Smart and Skilled

SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 291 9 November 2026

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1. NSW FEE FREE ARRANGEMENTS – JANUARY TO JUNE 2027

Further to Smart and Skilled Update No. 289 advising that NSW had signed up to the new 5-year Free TAFE National Agreement, the department is pleased to provide the implementation details for NSW Fee Free Semester 1 2027.

NSW Fee Free (NFF) places for students commencing subsidised training in Semester 1, 2027 (January – June 2027) open for enrolments at 8am on Monday 9 November 2026.

Fee-free places are available in qualifications that support either shared national-NSW or NSW-specific priority industries and cohorts.

Enrolled students with a Semester 1, 2027 NSW Fee Free fee waiver must commence training on or after **1 January 2027 and before 30 June 2027.**

Details of the arrangements for commencements from 1 January 2027 to 30 June 2027 are outlined below.

a. NSW Fee Free course list

The qualifications available for the period of January to June 2027 under these arrangements are listed in **Appendix 1** of this update, as well as on the latest NSW Skills List.

The qualifications are tagged as "**NFF Jan-Jun 2027**" on the NSW Skills List. The latest information on the NSW Skills List is also included in this Smart and Skilled Update.

b. Places are limited and students must be advised that places are subject to availability

Providers may inform students that they could be eligible for a NSW Fee Free training place. However, eligibility is subject to the relevant criteria and the availability of funded places.

Providers must not guarantee or promise a student a Fee Free place until the fee waiver has been successfully applied through the Notification of Enrolment (NoE) process.

A student's Fee Free place can only be confirmed once the provider has completed the NoE through STS Online and a Commitment ID (CID) has been generated, confirming that the student has secured a Fee Free place.

Given demand for fee-free places may exceed the available places, providers are encouraged to promote equitable access by applying a limit on the number of NSW Fee Free places an individual student can access with the provider.

c. Combined NSW Fee Free and Eligibility Waiver for students receiving the HSC School Student eligibility exemption

Further to Smart and Skilled Update No. 290 (4 November 2026), the updated version of the *Smart and Skilled Student Eligibility Policy (Released November 2026)* provides an eligibility exemption for Year 12 students to enrol in Smart and Skilled training prior to completing the HSC, where the subsidised training commences after the HSC examination period.

As only one waiver can be applied to each enrolment notified to the department, a combined NSW Fee Free and Year 12 HSC Eligibility Waiver has been established for students covered by the eligibility exemption outlined in Smart and Skilled Update 290.

d. NSW Fee Free January to June 2027 Waivers

Enrolment/CID Creation	Commencement of Training	Select Relevant Waiver
Enrolment/CID Creation can commence from the date of this update	01/01/2027 – 30/06/2027	**W861**: NFF Jan-Jun 2027 – General **W801 -** NFF including Year 12 HSC School Students Eligibility Waiver

e. Smart and Skilled Trade Related Qualifications Policy applies to NSW Fee Free eligible courses

Providers are reminded to comply with the *Smart and Skilled Trade-Related Qualifications Policy V5.2* (the Trade-Related Policy). Qualifications covered by the Trade-Related Policy are listed on the NSW Skills List, marked with a “T” for Trade Related in the “Additional Arrangements” column.

The policy continues to apply when a qualification is covered by NSW Fee Free.

Students must meet the additional eligibility requirements including prior industry experience set out in the policy.

Therefore, these specific qualifications are unlikely to be suitable for recent school leavers.

f. NSW Fee Free Waivers Checklist

Complete the following steps when applying for an NSW Fee Free waiver:

- ☐ Check the qualification is tagged as "**NFF Jan-Jun 2027**" on the NSW Skills List.
- ☐ Ensure enrolments in NFF qualifications also tagged "T" comply with the Trade-Related Policy
- ☐ Check the waiver table above for the relevant waiver code.
- ☐ Select the appropriate waiver code when undertaking the Notification of Enrolment.
- ☐ Select the appropriate Year 12 HSC School Student waiver for this student cohort – this is an eligibility and fee waiver.

Note:

The Notification of Enrolment confirmation which shows the CID will indicate whether the student is fee free. Once you have this confirmation, you can advise the student they are eligible for a NSW Fee Free place.

Training cannot start prior to 1 January 2027.

g. Further information on NSW Fee Free

If you have any questions regarding NSW Fee Free, please contact your Regional Provider Support Manager.

