

SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: April 2022

Welcome to the April issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. April has been a better month with fine weather and a bumper Easter School holiday break for many. This month we have also welcomed back the first cruise ship in more than 2 years. The Pacific Explorer made its way into Sydney Harbour amid much fanfare as it signals an important step in the reopening of the tourism industry. Coupled with the easing of the close contact 7-day isolation rule, recovery seems to be back on track for businesses struggling with skills shortages. Let's see what lies ahead as we move towards the Federal election on the 21st of May and the SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum on the 26th of May.

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 will ensure that all the SIT qualifications have the same updated versions of the cross sector SIT units including the updated RSA unit.
- [Events](#), [Travel](#), [Tourism](#) and [Hospitality](#) training package products were approved at the AISC's meeting in April and are now awaiting Ministerial endorsement prior to publication on training.gov.au.

SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation

- [Sport and Recreation and Aquatic and Community Recreation Training Package Draft 1 Consultation](#) has closed. Draft 1 sought feedback on 5 qualifications, 3 skill sets and 43 units of competency. These 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. Please note that the Certificate III in Aquatics and Community Recreation is not included in this update as its content has been merged into SIS30122 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation. Draft 2 will be available shortly.

SkillsIQ NSW Industry Forum – tickets now available

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

Tickets for this event are now available through [Eventbrite](#).

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.

The line-up of speakers includes The Hon. Alister Henskens, the NSW Minister for Skills and Training and the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, David Collins, Executive Director Training Services NSW, Dr Sherman Chan, Chief Economist Business NSW, Claire Field, Principal Claire Field and Associates, Dean Minchington, Managing Director WorkforceIQ, John Purcell, CEO Career Links and more. We have the

opportunity to share our ideas to reposition the service industries to provide strong and exciting careers underpinned by vocational education and training.

Please contact me at nswitab@skillsiq.com.au if you would like to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor.

NSW Update

Vocational Training Orders - SHB

The Vocational Training Orders for Beauty Services are being updated in line with the recent SHB training package update. If you are a beauty industry stakeholder (e.g.; business owner, employee, student, apprentice or past apprentice, training provider or apprenticeship employment provider), you are invited to provide your feedback on the proposed changes which include:

- Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy apprenticeship - to reduce the duration from 36 to 30 months
- Diploma in Beauty Therapy to be offered as a 36 month apprenticeship.

Please [click here](#) to answer 8 quick questions on Survey Monkey. The survey closes 5pm on Friday 13 May. Please share the survey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSWITABBeautyTherapy>) with your Beauty Services network and colleagues.

Training Services NSW and Smart and Skilled websites

Both Training Services NSW and Smart and Skilled websites have been decommissioned as of last week. Redirections from these sites are in place and will remain for the foreseeable future and any existing links will automatically go to where the content is now housed. Training provider and employer-focused content is now on the VET section of nsw.gov.au and student-focused content is on the NSW Department of Education ([Skills NSW](#)) website. The *Smart and Skilled Course Finder* landing page is now on the [Skills NSW](#) website, and all pages within the Course Finder, will redirect to the Skills NSW landing page. Visitors to the site can now use the *Skills Compare* tool to find the course they are looking for.

There is a [new link](#) for employers and training providers to access all VET programs and services, including Smart and Skilled, NSW JobTrainer program, Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP), Regional VET Pathways initiative as well as ITAB information and contact details, and so much more: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/vet-programs>

Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships

Applications are now open for the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships. The scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible apprentices who have experienced hardship. They're designed to support first year apprentices, including school-based apprentices, who have shown capability and positive attitude both in the workplace and formal training. There are 120 scholarships available, worth \$5,000 per year up to three years. Applications require a supporting statement from the employer and training provider. Providers are encouraged to support their eligible first year apprentices to apply for the Scholarships. Applications close **11:59pm, Friday 27 May 2022**. [Click here](#) for further information.

