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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food & Animal Management

March 2022

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AFAM would like to extend our thoughts and support to all those who have been affected by the floods which have had a devastating impact on communities. The floods have destroyed homes, damaged machinery and caused disastrous losses to crops and livestock.

The NSW government currently provides support for farmers and producers and are looking at ways to provide additional support for flood affected regions. You can find out more about the support and grants available on the NSW government website: [Support for farmers and primary producers after floods](#) and [financial support for businesses affected by floods](#).

If you are affected by the flood and would like assistance with disaster recovery training, please contact the AFAM ITAB [here](#). We have been trying to visit industry stakeholders in the Hunter Region and some of the flood affected regions ahead of our Hunter and Newcastle Regional Workforce Development Forum with Training Services NSW and the other ITABs. Unfortunately fresh storms and flooding risks have hampered our program.

In the month of March, AFAM and the team at Skills Impact celebrated International Women's Day at a Women in Conservation Breakfast. The theme of 'Changing Climates: Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' was about recognising and amplifying the important role of women and girls from around the world in addressing climate change. As we move towards a more environmentally sustainable society, one of the challenges for the vocational education and training (VET) system will be to ensure that the Australian workforce is equipped with the skills required while supporting a diverse cohort of learners to succeed.

As always, if you would like to discuss training and workforce development needs,

please [get in touch with us](#).

Best wishes,

Ben and Jess

Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant

If you are a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW and you have been directly impacted by storms and floods in February and March 2022, you may be eligible for a storm and flood disaster recovery small business grant.

This disaster recovery grant of up to \$50,000 is to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a small business or not-for-profit organisation's operations.

Primary producers may be eligible for financial assistance tailored to industry through the Rural Assistance Authority. [Click here for more information](#).

For more information on the disaster recovery small business grant visit [Services NSW](#).

Smart and Skilled - Add a Qualification to the NSW Skills List



Smart and Skilled NSW Skills List – v12.3

The NSW Department of Education is inviting industry to add qualifications to the NSW Skills List for Smart and Skilled Funding by 5pm Friday 8th April 2022.

The Skills List identifies the vocational education and training (VET) qualifications eligible for a government subsidy under the Smart and Skilled program. The purpose of this process is to ensure the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program is helping to meet the skills needs of NSW.

The application needs to be submitted via the online survey found [here](#). Read more about the [Smart and Skilled program](#).

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements Wage Subsidy Extended

[Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements](#) (BAC) wage subsidy supports employers of any size to take on new apprentices or trainees. The subsidy has been popular with employers, and there has been a significant increase in apprenticeship and traineeships numbers since the wage subsidy was introduced.

Enrolments for the BAC wage subsidy, which provides employers with 12 months of wage subsidy support, are being extended to the end of the 2021-22 financial year (30 June 2022).

Any business that receives the BAC wage subsidy will also then be eligible for extended support through the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements (CAC) wage subsidy for the second and third year of a Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement-supported apprenticeship. For more information about the [BAC extension](#).

Skills Reform: Improving VET delivery to secondary students – Feedback Survey

Survey closes on 5.00pm, Thursday 31 March 2022

The Australian Government through the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) is seeking input to understand what stakeholders think about VET for secondary students and the opportunities to strengthen it. Two feedback forms have been developed for:

1. [industry representatives and employers](#)
2. [other stakeholders, such as RTOs and schools](#).

These feedback forms outline some of the key challenges and issues identified with VET for secondary students based on previous reviews. They include questions to help facilitate input on how to improve VET for secondary students and how to shape the National Strategy.

The survey closes on 5.00pm, Thursday 31 March 2022 and we encourage you to share your views by completing the relevant feedback form. To find out more and complete the survey, visit the [Skills Reform Hub website](#).

NCVER: The Latest in Apprentice and Trainee Outcomes



The latest National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) findings highlight the outcomes of apprentices and trainees aged 18 years or over who completed an apprenticeship or traineeship during 2020. Employment outcomes for apprentices and trainees grew to 94% for trades and 88.4% in non-trades, representing an increase of 2.5% and 3.5% respectively from 2019.

[For more information about the NCVER research findings.](#)

Industry Events and Programs

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is Australia's largest annual ticketed event, attracting over 828,000 attendees on average.

It comprises a large agricultural showcase and the revenue generated from the show allows the Royal Agriculture Society (RAS) to invest in agricultural programs, competitions, education, youth and rural NSW. For more information, visit the [Royal Easter Show website](#).

Royal Easter Show
8 – 19 April 2022



This three-day agricultural field day known as 'The Hunter region's No. 1 field day for industry, education and visitors' showcases a vast array of products and services. From the latest in farming techniques and technology, solar energy to fencing construction through to craft, fun competitions, good food and wine products. For more information, visit the [Tocal Field Day website](#).

Tocal Field Day
29 April - 1 May 2022



Women of Australian Distilling Mentorship Program

In Sydney this month, some of Australia's top female distillers got together to launch a mentoring program that supports the growing pool of female talent in the spirits industry [Women of Australian Distilling](#).

The mentorship program will pair experienced women leaders from large spirits manufacturers with craft distillers, blenders and others working in the industry.

With the aim of supporting career development for women in the field of distilling. [Read more on women in distilling here.](#)



The Royal Agricultural Society (NSW) Launches Ag in a Box

The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) has launched a free teaching resource called Ag in a Box, with the aim of lifting the lid on the world of agriculture for school students.

Ag in a Box is an initiative that provides free teaching resources that come in a recycled box full of contents to reduce the burden on hard-working teachers. This project has been jointly funded through the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



It's a great way to introduce students to the value of sustainable agriculture and encourage the next generation to get their hands dirty!

For more information and to express your interest in this free teaching resource, please visit the [RAS website](#).

National Training Package Projects

Skills Impact has several Training Package projects at different stages of development. The **Respect for Country Job Skills** and **Permaculture, Organic Production and Composting** projects have drafts available for comment and we welcome your feedback. Please click through to the individual project pages for more details.



[Permaculture, Organic Production and Composting Project](#) – drafts available 14 February to 30 March 2022



[Respect for Country Job Skills Projects](#) – drafts available 21 February to 1 April 2022

Other Training Package Projects Underway

Feedback Collected and Further Updates Being Made

- [Ag & Horticulture Core Skills](#)
- [Pig and Poultry Farming](#)
- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills](#)
- [Responding and Assisting in Bushfires](#)
- [Sawmilling and Timber Processing](#)

Validation Complete and Final Checks Being Made

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

Finalisation

- [Sugar Milling Project](#)

Submitted to the AISC for Consideration

- [Pharmaceutical GMP](#)

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

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](#)

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](#)

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](#).

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](#).

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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