

## SkillsIQ NSW ITAB eNews

Issue: August 2022

Welcome to the August issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews. After three in the ITAB role, I have decided it's time to move to another space. I think we'd all agree that the past few years have been particularly challenging, and the future looks even more uncertain. Let's see what the Skills Summit and VET reform delivers as we slide into 2023. Enjoy the ride!

### Training Package Update

- ✓ **SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (Release 2.0)** is live on [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)
- ✓ **SIS Sport, Aquatic and Recreation** Case for Endorsement is currently with State and Territory Authorities for approval. [Click here](#) to view the project page.
- ✓ **SkillsIQ 2022 Industry Summary** consultation period has closed. The finalised reports once available will be published on the SkillsIQ website;  
<https://www.skillsiq.com.au/ResourcesResearchandSubmissions/2022IndustrySummaries>
- ✓ **SIT NSW Vocational Training Orders (VTO)** for Tourism, Travel and Hospitality qualifications are currently being updated. [Click here](#) to view the current VTOs in CIB 688.

### NSW Update

#### Smart and Skilled Update

The August Smart and Skilled Update (174-177) is available and published on the [SkillsIQ NSW ITAB](#) webpage. It includes initiatives under the NSW Government's North Coast Education Flood Recovery Support Package and an update to the Skilling for Recovery qualifications included on the NSW Skills List to hospitality qualifications.

The Education Flood Recovery Support Package includes fee reimbursements for students enrolled or in training during the flood period, fee waivers for new students, and one-off support payments for Smart and Skilled providers delivering training to affected students. The package applies to those students who meet the eligibility requirements and are enrolled with a Smart and Skilled provider for a full qualification under Smart and Skilled.

The updated Skilling for Recovery qualifications in the NSW Skills List now includes an additional 7 SIT qualifications:

- ✓ 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

### **Educational Pathways Program**

**Back in the game** is an initiative under the Education Pathways Program (EPP) aimed at helping young people to re-engage with education, vocational training or finding employment. Back in the game was previously known as Regional VET Pathways. It provides professional support and mentoring for young people aged 15-19 who are disengaged from their education. It provides tailored career guidance with a pathway to education, training or employment through its connections to industry providers and potential employers. It is delivered across 5 regions;

- ❖ Illawarra and surrounds
- ❖ Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley
- ❖ New England and North West
- ❖ North Coast
- ❖ Western and South Western Sydney.

[Back in the game](#) is just one initiative of the EPP. Other initiatives of EPP include;

- ❖ [Innovative careers education](#) with careers immersion teams creating engaging learning opportunities for students, including career events, industry career events, parent and industry engagement

- ❖ [SBAT engagement](#) officers who provide additional support to promote SBAT opportunities, matching students to employers and mentor students, parents and employers during the SBAT journey
- ❖ [Job Readiness](#) (EDGE) workshops that provide interactive activities and practical tips for students to secure their first job, delivered at school with genuine local employers talking to students about opportunities and career pathways
- ❖ [VET Ambassadors](#), NSW Training Awards ambassadors who share their experiences and provide inspiration to students exploring VET pathways by providing talks at school or participating in the Job Readiness workshops
- ❖ [TAFE NSW YES+](#) (Youth Engagement Strategy) which provides vocational tasters to students in a wide range of industries delivered on the local TAFE campus
- ❖ [Apprenticeship and traineeship head start](#) with Group Training Organisations offering fee-free pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship training with work experience with host employer.
- ❖ TAFE NSW early school leavers is a program for those who leave school under 17 years of age which helps to transition students from school into TAFE to complete their schooling.

If you are interested in engaging with the EPP team in your region, [click here](#) for more information.

## National reports and updates

### Jobs + Skills Summit

Ahead of the Australian Government's Jobs + Skills Summit next month, an Issues Paper has been released with 5 broad themes for discussion.

- ✓ Maintaining full employment and growing productivity
- ✓ Boosting job security and wages
- ✓ Lifting participation and reducing barriers to employment
- ✓ Delivering a high-quality labour force through skills, training and migration
- ✓ Maximising opportunities in industries of the future.

The 2-day summit will bring government, employers, unions and other key stakeholders together to discuss the economic challenges and to drive both short- and long-term solutions to the current labour and skills crisis. Expected output from the Summit includes an employment white paper which promises to map a comprehensive blueprint for Australia's future labour market. There will be broader consultation on the White Paper which will help to map out the future for skills and the labour market. Despite the current challenges impacting economic recovery such as labour shortages, rising interest rates, wages stagnation,



disruption to supply chains, fuel costs and global economic instability there are opportunities to maximise opportunities in renewal energy, the care sector, advanced manufacturing and the digital economy. [Click here](#) to read the Issues Paper.

### NCVER

NCVER has released its latest data on apprenticeship and traineeship completions in the *Completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2021* report. The highlights of the report for 2017 commencements include

- All occupations completion rate of 55.7%, down 1.2% from those commencing in 2016 (54.7% in NSW and food trades at 43.3%)
- Trade occupation completion rate of 54%, down 3% from those commencing in 2016
- Non-trade occupation completion rate of 54.2%, up 0.3% from those commencing in 2016

These figures may be impacted by students who may complete their training under than one contract if they change employer or take a break from training. [Click here](#) to see the full report.

