

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

3 May 2021

In this newsletter:

- [Meet the NSW ITAB Team](#)
- [Engagement Activities](#)
- [Smart and Skilled Update](#)
- [NSW VET Sector Review](#)
- [NSW Skills List Update](#)
- [NSW Grants, Opportunities & Scholarships](#)
- [Apprentice and Trainee Data for September 2020 Quarter](#)
- [Australian Skills Classification](#)
- [National Training Package Projects](#)

Welcome to the first news update by the NSW Agriculture, Food and Animal Management (AFAM) Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB).

This newsletter will share information and opportunities related to skills and vocational education, training (VET) matters in NSW, including news about the Smart and Skilled program.

We are committed (and contracted) to working with the following industries to understand and communicate their VET needs and challenges.

- Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management
- Animal Care and Management
- Meat Processing (Supported by [MINTRAC](#))
- Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical
- Racing and Breeding
- Seafood

AFAM collaborates with Skills Impact to work with these industries in NSW. Our NSW based team will provide advice to the NSW Government on NSW specific training and skill needs, based on the industry and RTO feedback we gather.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have indicated to Skills Impact your interest to receive news about one or more of the industries listed above and you are based in NSW. Please feel welcome to pass this newsletter on to your colleagues. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future, please feel welcome to [unsubscribe](#).

Meet the NSW ITAB Team

Ben Norton Smith, Executive Officer

Ben brings almost a decade of experience working in the agricultural industry to his role with AFAM ITAB NSW. Originally from the UK, Ben was brought up on a country property and has a background in farm consultancy, agricultural development and agricultural research. His previous roles have included Consultant for Pacific Fertiliser in Australia, National Development Manager at Timac Agro in the UK, Farm Consultant and agricultural research with Reading and Cambridge Universities. He now calls NSW his home. Alongside his role as Executive Officer with AFAM ITAB NSW, Ben also holds the position of Education and Careers Officer with the National Farmers' Federation, working with education and training policy at a national level. Ben is passionate about creating and promoting opportunities for personal career and skills development in agriculture and related industries. Ben holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Agricultural Business Management and is a member of the Institute of Agricultural Management.



Jess Cleary, Industry Engagement Officer

Jess brings widespread experience managing and supporting stakeholders and committees to her role at AFAM ITAB NSW. With over 9 years' experience working for professional and industry associations, her background includes membership management, governance, project management, marketing and events. Jess is committed to supporting industry develop the skills of its workforce. Her previous roles have included Corporate Development Officer for the British Medical Association, Senior Membership and Events Officer for the Australian Medical Association, Content Manager for the Associations Forum and Events & Membership Officer for the Associations Forum. Jess holds a Bachelor of Business.



Engagement Activities

Ben and Jess have been busy establishing the NSW operations for the AFAM ITAB and organising the Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs). The ITACs will meet for the first time in April and May, with future engagement activities following these initial meetings. The four ITACs represent:

- Agriculture and production horticulture
- Amenity horticulture, landscaping, and conservation and land management
- Animal care and management
- Food, beverage and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The racing and breeding, seafood and meat processing industries will be engaged through the existing and well-established networks that these industries already have in place in NSW. We will be working with industry participants to ensure regular engagement with these industries, as well as ensuring representation at future Regional Roundtables.

The team have met with a representative of the seafood Industry to start establishing channels for engagement with this industry. They have also participated in meetings with the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee which provides updates and advice to funded training and skills issues in the agricultural sector and engaged with the Primary Industries Curriculum Implementation Committee and Training Services NSW.

The inaugural Animal Care and Management ITAC meeting was held on 28 April, bringing together animal care and management experts to discuss skills development and training needs in NSW. The committee raised awareness of a host of topics that the AFAM ITAB can participate and support going forward.

Please contact Ben Norton Smith, our NSW ITAB Executive Officer, if you would like further information or you wish to be involved.

Phone: 0414 683 547

Email: bnortonsmith@skillsimpact.com.au

Smart & Skilled Update

Smart and Skilled is a program of the NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. It is helping people in NSW get the skills they need to find a job and advance their careers.

Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with:

- an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III
- government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas.

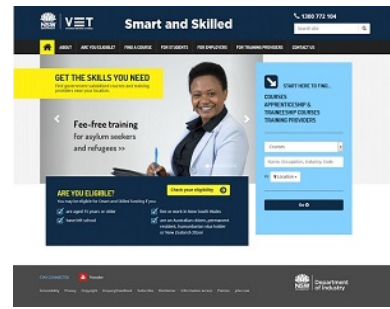
Eligibility:

Eligible students are:

- 15 years old or over, and
- no longer at school, and
- living or working in NSW (or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person living in specific NSW border areas), and
- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, Australian humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen

or

- a NSW apprentice or trainee.



