

Smart and Skilled

SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 286

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1. UPDATE FOR NSW FEE FREE PROGRAMS (JULY – DECEMBER 2026)

a. NSW Fee Free waivers closing soon

The department is pleased to advise that there has been strong take up of NSW Fee Free places in recent weeks and waivers will close soon. NSW Fee Free and NSW Fee Free Construction enrolments for independent providers will close **effective 5pm Friday 18 September 2026**.

This means that **NSW Fee Free waivers W787, W788 and W789** and **NSW Fee Free Construction waivers W790, W791 and W792** (July – December 2026) will not be available for enrolments which are notified after that time for NSW Fee Free Tranche 2 and NSW Fee Free Construction full qualifications for Semester 2.

b. Current NSW Fee Free arrangements end in 2026

Semester 2 is the final semester for enrolments in NSW Fee Free under the current agreement between the Australian and NSW Governments.

Negotiations between the Australian and NSW Governments are progressing on Free TAFE arrangements from 2027. Further information will be provided in the coming months.

2. ACCESS FREE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WOMEN IN TRADES

Free [women in trades program resources](#) are available to support both:

- women apprentices and trainees
- employers, including those who employ women apprentices and trainees

Share the following information with women in trades – such as students, apprentices, trainees – and their employers to help create inclusive workplaces.

Apprentices and trainees

- Visit the [support for women apprentices and trainees](#) webpage
- [Register to connect with an industry mentor](#)
- [Access one-on-one support](#)

Employers

- [Visit supporting women in trades](#)
- [Register for supervisor training](#)

For more information

- Visit [Women in trades webpage](#)
- Email WITsupport@det.nsw.edu.au

Unless otherwise directed in the information above, please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps and programs/initiatives to your Regional Provider Support Manager.

Please contact Training Services Customer Service & Operations at TSCust.Service@det.nsw.edu.au for:

- technical support with issues such as system/information access and functionality and reporting
- further information for students or employers (unless otherwise directed).

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled Providers only.