2. NSW SKILLS LIST UPDATED – VERSION 17.2

The NSW Skills List has been updated to include:

- Changes to NSW Fee Free tags to reflect the new arrangements to be implemented from 1 January 2027.
- Updates to Training Packages
- Updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs).

Version 17.2 of the NSW Skills List is now available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/nsw-skills-list.

a. Details of updates to the NSW Skills List due to Training Package revisions

Updates have been made due to revisions to the following five Training Packages:

- Aviation
- Automotive Repair Service and Retail
- Construction Plumbing and Services
- Health
- Resources and Infrastructure.

Qualifications that have been updated due to Training Package revisions are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Qualifications updated due to Training Package updates

Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Current title
CPC30220	Certificate III in Carpentry	CPC30326	Certificate III in Carpentry
RII30820	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations	RII30826	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations
RII30920	Certificate III in Civil Construction	RII30926	Certificate III in Civil Construction
AVI30419	Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot)	AVI30426	Certificate III in Aviation Remote Piloting
HLT37015	Certificate III in Sterilisation Services	HLT37026	Certificate III in Sterilisation Services

b. VTO changes affecting the NSW Skills List

Following updates to NSW VTOs, the following superseding qualifications can now be delivered under apprenticeship and traineeship pathways under Smart and Skilled. These qualifications are shown in **Table 2a** below.

Table 2a: VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications with pathway added

Qualification code	Qualification name	Current available pathway(s)
RII40426	Certificate IV in Underground Coal Operations	Traineeship
RII40226	Certificate IV in Surface Coal Mining (Open Cut Examiner)	Traineeship
AUR21926	Certificate II in Automotive Tyre Servicing Technology	Traineeship and School Based Traineeship
AUR32126	Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology	Apprenticeship and School Based Apprenticeship
RII30826	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations	Apprenticeship
RII30926	Certificate III in Civil Construction	Apprenticeship and Traineeship

Following updates to NSW VTOs, the following qualification outlined in **Table 2b** has had its pathway removed or deleted.

Table 2b: VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications with pathway removed or deleted

Qualification code	Qualification name	Pathway removed or deleted
SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management	Apprenticeship

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.

Appendix 1: NSW Fee Free TAFE Course list

Code	Title
11120NAT	Certificate III in Mentoring Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People
22603VIC	Certificate IV in Cyber Security
ACM30821	Certificate III in Horse Care
ACM40818	Certificate IV in Farriery
AHC20122	Certificate II in Agriculture
AHC21325	Certificate II in Shearing
AHC21425	Certificate II in Wool Handling
AHC30122	Certificate III in Agriculture
AHC30224	Certificate III in Dairy Production
AHC30921	Certificate III in Landscape Construction
AHC32424	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology
AHC32925	Certificate III in Shearing
AHC33822	Certificate III in Permaculture
AHC40122	Certificate IV in Agriculture
AHC41024	Certificate IV in Agribusiness
AHC41316	Certificate IV in Wool Classing
AHC41325	Certificate IV in Wool Classing
AHC50122	Diploma of Agriculture
AHC50621	Diploma of Landscape Design
AHC51422	Diploma of Agribusiness Management
AUR20220	Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology
AUR20420	Certificate II in Automotive Electrical Technology
AUR20520	Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technology
BSB40320	Certificate IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business
BSB41419	Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety
CHC30125	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
CHC30221	Certificate III in School Based Education Support
CHC32015	Certificate III in Community Services
CHC33021	Certificate III in Individual Support
CHC40225	Certificate IV in School Based Education Support
CHC40421	Certificate IV in Youth Work
CHC40521	Certificate IV in Youth Justice
CHC42021	Certificate IV in Community Services
CHC42221	Certificate IV in Housing
CHC43015	Certificate IV in Ageing Support