For RTOs, if a student meets the eligibility requirements you are a provider of the program. By enrolling the student, you are able to also offer them the Skilling for Recovery fee-free training (see below).

Further information, contact Training Market Customer Support at Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au or visit the [Smart and Skilled website](#).

Skilling for Recovery – Job Trainer Program

This program was announced in November last year and is the NSW program supported by the Australian Government’s JobTrainer Fund. Skilling for Recovery has now been extended until June 2022.

Skilling for Recovery offers fee-free and low-fee training options for school leavers, young people and job seekers.

The NSW Government is partnering with industry, vocational education and training providers, and the Australian Government to make vocational training and skills development across NSW easier and more accessible.

More information is available on the [Training Services NSW website](#).

NSW VET Sector Review

The NSW Government announced that it is undertaking a new reform as part of implementing the five recommendations from the Gonski-Shergold Review of the NSW VET sector.

The NSW Government has committed to:

1. Establishing Careers NSW
2. Establishing a new form of tertiary education known as NSW Institute of Applied Technology (IAT)
3. Advocating for VET student loans, similar to the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), to be established
4. Improving the quality of vocational education made available in high schools
5. Consulting with industry experts on VET course curriculums.

[Read more](#)

NSW Skills List Update

The NSW Skills List identifies the qualifications eligible for a government subsidy under Smart and Skilled.

The NSW Skills List has recently been updated, taking effect from 5 March 2021. The update covers changes resulting from Training Package updates as well as new and expiring accredited courses.

The full and latest skills list is available on the [Training Services NSW website](#).



NSW Grants, Opportunities & Scholarships

Training Services NSW is offering the following grants, opportunities and scholarships to employers and vocational learners. Follow the links to find out about more.

Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative: to support for existing Aboriginal owned and operated businesses to grow and diversify their business. [More details](#)

Barranggirra: to provide end to end support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners through culturally appropriate mentoring to ensure successful retention and completion of training and improved post-training employment outcomes. [More details](#)

Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships: to assist apprentices who have experienced hardship in their life to successfully complete their apprenticeship. [More details](#)

Free workshops to assist in supervising your apprentice or trainee: a series of face to face and/or virtual workshops are available. [More details](#)

Other grants and opportunities:

Volunteer Grants under the Families and Communities Program by the Australian Government: to strengthen relationships, support families, improve wellbeing of children and young people, reduce the cost of family breakdown and strengthen family and community functioning. [More details](#)

Free Support to Help Create Mentally Healthy Workplaces: SafeWork NSW has a range of programs, tools and resources available to help on the journey to create mentally healthy workplaces. [More details](#)

Apprentice & Trainee Data for September 2020 Quarter

The most recent data on apprentice and trainee training activity is now available for the September quarter 2020. It has been produced by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

[Click here](#) to view the full report on the NCVER website, including state and territory comparisons.

NEW SOUTH WALES



83 500 in-training as at 30 September 2020 (down 3.8% from September 2019)



2% of workers were employed as an apprentice or trainee



10.8% of employed workers within the trade occupations were an apprentice or trainee



70% of employed workers within the trade occupations were an apprentice or trainee

Commencements 12 months ending 30 September 2020

(% change from previous 12 months)



37 755 commencements (down 17% from 2019)



18 400 trades (down 16.1% from 2019)



19 355 non-trades (down 17.9% from 2019)

