



eNews

Welcome to the July issue of the SkillsIQ NSW eNews, a cold wet month with record rain and flooding. Another record was also set with the release of the national unemployment rate which reached a 50-year low of 3.5%, sparking concerns over further Reserve Bank interest rate hikes. See below for more detail.

Training Package Update

- ✓ **SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (Release 2.0)** is live on www.training.gov.au
- ✓ **SIS Sport, Aquatic and Recreation** Draft 2 Consultation closed Friday, 17 June 2022. The project includes 5 qualifications, 3 skills sets and 45 units of competency. [Click here](#) to view the project page.
- ✓ **Infection Control** Draft 2 Validation closed 15 July. The HLT Health Training Package project includes HLTINF001- Comply with infection prevention and control policies and procedures
HLTINF003- Implement and monitor infection prevention and control policies and procedures. [Click here](#) to view the project page.
- ✓ **SkillsIQ 2022 Industry Summary** drafts have been released for industry feedback. The first tranche includes Wholesale and Retail, Personal Services and First Aid (as well as Ambulance and Paramedic, Community Sector and Development, Complementary Health, Dental and Enrolled Nursing). Please note that feedback for the first tranche **closes 5pm Friday 22 July**. The second tranche includes Sport and Recreation and Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (and Client Services and Local Government). Feedback **closes 5pm Friday 29 July**. The information contained in the Industry Summaries will be provided to the relevant Industry Cluster once established and will be used to supplement their knowledge on industry complexity, identify early engagement opportunities and key issues to be addressed. [Click here](#) to view the draft Industry summaries and advice on how to provide feedback.
- ✓ **SIT NSW Vocational Training Orders (VTO)** are being reviewed to include updated Tourism, Travel and Hospitality qualifications and unit codes, any current changes to awards, regulatory and licensing requirements, as well as any changes to those qualifications to be made available as apprenticeships, traineeships or school-based apprenticeships or traineeships in NSW. [Click here](#) to view the current VTOs in CIB 688. If you have any comments or requests, please send them through to nswitab@skillsiq.com.au.

NSW Update

Smart and Skilled Updates

Two July Smart and Skilled Updates are out and published on the [SkillsIQ NSW ITAB](#) webpage. Update 177, includes seven Hospitality qualifications now included on the **Skilling for Recovery Full Qualification List**:

- SIT20322 CII 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 and
- SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management.

Smart and Skilled Update 170-173 includes the NSW [Skills List update Version 13.1](#) and the Smart and Skilled [Prices and Fees Schedule Version 13.1](#). Version 4.0 of the Smart and Skilled Policy on *Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications* has been released. This program aims to support individuals who have trade or industry experience and would benefit from a trade qualification outside of an apprenticeship. Qualifications include Certificates III in Hairdressing, Barbering, Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House) and Patisserie (as Entitlement Full Qualifications) and Certificates IV in Beauty Therapy and Commercial Cookery (as Targeted Priority Full Qualifications). This is complementary to the [Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers Program](#) which includes Commercial Cookery. New pricing applies from 1 July for Skilling for Recovery (SfR) Priority Part Qualification lists ([Redeployment & Youth](#) and Construction) with a 3.1% CPI increase applied to all listed qualification prices.

Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP)

Are you interested in engaging with schools? Get involved in career sessions to promote jobs and career pathways in your business or industry by connecting with your local RIEP project officer. RIEPs work with local businesses to ease access to schools, facilitate activities where employers can communicate directly with students to promote job and career opportunities and builds capacity for schools and businesses to partner.

Job Readiness workshops:

Employers are invited to participate in Employer Networking sessions for a range of *Job Readiness* workshops being held at schools in Western Sydney as part of the Education Pathways Program. The Education Pathways Program is designed to improve education and career outcomes for students in NSW government high schools by introducing them to a range of vocational training and employment pathways. Additional information can be found [here](#).

The *Job Readiness Workshops* address the gap between student perceptions and employer expectations. Workshop sessions include a focus on employer expectations, interview etiquette and attitude along with

personal presentation and communication. There are also 30-minute Employer Speed Networking sessions, where local employers share their career knowledge with groups of year 10 students to provide valuable, firsthand insights into what employers need for their workforce. If you, or a representative from your organisation, are interested in participating in a Job Readiness workshop at participating Western Sydney schools, please complete the [Expression of Interest](#) form. Your input will support students to participate meaningfully in the local economy and become valuable members of the community.

