

Smart and Skilled

SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 288

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Contents

1. 2026-27 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Program is now open	1
a. Changes to 2026-27 TPPPQ Program – What you need to know	1
b. Funding priorities	2
c. Smart and Skilled TPPPQ Policy and Operating Guidelines updates	3
d. Training Services regional office contact and consultation	4

1. 2026-27 SMART AND SKILLED TARGETED PRIORITIES PREVOCATIONAL AND PART QUALIFICATIONS PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN

Training Services is pleased to advise Minister Whan has announced the opening of the 2026–27 Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ) Program.

Smart and Skilled providers are now invited to commence negotiations with Training Services regional office(s) regarding part qualification training, and where agreed, can also submit Training Needs Identification (TNI) applications to request funding for the delivery of part qualifications.

a. Changes to 2026-27 TPPPQ Program – What you need to know

To better align the TPPPQ Program with NSW workforce and industry needs, access to funded part qualifications has been expanded to support the following objectives:

- **Supporting small business workforce:** Increase participation by existing workers employed in small businesses across NSW to strengthen workforce capability, support business growth and enhance employment opportunities.

For the purposes of the TPPPQ Program, a small business is defined in accordance with the NSW Small Business Commissioner's definition: A small business is defined as an actively trading, unincorporated or incorporated business that employs less than 20 people.

For this cohort, please select “Small Business Existing Worker” as the TNI target group. Please also refer to the latest *Smart and Skilled Training Need Identification User Guide* found on STS Online for additional information.

- **Build capability in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies:** Strengthen workforce capability in AI and emerging technologies by supporting the development of future-focused skills, enhancing workforce adaptability and enabling industry to respond to technological change and emerging opportunities.

The department has received feedback that in some circumstances, training may need to extend into June and/or commence in one Activity Period and conclude in the following Activity Period.

In response to this feedback, there is now an opportunity to negotiate training delivery across these periods, which will provide greater flexibility to accommodate the needs of learners, training providers and industry.

b. Funding priorities

Training Services regional offices will continue to give priority to TNI requests targeting the identified industries and sectors in the table below.

Critical Skills Areas identified in the NSW Skills Plan 2024-28 are shown in the 'Across All NSW Regions' priority industries. Region-specific priority industries are also listed.

These industry priorities apply to TNI applications for part-qualification funding for both priority students and eligible existing worker cohorts.

Regions	Priorities
Across All NSW Regions	Care Sector: Early Childhood Education and Care, Aged Care, and Disability Care Construction (housing and infrastructure) Digital and cyber Agriculture and agrifood Advanced manufacturing Net Zero and energy transition
Central & Northern Sydney	Health and Community Services Finance and Insurance Engineering/Defence
Hunter & Central Coast	Hospitality/Tourism Mining Engineering/Defence
Illawarra & South-East	Health and Community Services Maritime Transport & Logistics (excluding Driver Training) Aero Skills
New England	Health and Community Services
North Coast & Mid North Coast	Creative industries Health and Community Services Transport and Logistics/ Warehousing (excluding Driver Training) Hospitality/Tourism
Riverina	Health and Community Services Transport and Logistics/Warehousing (excluding Driver Training)

Regions	Priorities
Southern & South- Western Sydney	Health and Community Services Transport and Logistics/Warehousing (excluding Driver Training) Engineering Aviation (Ground Operations & Service)
Western NSW	Health and Community Services Mining
Western Sydney & Blue Mountains	Health and Community Services Automotive

c. Smart and Skilled TPPPQ Policy and Operating Guidelines updates

Key updates to the *Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Policy* and *Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Operating Guidelines* to support the above strategic objectives are listed in the following tables.

Summary of changes to 2026-2027 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Policy

Clause	Heading	Change
1.1	General Information	New paragraphs added regarding eligibility for small business employees and AI skills capability
3.1	Provider Eligibility	Updated Clause
4.3	Identifying Training Need	Revised Clause
4.4	Priority Cohort	Revised Clause
4.8	Training enrolment period on Provider Activity Schedule	Revised Clause
5.7	Letters of support	Revised Clause

Summary of changes to 2026-2027 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications Operating Guidelines

Section	Heading	Change
3.3	Assessing Identified Need	Revised Clause
3.6.2	Maximum number of students	Revised Clause
3.8	Intended Outcomes	Updated Clause
3.9	Supporting evidence	Revised Clause
4.1	Third party (Brokering Approval) arrangements	Email address updated
4.2	Dates of training	Revised Clause

Section	Heading	Change
4.3	Selecting UoCs	Revised Clause
4.3.2	LRRM UoCs	Revised Clause
6.1.1	UoC	Checklist updated
6.1.4	Training Date Information	Checklist updated
6.1.5	Supporting Information	Checklist updated

The following program documents are attached to this update:

- *2026-2027 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualification Policy*
- *2026-2027 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualification Program Funding Priorities.*
- *2026-2027 Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualification Operating Guidelines*

The attached documents will also be available on STS Online.

d. Training Services regional office contact and consultation

It is strongly recommended providers consult with the appropriate Training Services regional office prior to submitting a TNI application. This proactive engagement ensures:

- the proposed training aligns with the specific needs and priorities of the region where the TNI application is being submitted, and.
- the TNI application includes all necessary information, thereby streamlining the assessment process.

Please note: Approval of TNI applications is not guaranteed. All funding decisions remain at the discretion of the department.

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.