Service NSW for Business

A reminder that there are a range of business support programs and initiatives for businesses impacted by floods and Omicron through [Service NSW](#). These include:

- storm and flood assistance available through the Disaster Recovery fund
- 2022 Small Business Support Program for eligible businesses impacted by Omicron
- Stay NSW vouchers for eligible registered accommodation business
- Small business fees and charges rebates of up to \$3,000 for eligible business and not-for-profits

Other reports and updates

Support for the visitor economy

Austrade has launched its *THRIVE 2030 strategy* for the long-term sustainable growth of the visitor economy. This industry-led and government-enabled initiative aims to return the sector to pre-pandemic visitor spend, to \$166 billion by 2024 with sustainable growth to \$230 billion by 2030. The strategy priorities are to address the challenges created by the pandemic as well as pre-existing structural trends and issues.

The aim is to:

- diversify markets, experiences and destinations
- modernize the visitor economy workforce, infrastructure and business practices
- better collaboration between industry and government, including using quality data and insights.

Additionally, the Australian Governments 2022-2023 budget included initiatives to support the Visitor economy. Direct tourism sector support includes:

- An additional \$75.5 million for a final round of Consumer Travel Support Program
- \$60 million investment to attract more international visitors
- \$2 million for a tourism specific online employment and skills platform
- \$4.8 million for Austrade's Tourism Research Australia (TRA) to provide more data
- One-off 30% increase to the 2022-2023 cap on Working Holiday Maker visas to help tackle workforce shortages

ASQA's new recruits

The Australian Skills Quality Authority has announced the new members of the inaugural National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council (the Advisory Council). The Advisory Council will be supporting ASQA in its best practice regulation of the VET sector role. Members include [Peter Costantini OAM](#) (chair), Valerie Braithwaite (ANU), Renee Hindmarsh (SA Skills Commissioner), Grant Klinkum (NZ Qualifications Authority), Adrienne Nieuwenhuis (Commissioner, TEQSA), Neil Quarmby (public sector management consultant) and Don Zoellner (CDU).

ASQA extends transition period for Fitness

Earlier this month, ASQA announced an extension to the transition period for the SIS30315 Certificate III in Fitness and SIS40215 Certificate IV in Fitness. 'In accordance with the [General Direction – Learner transition](#), ASQA will only consider applications for a longer transition period where it can be demonstrated that there would be genuine disadvantage to a cohort of learners if such an extension was not approved. Where ASQA has approved an extended transition period, that arrangement applies to all RTOs delivering the specific training product to the identified learner cohort, regardless of who made the application. ASQA has recently approved the [extended transition](#) period to 10 May 2023. It was demonstrated to ASQA that learners would be genuinely disadvantaged if they were required to transition to the replacement qualification as the significance of changes would not provide the expected outcomes for existing learners. The SIS30315 Certificate III in Fitness and SIS40215 Certificate IV in Fitness will remain on RTOs scope of registration until the end of the extended transition period unless the RTO chooses to withdraw it from scope prior.'

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements

Don't forget that the Commonwealths Subsidy has been extended to 30 June 2022. Employers can sign up a new apprentice or trainee and have 50% of their wages paid for 12 months up to \$7000 per quarter. You can find out more about the wage subsidy [here](#).

NCVER reports

NCVER has released 2 reports this month that may be of interest. The first is *VET for secondary schools students: a research synthesis*. It reviews research to date and offers insights emerging from this research on the delivery of VET in schools. Highlights from the review include:

- Participation rates remained relatively stable over the last 10 years
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships lead to higher rates of post-school apprenticeships and traineeships or other employment despite the proportion of students undertaking these programs remaining at less than 10% for the last 5 years
- Short-term outcomes of VET programs were positive with 75% of students employed or in further training six to 12 months after completion, medium-term outcomes were positive with 80% of VET students employed or studying four to five years post school
- Concerns over the quality of some programs (particularly those undertaken through third-party or auspice arrangements) and the quality of career advice.

[Click here](#) to view the full research synthesis.

The second report is the *Apprentices and Trainees 2021 September Quarter* report. It shows that apprenticeship and traineeship commencements grew 84% compared to the 2020 September quarter. The last four quarters have show notable annual growth in commencements following the four quarters of decline in 2020. Non-trade commencements showed the strongest growth rising 91.6% while trade commencements rose 74.5%. In NSW there were 107,845 apprentices and trainees in training in the September quarter 2021, up 19% from September 2020. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

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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