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1. INITIATIVES UNDER THE NORTH COAST EDUCATION FLOOD RECOVERY SUPPORT PACKAGE

The NSW Government's North Coast Education Flood Recovery Support Package includes actions to alleviate financial pressures on students and their families coping with flood recovery in the flood-affected local government areas (LGAs) of Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed. The package aims to support students to complete their training as well as increase their access to training.

As part of this package, Training Services NSW is rolling out the following initiatives:

1. Fee reimbursements for students enrolled or in training during the flood period
2. Fee waivers for new students
3. One-off support payments for Smart and Skilled providers delivering training to affected students.

a. Student eligibility criteria

For all three initiatives Smart and Skilled students must meet one or more of the following:

- have a residential location within the seven (7) flood-affected LGAs, and/or
- have a workplace location within the seven (7) flood-affected LGAs, and/or
- be in a physical course delivery location within the seven (7) flood-affected LGAs.

The three initiatives will be available for eligible students who have been enrolled with a Smart and Skilled provider for a full qualification(s) under Smart and Skilled.

b. Initiative 1: Fee reimbursements

Smart and Skilled fee-paying students who were enrolled or had commenced training prior to 5 April 2022 and meet one of the eligibility criteria as noted in section a) are eligible to apply to Training Services NSW for a fee reimbursement for any fees paid to their provider between **22 February 2022 to 30 June 2023**.

Smart and Skilled students will be emailed about the fee reimbursement initiative and invited to contact Training Services NSW to confirm their eligibility and to request an application form that will then need to be returned via mail.

We would like providers to support this initiative by encouraging their eligible students to apply. If you have students that would like to confirm their eligibility please ask them to contact Training Services NSW on the number that is in the email letter they receive. Alternatively providers can request a list of the eligible students by emailing marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au.

Please note that fee reimbursements will not be offered to students who discontinued their training before 5 April 2022.

c. Initiative 2: Fee free training for new students

This initiative is providing fee free training for students enrolling from 5 April 2022 to 30 June 2023:

i. Retrospective fee adjustment to \$0 for students who enrolled on or after 5 April 2022 to 30 June 2022

Students who meet the eligibility criteria as noted in section a) and were enrolled in training (and received notification of enrolment and have a CID) **on or after 5 April 2022 up to 30 June 2022** will have a retrospective fee adjustment made to their enrolment to set their student fee to \$0.

Providers were contacted in the next few weeks with details of students who had a fee adjusted retrospectively and will be required to refund any fees that the students have already paid. In turn, student fees will be paid to providers via the normal subsidy instalment payments as training activity data is reported.

Please note that retrospective fee waivers will not be applied for discontinued students.

ii. Fee waivers for students enrolling from 1 July 2022

New Smart and Skilled fee-paying students who meet the eligibility criteria as noted in section a) and who enrol from **1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023** will have their fees waived.

When undertaking the Notification of Enrolment (NoE) for an eligible student, the provider must apply a fee waiver. Initiative 3: One-off support payments for Smart and Skilled providers delivering training to students in flood-affected LGAs

A one-off payment has already been paid to Smart and Skilled providers in recognition of the additional support delivered to students in flood-affected LGAs to help them stay engaged and complete their training.

Smart and Skilled providers will have received a payment of \$200 for each student who met the eligibility criteria as noted in section a) and was enrolled in training **on 22 February 2022** (the start of the flood event). No other conditions apply to the payments.

No action is required from providers. Payments have been calculated and processed automatically by Training Services NSW.

2. UPDATE TO SKILLING FOR RECOVERY QUALIFICATIONS ON THE NSW SKILLS LIST

a. Childcare Sector – Additional qualifications

The following two (2) qualifications have been added to Skilling for Recovery Childcare Sector list (for expanded student eligibility) displayed on the NSW Skills List. This has the effect of making training fee-free for all Smart and Skilled-eligible students who enrol in these qualifications between 21 June 2022 and 31 December 2022.

For eligible students enrolled between 21 June 2022 and the date of this advice, the Department will retrospectively apply the fee waiver. Providers delivering to the affected students must refund any fees already paid by the students.

Qualification code	Qualification Name
CHC40113	Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care
CHC50221	Diploma of School Age Education and Care

b. Hospitality qualifications added to the Skilling for Recovery Full Qualifications list

The following seven (7) qualifications have been approved as Skilling for Recovery qualifications and are indicated as such on the NSW Skills List.

Qualification code	Qualification Name
SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality
SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery
SIT30622	Certificate III in Hospitality
SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
SIT40422	Certificate IV in Hospitality
SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management
SIT50422	Diploma of Hospitality Management

For support with issues such as system/information access and functionality, reporting, and other technical matters, please contact Training Market Customer Support at Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au. Unless otherwise indicated, please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps, and programs/initiatives such as Skilling for Recovery to your Strategic Relationship Manager, as advised in the relevant Smart and Skilled Update.

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled Providers only. If Providers require further information for students or employers, please contact Training Market Customer Support, as above, unless otherwise instructed.