Winter Skills. There's still time for young learners to enrol in one of 1,500 fee-free short courses available for eligible people wanting to develop new skills. Young people are invited to kick-start their careers while having fun in regional winter hotspots including the Snowy Mountains and wine regions. This is a terrific opportunity to combine skills, jobs and fun with plenty of opportunities in tourism, hospitality, accommodation, recreation, wine tasting and retail. Short courses and Statements of Attainment are available for Food Safety Supervisor, First Aid, Hospitality (Café and Club; Espresso Coffee and Hygienic Practices; Operate a bar, RSA, RGS and Service to Customers; Outdoor Recreation; Outdoor Leadership; Recreation and more. Enrolments are open until the end of September 2022 – subject to availability. [Click here](#) for more information.

National reports and updates

Unemployment rate falls to 3.5% (seasonally adjusted)

Australian Bureau of Statistics released labour statistics on 14 July reporting the lowest unemployment rate since August 1974 when it fell to 2.7%. According to Bjorn Jarvis, head of labour statistics at the ABS, “The large fall in the unemployment rate this month reflects more people than usual entering employment and also lower than usual numbers of employed people becoming unemployed. Together these flows reflect an increasingly tight labour market, with high demand for engaging and retaining workers, as well as ongoing labour shortages.” The fall in unemployment through the pandemic has coincided with large increases in job vacancies (480,000 in May 2022). As a result, there was almost the same number of unemployed people in June 2022 (494,000 people) as vacant jobs. “This equates to around one unemployed person per vacant job (1.0), compared with three times as many people before the start of the pandemic (3.1)”, Mr Jarvis said. There was also strong growth in youth employment increasing by 23,000 people or 1.1%. [Click here](#) to read the full ABS media release.

The ABS has also released its Monthly Household Spending Indicator report for May 2022. It shows positive signs of increased household spending up 7.9% compared to the same time last year. The largest increase was in services spending up 10.2% (largely driven by transport – increased air travel and higher fuel prices). Miscellaneous goods and services rose 12.6%, hotels, cafes and restaurant up 10.3% (though still below the pre-pandemic level) and recreation and culture up 10%. [Click here](#) to access the full report and state by state data.

Jobs and Skills Summit

Announced earlier this month, the Commonwealth Government will be conducting a [Jobs and Skills Summit](#) at Parliament House, Canberra on 1 - 2 September. The purpose of the Summit is to bring together senior ministers with employers, industry groups and unions to address current economic challenges. Paul Zahra CEO of the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) welcomed the announcement of the Summit as an opportunity to address the 40,000 job vacancies in the retail sector alone representing an increase of 40% in just three months. With almost 500,000 job vacancies across the country and near record employment, it's hoped that the Summit will deliver practical measures including a review of employment income thresholds as part of the age pension income test and improving childcare support to increase women's participation in the workforce and address the gender pay gap.

Tourism Research Australia

TRA has released the regional Tourism Satellite Accounts 2020-21. These reports highlight the importance of tourism in each of Australia's 76 tourism regions. This edition captures the severe disruption caused by COVID-19 and highlights the uneven impact across regions and recovery led by intrastate travel. The NSW reports cover Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Central NSW, Hunter, New England, North Coast, Outback, Riverina, Snowy Mountains, South Coast and Sydney. [Click here](#) to view each of the regions data reports which include tourism consumption, employment as well as the regions summary and state summary.

NCVER

The latest report release from NCVER, *Government funded students and courses 2021*, provides a summary of data relating to government funded VET activity delivered in Australia. In 2021, 1.25 million students were enrolled in government-funded VET, an increase of 4.89% on 2020, with a 5% increase of those enrolled in nationally recognised VET training to 1,198,500 students and 98,400 enrolled in non-nationally accredited training. An estimated 7.4% of the Australian resident population aged 15-64 years participated in government funded VET in 2021. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

National Skills Week 2022

There's still time to get involved in National Skills Week, being held 22-28 August with the theme, 'A Universe of Skills: Go Beyond Your Imagination.' This week-long event is dedicated to raising the profile and status of vocational learning, dispelling outdated myths and raising awareness of the myriad rewarding, lucrative and prestigious careers available. The challenge is to provide potential students, parents and carers with clear information on possible career pathways, training options, emerging new skills areas and VET courses.

To get involved, you can register your event on the National Skills Week website so others can attend. You can showcase your organisation or industry by championing the career paths and opportunities available through vocational education and training. You can engage with your local school or training organisation to hold an event to promote vocational education through pathways, apprenticeships, traineeships, school-based programs and share inspiring stories. You can even get the media involved in your event.

Email info@nationalskillsweek.com.au for ideas and resources that may help you or you can conduct a social media campaign during the week to highlight skills and training in your organisation and profile your people. Check out Facebook and Instagram #nationalskillsweek for more ideas.

If you would like to provide feedback, please email nswitab@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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