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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

June 2022

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AFAM attended the 2022 Skills Conference hosted by the Apprentice Employment Network NSW and ACT this month. The conference looked broadly at VET issues, including:

- learnings from the COVID period over the last two years
- new directions that may arise following the 2022 Federal Election
- current issues related to access to VET and career pathways in NSW.

The conference included addresses from the NSW Skills Minister, The Hon Alister Henskens MP and NSW Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE, Tim Crakenthorp.

The conference also included a session on the changing face of career advice, featuring panellists:

- Dr Peta, Skujins, Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Services (AATIS)
- Chris Davis, Careers NSW
- Jenine Smith, Careers Advisers Association of NSW.

They discussed their observations on how career advice has changed over recent months and future trends.

AFAM continues to visit stakeholders in the Upper Hunter and South Coast regions. If you would like to discuss your training and skills needs, please [contact us](#).

Best wishes,

David ...

AFAM NSW Engagement Activities

Thoroughbred Industry Programs to Address Skill Shortages



From left: Cecelia O’Gorman, Thoroughbred Breeders Australia, Jess Cleary AFAM ITAB, Madison Tims, Thoroughbred Breeders Australia

Last month AFAM and Skills Impact visited the Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (TBA), Thoroughbred Breeders NSW (TBNSW) and Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association (HTBA) to learn more about some of their innovative programs addressing industry skill shortages.

Skills Impact updated the [horse breeding qualifications](#) in 2019 and the qualifications were registered on the [National Training Register](#) in September 2019.

The industry is collaborating with a wide range of local and international stakeholders to develop and promote rewarding training and career opportunities for people interested in the horse industry.

The Thoroughly Schooled, EquiStart and Fast Track programs are three initiatives designed to attract talented young people to the sector, followed by a formal education pathway to develop and retain a skilled workforce into the future.

Learn more about the Thoroughbred [horse industry career programs](#).

Smart and Skilled Updates

Extension of Fee Free Apprenticeship Initiative

The Fee Free Apprenticeship (FFA) Initiative has been extended for an additional year for all eligible enrolments until 30 June 2023. The NSW Government will continue to pay providers the full Smart and Skilled qualification price for all eligible

apprentices.

NSW apprentices, including school-based apprentices, who are funded under Smart and Skilled and who commenced subsidised training on or after 1 July 2018, remain eligible for fee free apprenticeships under the FFA.



Smart and Skilled NSW Skills List - 13.1

The [NSW Skills List](#) and the [Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule](#) have each been updated. **Version 13.1** is now available and will be effective as of **1 July 2022**.

Provider's Guide to Smart and Skilled Updated

AFAM encourages Smart and Skilled providers to make use of and provide feedback on the recently updated *Provider's Guide to Smart and Skilled*, which is designed to help navigate the requirements and documentation associated with your Smart and Skilled contract.

For further assistance, please contact Training Services NSW, Market Operations Customer Support at training.market@det.nsw.edu.au. For more information, view [Smart and Skilled Operating Guidelines – contracts and policies](#)

AgSkilled 2.0 – Seeking Recommendations and Expressions of Interest

Do you have recommendations for additional courses and units of competency relevant to the plant-growing agricultural industry sectors and existing training pillars of production, technology, business and safety?

Recommendations are currently being sought to be included under the AgSkilled 2.0 program. Expressions of interest (EOIs) are also invited from training providers who wish to be endorsed to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training.

To submit a new course and unit recommendation or an EOI, please contact the AgSkilled Project Officer, Claudia Vicary at enquiries@agskilled.org.au or your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM).





North Coast Flood Recovery Support Package for Learners, Trainees and Apprentices

Grants are available to learners, trainees, apprentices and school-based apprentices and trainees (SBATs) in the flood-affected North Coast under the Vocational Education Hardship Fund and Apprentice and Trainee Support grant. The grants of either \$500 or \$1000 are available to help replace training materials and assist with learners' recovery from the floods.

The grants provide financial support to learners working, living or studying in the LGAs of Ballina, Byron, the Clarence Valley, Lismore, Kyogle, the Richmond Valley and Tweed who are government-funded vocational education and training (VET) Smart and Skilled:

- learners
- apprentices
- trainees
- SBATs.

Applications will be accepted in-person at the NSW Recovery Service Centres from 14 June to 4 July 2022. Applications returned by mail will continue to remain open until 9 December 2022.

[Further information, to review the eligibility criteria and access the link to the application form.](#)

Careers NSW



[Careers NSW](#) was created following a recommendation from the NSW VET sector review led by David Gonski AC and Professor Peter Shergold AC. It aims to provide career guidance to all NSW residents at any stage in their career.

The Careers NSW pilot, launched in November 2021, has over 92,000 users already registered. It is one of the latest services introduced to support and inform those people looking to start or restart their careers and is currently looking at what works well before it launches its full-service model. In the second half of 2022, the platform is expected to have state-wide coverage, an enhanced website and an expansion of services into schools.

Supply Chain Support Grants – Applications - Closing 30 June 2022

NSW RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY
STORM & FLOODS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE



The Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Program's Supply Chain Support Grants, from \$30,000 - \$100,000, are available now for the agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture industries. The grants provided by the NSW Government and co-funded by the Australian Government, are available to eligible primary producers who were affected by the NSW storms and floods that occurred from February and March 2021 onwards.

[Learn more](#) about eligibility, applying online, guidelines about what you can claim and FAQs.

National Training Package Projects

Respect for Country Job Skills Project

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures possess skills and knowledge for land and water management activities that have been developed over thousands of years. Some of these skills are described in nationally endorsed qualifications, skill sets and units that are used to equip learners for job roles. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are leading and guiding the review of national qualifications and skills standards, so that they reflect current skill needs and terminology.



Feedback collected on draft qualifications, skill sets and units has been used to inform further updates to the drafts, which are available for validation and comment until 27 June 2022.

Led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project partners, language within the qualifications, skill sets and units has been updated to reflect preferred terminology and promote cultural safety. Further updates have been made to reflect the latest technology and equipment, and to promote flexible delivery and career pathways.

For more information, [visit the project page](#)

Other Training Package Projects Underway

Validation complete:

- [Ag & Horticulture Core Skills Project](#)
- [Pig and Poultry Farming Project](#)
- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)
- [Permaculture, Organic Production & Composting Projects](#)

Approved by AISC

- [Trainers of Assistance Dogs Project](#)
- [Small Companion Animal Incident Management Project](#)
- [Australian Native and Bush Food Project](#)
- [Water Allocation & Entitlement Skills Project](#)

Drafts being finalised

- [Responding and Assisting in bushfires Project](#)
- [Sawmilling and Timber Processing Project](#)

Learn more about these training package [projects](#)

NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships

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

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

[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.

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

[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.

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.

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 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](#).

COVID-19 Updates:

Find COVID-19 related guides and stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 VET updates on the [Training Services NSW website](#).

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

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