

## SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: July 2021

Welcome to the July issue of the SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews as the Greater Sydney region remains in an extended lockdown to the end of August and state borders remain shut. This bulletin provides updates on SkillsIQ training packages, NSW and Commonwealth government assistance, the new Careers NSW service, NCVET Apprenticeship and Traineeships data, the NSC 2021 Skills Priority List and more....

### Training Package Update

#### SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

The last webinar for Events Travel Tourism and Hospitality is **Monday 2 August**. [Click here](#) to register and Draft 1 Consultations close 5pm Monday 9 August 2021

- [Events](#) Draft 1 Consultation open
- [Travel](#) Draft 1 Consultation open
- [Tourism](#) Draft 1 Consultation open
- [Hospitality](#) Draft 1 consultation open
- [Cookery](#) Draft 2 consultation closed
- [RSA](#) pending Skills Ministers' Endorsement

#### SIR Retail Services

- [Visual Merchandising](#) pending Skills Ministers' Endorsement

#### SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services

- [Beauty](#) pending AISC Approval

#### SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Fitness](#) pending Skills Ministers' Endorsement.

### Federal and NSW Governments COVID-19 economic support package

The latest relief measures were announced by Federal and State governments on Wednesday 28 July. Many existing measures have been expanded and include:

- [2021 COVID-19 Business Grants](#) for eligible businesses with wages below \$10 million can claim grants between \$7,500 and \$15,000 to cover the first three-weeks of restrictions.
- [2021 COVID-19 Micro business grants](#) for eligible small businesses with a turnover of between \$30,000 and \$75,000 experiencing a 30% decline in turnover can apply for a \$1,500 payment per fortnight of restrictions.
- [2021 COVID-19 JobSaver payments](#) providing cashflow support to businesses with annual turnover of \$75,000 to an increased \$250,000 retain staff with a cash boost up to 40% of weekly payroll with a payment of between \$1,500 to a maximum now increased to \$100,000 per week, provided staffing levels are maintained at the level as of 13 July 2021. Non-employing businesses are eligible for \$1,000 per week.
- [NSW small business fees and charges rebate](#) up to \$1500

- Payroll tax waivers of 25 per cent for businesses with Australian wages bills of between \$1.2 million and \$10 million that have experienced a 30 per cent decline in turnover, as well as payroll tax deferrals and interest free repayment plans.
- Land tax relief equal to the value of rent reductions provided by commercial, retail and residential landlords, up to 100 per cent of the 2021 land tax year liability.
- Landlords required to participate in mediation before taking actions against tenants.
- An increase in the payment amount for stood down workers to \$750 per week for those who lost more than 20 hours, and \$450 for those who lost between 8 and 20 hours, and available to workers outside of the Greater Sydney lockdown areas.
- Deferral of gaming tax assessments for clubs until 21 December 2021 and hotels until 21 January 2021.
- \$26 million support package for the accommodation sector.
- Expanded mental health services with programs targeted at young people and CALD communities.
- A [summary of measures](#) has been provided by NSW Government.

### Training Services NSW Update

[Training delivery in NSW](#). Training Services NSW recommends that where possible during lockdown, formal training should be delivered online or deferred until restrictions lift or further advice is provided. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) were previously suspended from Monday 19 July. This suspension was lifted effective 23 July 2021 so SBATs may undertake employment as part of their SBAT provided the employment complies with NSW Public Health Orders. All other apprentices and trainees may continue to undertake their employment, provided it is in accordance with NSW Public Health Orders. For students in regional and rural NSW, online learning is strongly encouraged, however face-to-face delivery is possible with compliance with health advice. Learn more about the [restrictions for regional and rural NSW](#).

Training Services has provided links with updated [COVID-19 information](#) for [registered training providers](#), [employers](#), [apprentices and trainees](#) and [students](#). Further information for RTOs on COVID-19 Compliance requirements is available on the [ASQA website](#) and remains unchanged since it was last update in August 2020.

[Market Comparison Tool](#). The new Market Comparison Tool is designed to help users choose a training provider or course that will help them achieve their career goals. This web-based tool is suitable for vocational education and training consumers, including school leavers and those looking to re-skill or up-skill. It includes a comparison feature for Smart and Skilled providers using three metrics: student satisfaction, employment outcomes and whether a student finishes their course. It also contains personality and subject quizzes designed to match users' interests and strengths with course and career options, which are useful for those who do not know what course or career they want to do. Please [click here](#) to provide any feedback.

[Careers NSW](#). Earlier in the year the Premier of NSW announced a new initiative in response to the Gonski/Shergold report on the effectiveness of the VET sector, resulting in Training Services piloting a new service called Careers NSW. Careers NSW aims to provide access to professional high-quality personalised careers guidance and advice to workers, graduates and students in NSW. It will be supported by inspirational ambassadors, industry experts, employers and careers advisors. The industry experts will be volunteers who would be willing to raise awareness of the new Careers NSW service and provide their time (an average of 4 hours per month) and expertise to talk to participants about their own Career Journey. The Careers NSW pilot launches in September with the full roll out expected from mid-2022. For further information, please contact the Careers NSW team: [careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au)

[NSW Training Awards](#) state finalists have been announced and are currently going through the interview process. The winners will be announced at the NSW Training Awards Presentation to be held later this year. State winners

(excluding VET in Schools) will go through as finalists for the National Training Awards in November in Perth. The awards recognise outstanding achievement in the VET sector and honour and reward the achievements of students, trainers and teachers, RTOs, and employers across 12 categories.