Code	Title
CHC43121	Certificate IV in Disability Support
CHC43215	Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs
CHC43315	Certificate IV in Mental Health
CHC43415	Certificate IV in Leisure and Health
CHC43515	Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work
CHC50125	Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care
CHC50225	Diploma of School Age Education and Care
CHC50325	Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention
CHC50425	Diploma of Youth Work
CHC51015	Diploma of Counselling
CHC52025	Diploma of Community Services
CHC53215	Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs
CHC53315	Diploma of Mental Health
CPC20120	Certificate II in Construction
CPC20220	Certificate II in Construction Pathways
CPC30220	Certificate III in Carpentry
CPC30320	Certificate III in Concreting
CPC30326	Certificate III in Carpentry
CPC30420	Certificate III in Demolition
CPC30426	Certificate III in Demolition
CPC30620	Certificate III in Painting and Decorating
CPC30720	Certificate III in Rigging
CPC30820	Certificate III in Roof Tiling
CPC30920	Certificate III in Scaffolding
CPC31120	Certificate III in Steelfixing
CPC31220	Certificate III in Wall and Ceiling Lining
CPC31320	Certificate III in Wall and Floor Tiling
CPC31420	Certificate III in Construction Waterproofing
CPC31920	Certificate III in Joinery
CPC32320	Certificate III in Stonemasonry
CPC32420	Certificate III in Plumbing
CPC32620	Certificate III in Roof Plumbing
CPC32720	Certificate III in Gas Fitting
CPC32820	Certificate III in Fire Protection
CPC32920	Certificate III in Construction Crane Operations
CPC33020	Certificate III in Bricklaying and Blocklaying

Code	Title
CPC40120	Certificate IV in Building and Construction
CPC40920	Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services
CPC50220	Diploma of Building and Construction (Building)
CPC60220	Advanced Diploma of Building and Construction (Management)
CPP30221	Certificate III in Surveying and Spatial Information Services
CPP30226	Certificate III in Surveying and Spatial Information Services
CPP40121	Certificate IV in Residential Drafting
CPP41126	Certificate IV in Home Energy Efficiency and Sustainability
CPP41721	Certificate IV in Surveying and Spatial Information Services
CPP50121	Diploma of Surveying
CPP50221	Diploma of Spatial Information Services
CPP50921	Diploma of Building Design
CUA30425	Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services
CUA31020	Certificate III in Screen and Media
FBP20221	Certificate II in Baking
FBP30121	Certificate III in Food Processing
HLT20121	Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT23221	Certificate II in Health Support Services
HLT30121	Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT33021	Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
HLT33115	Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
HLT35021	Certificate III Dental Assisting
HLT37015	Certificate III in Sterilisation Services
HLT37525	Certificate III in Pathology
HLT40121	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT40221	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice
HLT43021	Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance
HLT54121	Diploma of Nursing
ICT20120	Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies
ICT30120	Certificate III in Information Technology
ICT50220	Diploma of Information Technology
MEA20418	Certificate II in Aeroskills
MEA20518	Certificate II in Aircraft Line Maintenance
MEA40618	Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Avionics)
MEA40718	Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Mechanical)

Code	Title
MEA41322	Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Structures)
MEM20105	Certificate II in Engineering
MEM20422	Certificate II in Engineering Pathways
MEM30219	Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade
MEM30522	Certificate III in Engineering - Technical
MEM30719	Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction
MEM40422	Certificate IV in Engineering Drafting
MEM50822	Diploma of Applied Technologies
MSF30422	Certificate III in Glass and Glazing
MSF30822	Certificate III in Flooring Technology
MST31022	Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
NWP20122	Certificate II in Water Industry Operations
NWP30222	Certificate III in Water Industry Operations
NWP40120	Certificate IV in Water Industry Operations
NWP50118	Diploma of Water Industry Operations
NWP50126	Diploma of Water Industry Operations
RGR30619	Certificate III in Horse Breeding
RII30820	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations
RII30826	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations
RII30920	Certificate III in Civil Construction
RII30926	Certificate III in Civil Construction
RII40820	Certificate IV in Civil Construction Design
RII50520	Diploma of Civil Construction Design
RII60520	Advanced Diploma of Civil Construction Design
SIS20419	Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation
SIS30619	Certificate III in Outdoor Leadership
SIS40621	Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership
SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality
SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery
SIT30125	Certificate III in Tourism
SIT30222	Certificate III in Travel
SIT30322	Certificate III in Guiding
SIT31021	Certificate III in Patisserie
TAE40122	Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
TAE50122	Diploma of Vocational Education and Training
UEE22025	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)

Code	Title
UEE30820	Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
UEE32225	Certificate III in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
UEE33020	Certificate III in Electrical Fitting
UEE40920	Certificate IV in Industrial Electronics and Control
UEE62220	Advanced Diploma of Electrical - Engineering
UEP40622	Certificate IV in Wind Power Generation
UET30521	Certificate III in ESI - Transmission Overhead
UET30821	Certificate III in ESI - Distribution Underground