NCVER has also released its *Total VET students and courses 2021 data* which indicates that the VET participation rate is up 9% compared to 2020 figures with 4.3 million students enrolled in VET in 2021. This represents 24% of the Australian population aged 15 to 64 participated in VET.

Fee-for-service students increased by 13.1% to 3.2 million and full-year training equivalents increased 15.5% to 448,600. Students enrolled in nationally recognised training increased 4.4% to 2.1million while those enrolled subjects not part of a nationally accredited program increased by 14.7% to 2.7million. Government-funded students increased by 4.5% to 1.4 million and full-year training equivalents increased 11% to 548,500. [Click here](#) to view the full report.

### National Skills Week 2022

The NSW launch of National Skills Week kicked off in Sydney on Tuesday night at Parliament House. SkillsIQ is proud to be a strategic partner of National Skills Week and those of us who attended the event enjoyed the opportunity to engage with industry stakeholders and VET supporters.

National Skills Week 2022 runs from 22 to 28 August and this year's theme is '*A universe of skills: go beyond your imagination*'. Activities are planned around the country including the *Skills & Thrills Parents Showcase*. National Skills Week is a celebration of VET and aims to dispel the myths by showcasing the variety of exciting career opportunities. It champions the success of its ambassadors across a range of

industries and trades. You can follow what's going on around the country by checking out [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and #nationalskillsweek.

### National Skills Week 2022 NSW Launch Parliament House



**(L to R)** The [Hon. Minister Alister Henskens](#) SC MP, and Australian World Skills team members for 2022; Paul Nicolaou, Executive Director at Business Western Sydney; Sarah Rosen SkillsIQ NSW ITAB & Terry Patriarca, ARA R/Manager NSW.

### National Skills Commission

#### Labour market insights – July 2022 Vacancy Report.

The July vacancy report has just been released and shows 3.8% (11,200) decline in job ads for the month. There were 288,500 job advertisements in July representing a 24.5% increase (56,700) in job ads over the year to July and up 71% (120,200) since COVID-19. In NSW job ads dropped 2.6% (2,400 jobs) to 92,800 in the month, which is up 30.8% (21,800 jobs) on July 2021 and up 58.4% (34,200) pre-COVID.

The report is based on the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) which is a monthly count of online job ads compiled by the National Skills Commission. Data is available by occupation, skill level and region. [Click here](#) to access the full report.

### Productivity Commission

**The 5-year Productivity Inquiry** interim report was released earlier this month. “Productivity growth is about harnessing our ingenuity to do more with the resources we already have - working smarter, not harder - and investing in the latest technology and the best ideas.

The Productivity Inquiry focuses on the enablers of productivity growth in a modern, market-based, service-oriented world. This first report provides the broad productivity context for the exploration of productivity-enhancing reforms detailed in a series of forthcoming interim reports.” The final report is due in February 2023. The Commission has warned that ‘our productivity growth (along with our global peers) has slowed in the last two decades and is now increasing at its lowest rate in 60 years.

Improving productivity performance requires overcoming specific challenges such as decarbonising the economy, managing geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions which impact trade and investment. Arguably the biggest challenge lies in the large and growing services sector — ironically so, given an expanding services sector is correlated with rising prosperity — where historically, productivity growth has been relatively hard to achieve.’

“In 2022, ninety percent of Australian workers are employed in the services sector. This has a significant impact on how we think about productivity. We have to look for new opportunities to drive productivity growth, including reviewing our policy levers and the industries where we concentrate our efforts.”

“Nowadays, improvements in service quality and the impact innovative new products and services have on people’s lives matter most. However, the overarching principle of productivity — that we aim to work smarter, not harder or longer — is as important as ever,” Productivity Commission Chair Michael Brennan said.

The Commission has identified four areas of policy focus that best reflect the challenges and opportunities Australia faces and will shortly release interim reports on each of the productivity ‘enablers’ for public consultation. The key enablers of focus are: innovation and diffusion of new processes and ideas; data, digital technology and cyber security; a productivity-friendly business environment; and a skilled and educated workforce.’ [Click here](#) to download the Interim Report. You are also invited to provide feedback through either a submission or brief comment on the website which is open until Friday 7 October 2022.

### **Tourism Research Australia**

**National Visitor Survey Monthly Snapshot - May 2022**, indicates that domestic tourism continues to recover. Australian residents spent \$7.7 billion (up 33% or \$1.9 billion on May 2019) on 9.2 million (down 2%) overnight trips in May well up on pre-pandemic levels. The increase in spend is reflected across all states and territories, shows continued improvement in interstate travel, and increased spending on

accommodation, food and drink, shopping and petrol. Please note that the current figures are compared with the 2019 pre-pandemic figures. Although visitor numbers have not returned to 2019 levels, travelers are spending more on average up \$219 or 35% to \$842 compared to 2019. The 12-month comparison figures to May 2022 are down 28% for overnight visitors nationally with spend down 18%. NSW still has a long way to go with overnight visitors down 36% and spend down 27%. [Click here](#) to see the full report.

If you would like to provide feedback or content please get in touch with Melinda Brown at [nswitab@skillsiq.com.au](mailto:nswitab@skillsiq.com.au).

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