[Rules around QR Code](#) check-ins have changed requiring more businesses and organisations to have the NSW Government QR code so that staff and customers can check in using the Service NSW app. This will assist in fast and accurate contact tracing and includes hospitality venues and hairdressers.

### **National Skills Commission**

The National Skills Commission (NSC) has advised that it has released new employment data, which provides trends and current figures for regions and occupations. The Nowcast of Employment by Region and Occupation (NERO) is a new experimental dataset which provides timely information on 355 occupations across 88 regions in Australia. Until now, data at this level of detail was only readily available once every five years. Now with NERO, the insights will be available monthly. As a new source of labour market intelligence, NERO will provide unique and detailed data on employment trends across occupations and regions. This first release of NERO includes data from September 2015 to April 2021. Updates for May through to August 2021 are scheduled to be released on 1 September 2021, with subsequent updates to occur on the first Wednesday of each month. The NERO estimates are experimental at this stage and NCI invites you to play with the [NERO data dashboard](#) and provide your feedback to [nowcasting@skillscommission.gov.au](mailto:nowcasting@skillscommission.gov.au)

### **Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants (BSBR)**

Applications are now opened for the \$280 million [Black Summer Bushfire Recovery \(BSBR\) Grants](#) program. The purpose of the program is to help communities address priorities for recovery and resilience after the 2019-20 bushfires. This grants program comes from the National Bushfire Recovery Fund and is additional to support already provided through a range of bushfire recovery programs.

- The program covers every LGA that was disaster declared from the 2019-20 bushfires.
- Community organisations, businesses and local councils can apply.
- You can apply for a grant of between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

Projects must be about the recovery and/or resilience of communities impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, be in an eligible LGA and have the support of the community they are aimed at helping. Project activities can be located across more than one eligible LGA.

Projects must address one or more of the following:

- social recovery and resilience needs;
- economic recovery and resilience needs; and/or
- recovery and resilience needs of the built environment.

More than \$200 million has already been directed towards environmental bushfire recovery under the National Bushfire Recovery Fund. Consequently, the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants will be directed towards initiatives that support social, economic and built environment recovery and resilience.

Applications close 5pm 2 September 2021 and projects must be completed by 31 March 2024.

### **NCVER reports**

The latest Apprentices and Trainees 2020 December quarter report is now available. Commencements were up 141% in December 2020 compared to the same quarter in 2019. This increase coincides with the introduction of

the Australian Government's Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy. The industries with the largest increases were Construction, Accommodation, and Manufacturing. [Click here](#) for the full report. The NCVER VET in Schools 2020 report is also available. There were over 240,000 VET in Schools students in 2020 representing an increase of 2.3% on 2019 and of these 7.4% were School based apprentices or trainees. [Click here](#) for the full report.

### News Update

NSW Police powers have been increased and tighter rules put in place in response to non-compliance with the NSW COVID-19 Health strategy. Fines for not wearing a mask will increase from \$200 to \$500 and businesses, construction sites and other public premises may be shut down where there is a risk to public health. Eight Local Government Areas will be subject to tighter restrictions from today, limiting exercise, recreation and shopping to within 5km of home, and the wearing of masks at all times outside the home. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Congratulations!

Peak industry body, the Accommodation Association of Australia, has secured Federal Government funding of \$1.1 million for its [Accommodation Association Pathway Partnership](#) program, designed to meet the employment needs of its hotel members and provide opportunities to kickstart careers. The accommodation sector is working to address ongoing skills shortage and provide long-term employment opportunities to Australians at a time when many are looking for work, particularly young people looking for a 'foot in the door' with leading tourism businesses. This pre-employment pathway incorporates two weeks of training with a four-week internship with a participating host employer. The program matches interns to employers based on vacancy, and the intern's individual skill level. Participating properties may be eligible for wage subsidies if the intern is successful in securing employment. The training component will be delivered in a live setting and is designed to ensure job seekers have the best opportunity to secure employment in the accommodation sector with training focused on practical skills with professional development support and personal guidance or mentoring. The Accommodation Association hopes to secure 400 new placements in the sector.

Restaurant and Catering Association of Australia launches its hospitality internship program – PaTH Business Placements Partnerships Program, an initiative funded by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) to address hospitality skills shortages. Young interns will commence 5-6 weeks of training including food handling, knife skills, customer services and RSA and be matched with an employer to provide on-the-job experience with the goal of achieving long term employment. Participants will also have mentoring support from hospitality professionals. It's a try-before-you-buy opportunity for both employer and participant.

[Click here](#) to provide feedback or unsubscribe.

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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