



MSW
PUBLIC SECTOR
INDUSTRY TRAINING ADVISORY BODY

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For more news and information please visit the Public Sector [ITAB webpage](#).

Programs to support employing apprentices or trainees

Training Services NSW offers a range of programs to help employers recruit new apprentices or trainees to grow business. These include school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, support for Aboriginal staff and business, and opportunities employing people with disabilities.

Employing school-based apprentices and trainees: Employing a school-based apprentice or trainee can help build the future workforce and involves:

- formal training by a Registered Training Organisation
- school attendance
- part-time or one day a week in paid employment.

Years 10, 11 and 12 high school students can be part of this program.

For details see [For employers – School-based apprenticeships and traineeships - Skills NSW](#)

Employing Aboriginal apprentices or trainees: There are some great opportunities to employ and upskill Aboriginal apprentices or trainees.

Barrangirra - Skilling for Employment provides end-to-end support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners. The program helps build stronger links for Aboriginal people and finds employment and training opportunities in NSW.

For more information see [Barrangirra - Skilling for Employment Initiative](#)

Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS): When taking on an eligible apprentice or trainee with disability, employers may also be entitled to [DAAWS](#). DAAWS is a Commonwealth-funded wage subsidy for employers.

For more information [search Apprenticeship Network Providers](#) (ANP) who can provide advice on the eligibility criteria and assist with paperwork.

Fee free training places offer a career taster

The Training Services NSW Summer Skills program has been designed specifically with school leavers in mind. It offers fee-free, industry aligned short courses for young people aged between 16-24 who have left school and want to learn new skills that will go towards a future career.

A range of courses and locations are available covering a number of vibrant growth sectors including early childhood education, care sectors, trades, hospitality, agriculture, construction, business, fitness, digital literacy and more. Enrolments are open but there are limited places available so explore the courses available on the [Skills NSW website](#).

Key information and dates:

- A mix of online and face to face training opportunities are available across NSW
- Some training will be region specific, creating skilling up opportunities relevant to those areas of NSW, assisting school leavers in finding work and also supporting local industry and employer needs
- Contact the training provider for information on when and how you can enrol and course commencement and completion dates
- New courses will be added regularly

NSW regional apprentices and uni students can access \$250 travel card

Apprentices and university students in regional NSW will be eligible for a new \$250 travel card to help with the cost of the commute to work, training or university.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said apprentices and university students in the bush often need to travel long distances for work or between training, classes and practical learning.

The prepaid debit card can be used for taxi trips, fuel, Opal card top ups, public transport, privately-operated coaches, and electric charging stations.

Find out more about the transport concession card on the [Service NSW website](#).

2023-24 Smart and Skilled application process open

The Smart and Skilled application process opened on 1 November 2022 and will determine which registered training organisations (RTOs) are suitable for a Smart and Skilled contract and allocations for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Smart and Skilled application process will ensure that Smart and Skilled providers deliver the best possible offerings to the market and meet industry needs. Through the Smart and Skilled application process RTOs have an opportunity to continue in, or enter for the first time, the NSW government-subsidised vocational education and training market.

Applications will be conducted through the new Smart and Skilled application portal and will require RTOs to provide information around eligibility, operational structure of the RTO, quality of training provision and additional information around assessment practices and innovative approaches to training.

Further information about the Smart and Skilled application process is available on the Department's [Smart and Skilled website](#). More information will be added to this page as and when it is available.

Training Services NSW aims to advise RTOs of the outcome of the Smart and Skilled application process and awarding of contracts in April 2023.

Jobs and Skills Australia bill passes parliament

The new agency Jobs and Skills Australia is set to commence after the JSA legislation passed the parliament last week.

The recent federal budget provided \$12.9 million to establish the agency and start on the work of identifying demand for jobs and skills.

The Minister for Skills and Training Brendan O'Connor said the interim JSA will build on the important work of the National Skills Commission, replacing it a week after royal assent. It will continue to provide advice to government and publish data and other information, including on Australia's current and emerging labour market, future skills and training needs and priorities, and the adequacy of the vocational education and training system.

One of JSA's first tasks will be the preparation of a capacity study into Australia's clean energy workforce. The budget allocated \$1.9 million for this work. The agency will also lead the development and delivery of a \$12 million new National Study on Adult Literacy, Numeracy, and Digital Literacy Skills.

To subscribe to the Jobs and Skills Australia newsletter, visit jobsandskills.gov.au.

New education model brings together best of VET, industry and higher education

A partnership between TAFE NSW and the NSW Department of Education will see the delivery of two pilots of the Institute of Applied Technology (IAT) focused on critical and emerging skills:

- Institute of Applied Technology for Digital Technology at Meadowbank
- Institute of Applied Technology for Construction at Kingswood/Nepean

The new institute is in response to the [Gonski-Shergold review](#) into the vocational education and training sector. The review was commissioned by the NSW Government, with the Institute of Applied Technology one of five key recommendations of the review.

The IAT delivers relevant, current and transferable qualifications and skills matched to current and future workforce needs. Students will have access to stackable Microskills and Microcredentials, which are recognised by our education partners. This new and innovative education model will enable seamless student journeys – blending the best of higher education and vocational education with industry collaboration.

