 days to accept the offer in writing and if they do not respond employers can assume that they have declined the offer. [Click here](#) to read more about casual employees becoming permanent.

Please contact me with any comments, feedback or content for the October issue. Feel free to share with your network.

Kind regards

Sarah Rosen,
Executive Officer, SkillsIQ NSW ITAB

CAPABLE PEOPLE
MAKE CLEVER BUSINESS

A Level 1, 332 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
E enquiries@skillsiq.com.au
T +61 2 9392 8100
W skillsiq.com.au

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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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