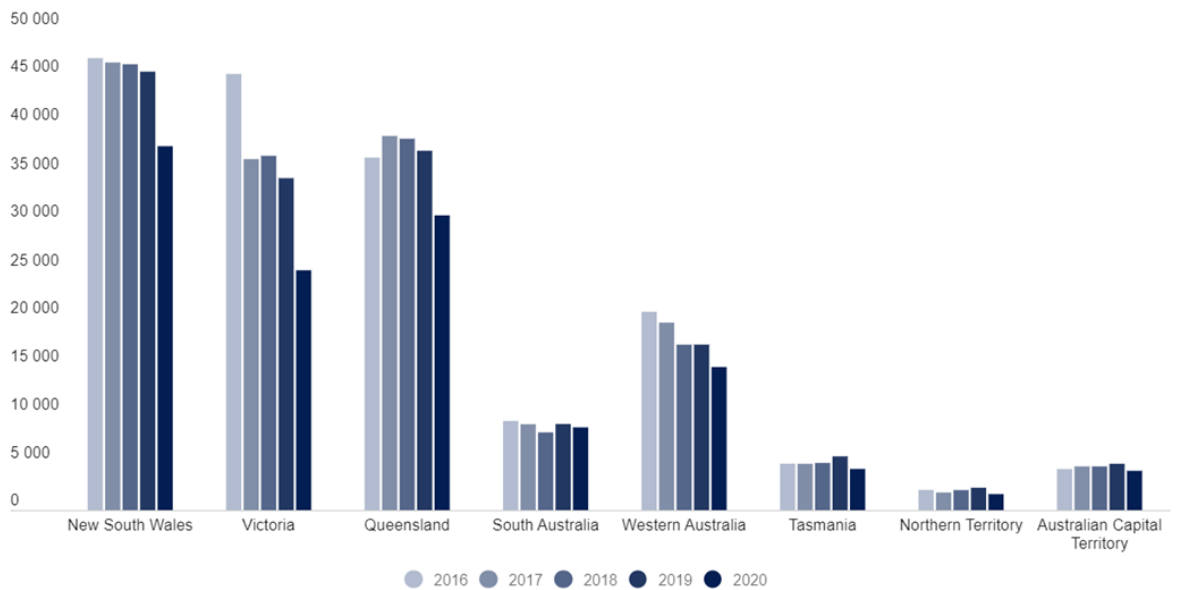


24 065 males (down 19.5% from 2019)



13 685 females (down 12.2% from 2019)

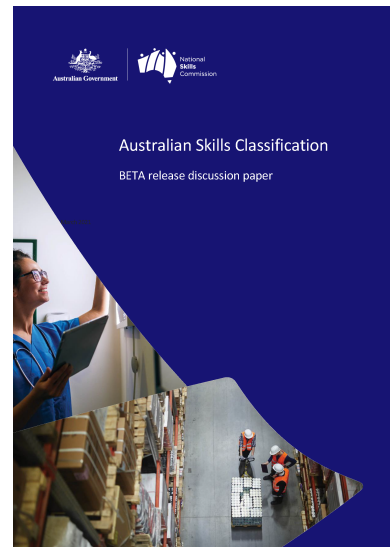
Training commencements for the 12 months ending 30 September 2016 to 2020



Caption: Apprentices and trainees 2020 - September quarter

Australian Skills Classification

The National Skills Commission has released the Australian Skills Classification. It recognises that different language is used in different professions, even when describing the same skills. It aims to develop a common language across all occupations so that it is easier to identify the core competencies, specialist tasks and technology that are shared across various jobs. This will help to emphasise the transferability of a person's skills, as well as identifying gaps that can be filled with targeted training.



[View the BETA release discussion paper](#)

National Training Package Projects

The following projects are underway to review and update national qualifications and skills standards. Follow the links to find out more and to provide input.

Draft Skills Standards Available for Feedback

- [Meat Rendering Project](#)
- [Meat Slicing Project](#)

Feedback collected and being used to inform further updates to drafts:

- [Animal Reproduction Project](#)
- [Crops Pastures and Seeds Project](#)
- [Dairy and Milk Harvesting Project](#)
- [Horse Care Project](#)
- [Landscaping Project](#)
- [Parks and Gardens Project](#)
- [Skills for Land Rehabilitation \(Mined Land\)](#)

Validation completed and further updates being made:

- [Greyhound Racing Careers and Jockeys Project](#)

Drafts being finalised for submission:

- [Food and Beverage Processing Project](#)
- [Flour Milling Project](#)
- [High Volume Production Baking Project](#)

Finalised qualifications and skills standards published on training.gov.au and available for use:

- [Exhibited Animal Care and Marine Wildlife Project](#)
- [Pet care and Animal Training Project](#)
- [Diploma & Advanced Diploma of Meat Processing Project](#)

Please feel welcome share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested.

If you have been forwarded this email and would like to stay up to date with news from NSW AFAM ITAB, you are welcome to subscribe to our mailing list.

Subscribe here



AFAM works in collaboration with Skills Impact.



AFAM is supported and funded by the NSW Government.

Copyright © 2021 Skills Impact Ltd, All rights reserved.

AFAM NSW ITAM

bnortonsmith@skillsimpact.com.au

PO Box 329

Edgecliff, NSW 2027

Australia

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe from the AFAM newsletter list.