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# AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management

January 2022

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Happy new year and welcome to the first AFAM newsletter of 2022! We hope that the beginning of this new year sees you and your family safe and well.

During this challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we, along with many of you, are having to work within the guidelines of safety, self-restrictions and compassion. In light of the recent increase in cases and isolation procedures, AFAM meetings and consultations will be virtual instead of in person. This will remain the case until the case numbers, health system capacity and confidence to travel improves. We have had to take this difficult decision for the safety of our stakeholders and staff and we thank you for your understanding in this matter.

We recognise that the start of 2022 has been challenging for many but we also appreciate that there is a huge opportunity to upskill, reskill and find new and exciting careers in NSW.

Best wishes,

Ben and Jess

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## New Minister for Skills and Training, Science, Innovation and Technology

On 20 December 2021 Dominic Perrottet announced his first major cabinet



## Smart and Skilled: NSW Skills List v12.3

The updated version of the NSW Skills List, version 12.3, is available now and can be accessed here: [Smart and Skilled - NSW Skills List](#)

The Skills List which identifies the qualifications that are eligible for a government subsidy under Smart and Skilled has been updated as of 1 January 2022. Developed through extensive industry and community consultation and labour market research, the Skills List includes a wide range of qualifications to support the diverse skills needs of NSW employers.

[Visit website](#)

## AgCAREERSTART



AgCAREERSTART is an Australian Government initiative, delivered by the National Farmers' Federation in collaboration with leading industry bodies. It is a structured gap-year program that introduces young Australians, school leavers and those under

the age of 25 to a career in agriculture. Matching participating farming businesses with young Australians, the on-farm placements over 10-12 months provide participants with a paid job, training and development and the ability to build networks within the agriculture industry.

Farm businesses employing participants will receive a \$2000 grant for participating in the program and the young person will be given a grant to complete a VET course relevant to their farm placement and interest. Young Australians will have the opportunity to learn in such jobs as farm-labour, soil testing, crop monitoring, pest and disease management, animal management and medicine. As well as working on-farm and studying their VET course, participants will be encouraged to attend significant industry events such as the NFF Conference, AgFest, AgQUIP and more.

Any Australian farming business can apply, with the first on-farm placements to commence in March 2022.

To register interest in participating and for more information, please visit [Ag Career Start](#).

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## Summer Skills – Enrolments Close Soon

Registrations for the Summer Skills program close 28 February 2022. The Summer Skills program offers free short courses for those aged 16-24 and is a great opportunity for students to:

- Boost current skills and get job-ready skills for a variety of in-demand industries
- Become qualified to work in booming industries
- Learn skills that give them a competitive edge
- Build their resumes with accreditation

There are plenty of courses to choose from and a full list of these can be found on the website. Students can search for courses by qualification type or by region. Summer Skills courses should be completed by 30 April 2022.

For more information and to see the full list of available courses please visit the website [Summer Skills \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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## AgSkilled 2.0

AFAM continues to work as part of the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee which is made up of industry representatives from cotton, grains, production horticulture, viticulture and rice-growing industries. Funded by the NSW government, Agskilled 2.0 provides fully funded accredited training to meet industry skills needs across four key training pillars: Production, Technology, Business and Safety. AFAM will continue to work with the committee throughout 2022 to provide industry input on training and workforce development needs.

To date there have been a number of successful employment outcomes for students who have trained through AgSkilled 2.0. Outcomes have included the majority of training students, who are existing workers, achieving an improved employment status such as gaining a promotion, wage increases or both within six months of course completion. These beneficial outcomes, made possible from \$15 million of NSW government funding, are available to industry and its current and future employees today.

For more information on the program and a full list of courses, please visit

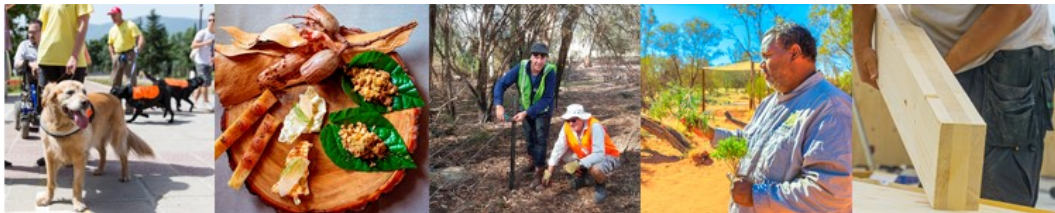
## NSW Research and Development Online Matchmaking Platform

NSW has a high performing research sector and is looking to strengthen industry collaboration, research translation and commercialisation. To foster an innovative economy and an environment where research and development (R&D) can more easily be turned into new products and services, the NSW government has established five priority action areas outlined in the [Turning ideas into jobs - Accelerating research & development in NSW Action Plan](#)



For more information, please visit the [NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer website](#).

## National Training Package Projects



Skills Impact has several projects with draft qualifications, skill sets and units of competency available for feedback and comment. Please click through to the individual project pages for more information.

### Drafts Available

- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)
- [Water Allocation & Entitlement Skills Project](#)
- [Ag & Horticulture Core Skills Project](#)

The following projects have been endorsed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) and State and Territory Ministers. They have either been published on the national training register ([training.gov.au](#)) or will soon be published.

**Published on the National Training Register**

- [Food and Beverage Processing](#)
- [Flour Milling](#)
- [High Volume Production Baking](#)
- [Greyhound Racing Careers and Jockeys](#)
- [Meat Rendering](#)
- [Meat Slicing](#)

**Approved and Soon to be Published**

- [Animal Reproduction](#)
- [Crops, Pastures and Seeds](#)
- [Dairy and Milk Harvesting](#)
- [Landscaping](#)
- [Parks and Gardens](#)
- [Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Review](#)
- [Skills for Land Rehabilitation \(Mined Land\)](#)
- [Horse Care](#)
- [Entry Level Forestry Skills](#)
- [High-Level Forestry Skills](#)
- [Remote Forestry Operations](#)

**Other Training Package Projects Underway****Projects in Development**

- [Permaculture, Organic Production & Composting](#)
- [Respect for Country Job Skills](#)
- [Pig and Poultry Farming](#)
- [Sawmilling and Timber Processing](#)
- [Responding and Assisting in Bushfires](#)

**Feedback Collected and Further Updates Being Made**

- [Small Companion Animal Incident Management](#)
- [Trainers of Assistance Dogs](#)
- [Australian Native and Bush Food](#)

**Drafts Being Finalised**

- [Pharmaceutical GMP](#)



For an update on these projects from Skills Impact, [click here](#).

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## NSW Grants, Opportunities and 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:** support for existing Aboriginal owned and operated businesses to grow and diversify their business. [More details](#)

**Barrangirra:** 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](#)

**Resources to Assist in Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee:** a series of videos and resources are available. [More details](#)

**Free Training for Veterans:** to broaden their career opportunities and help transition to civilian life after service, veterans and their partners will have access to free training. [More details](#)

*Other Grants and opportunities:*

**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](#).

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## COVID-19 Support

Services NSW is working with federal, state and local government and the private sector to bring together all the COVID-19 support and services for businesses on the [Services NSW website](#).

TAFE NSW has developed [a website](#) that collates information and programs to assist small businesses in the recovery period from COVID-19.

The pandemic has brought about new challenges and your mental wellbeing is important. If you are feeling stress, anxious or negatively impacted by COVID-19, there are resources and services available to help on the [NSW government website](#).

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