Each institute will have a keynote industry partner working alongside TAFE NSW and universities to build exciting curriculum that includes masterclasses and Microcredentials, incorporating cutting edge technology and industry leading tutors. Microsoft is the lead industry partner for IAT Digital. The lead industry partner for IAT Construction will be announced shortly.

[Explore courses at the Institute of Applied Technology.](#)

Apply for the Return to Work program – Phase 3

The NSW Return to Work Program is for women who have been unemployed for one month or more and intend to return to work within 6 months.

As part of the program, one-off grants of up to \$5,000 will be made available to eligible women to purchase approved goods and services such as:

- education and training
- support material for courses
- work necessities such as specialist clothing, equipment, IT
- transportation costs
- childcare/respite.

Funding is limited and priority will be given to eligible:

- First Nations women
- women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- women living in regional, rural and remote areas (beyond Greater Sydney)
- women living with disability
- women who are refugees
- women over 50 years of age
- young women leaving out-of-home care
- women who are carers (provide care to another person who lives with a disability, medical condition, mental illness, or is frail and aged)
- women who are victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

All successful applicants will be supported by their own Return to Work coordinator who will help them develop their [Return to Work plan – Phase 3.](#)

For more detailed information on the program visit the Return to Work Phase 3:

- [Guidelines](#)
- [Privacy Collection Notice](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)

Release of the draft revised RTO Standards for consultation

The draft revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTO Standards) were released for public consultation on 2 November 2023 by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

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We encourage all providers and stakeholders to participate in the consultation process to ensure the draft revised RTO Standards are fit-for-purpose and effective in meeting the needs of the VET sector.

You can participate in the consultation process by:

1. reading the consultation paper and supporting resources found on [DEWR's quality reforms webpage](#)
2. providing written feedback using the online survey tool by 31 January 2023
3. participating in one of DEWR's face to face or online forums.

Learn more about how to [have your say about the draft revised RTO Standards](#).

ASQA to no longer take on quality assurance function

The Australian Government has decided (in consultation with states and territories) that the Training Package Assurance function will not transition to the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). Instead, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will establish an independent Training Package Assurance function to ensure training products meet national standards. The department will commence undertaking training product assurance from 1 January 2023. This will help drive continuous improvement in training product development and ensure high quality training products are delivered to users of the VET system.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is well placed to undertake the Training Package Assurance function due to the collaboration to date with ASQA to establish this function. ASQA will continue its role providing best practice regulation and advice to VET sector stakeholders.

You can find out more about the Skills Reform Training Package Assurance function on the [DEWR website](#)

Refugees and VET

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) defines refugees as people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. The UNHCR has estimated that there are more than 27.1 million refugees in the world - the highest number ever seen.

The latest VOCEDplus '[Focus on](#)' outlines the role VET plays in helping refugees and displaced persons integrate into their new communities. It also discusses the barriers and obstacles refugees face and the potential role of technology to improve access to VET and deliver innovative educational solutions.

The current conflict in Ukraine is also highlighted. In April 2022, the United Nations called the Ukraine refugee crisis 'the fastest and largest displacement of people in Europe since World War II'. The 'Focus on' includes information about initiatives aimed at supporting Ukrainian refugees continue with their VET studies and/or develop skills to contribute to the reconstruction of Ukraine when the conflict ends.

The VOCEDplus 'Focus on' series provides an up to date 'snapshot' of research on topical issues in the tertiary education sector. It includes research analysis, policy, commentary, multimedia and statistics that introduce the topic and provide a guide to key resources.

ply issues in the water operations industry and offers directions for further investigation and action.

Further information on DPE's activity as part of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program including their Draft Action Plan can be accessed [here](#).

Local Government NSW declares a Statewide Roads Emergency

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has declared a Statewide Roads Emergency as NSW mayors and councillors join their interstate colleagues at the National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Hobart.

The declaration – and urgent call for the NSW and Federal Governments to increase their existing road funding commitments in the wake of this year’s catastrophic floods - was unanimously supported by NSW mayors and councillors attending the congress.

Successive floods and torrential rain events, coupled with chronic funding constraints, has caused \$2.5 billion in road damages and caused a collapse of the local and regional road network. LGNSW President Cr Darriea Turley AM warned that without additional funding, the economic and social harm caused by this emergency would only get worse. “More than 220 natural disaster areas have been declared across NSW this year, leaving the road network in a state of disrepair,” Cr Turley said.

As part of the Statewide Roads Emergency, LGNSW is calling for:

- An acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges program
- A boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network
- New funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs.

“NSW communities are facing an unprecedented disaster which requires an unprecedented response,” Cr Turley said.

Read the full article [here](#).

Recent Training Package Activity in Public Sector Industries

PSP Public Sector Training Package

- Translating and Interpreting

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [PSP Training Package project](#) page.

LGA Local Government Training Package

No current activity

View the [LGA Training Package](#) projects.

PUA Public Safety Training Package

- National Recovery Training Program

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [National Recovery Training Program project](#) page.

- Emergency Management

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [Emergency Management project](#) page.

- Fire

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [Fire project](#) page.

DEF Defence Training Package

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is now published on training.gov.au

View the [Public Safety Training Package projects](#) page.

CSC Correctional Services Training Package

- Correctional Practice

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [CSC Correctional Practice project](#) page.

NWP National Water Training Package

- Flood Site Operations
- Water Network Maintenance

This project is endorsed by the AISC and is awaiting publication

View the [NWP project](#) page.



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