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# AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management**

May 2022

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At end of last month, AFAM travelled to the Central West region to meet with industry stakeholders and participate in a workforce development roundtable in Orange. The roundtable, co-facilitated by Training Services NSW and Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs), provided an opportunity to discuss the skills needs, employment pathways and workforce needs and challenges in the region.

Worker shortages continue to be the common theme across industries and these shortages have been exacerbated in last few years because of drought and border closures. Seasonal workers have not returned at previous rates and employers are looking at schemes such as the Pacific Labour Scheme to address the shortage of workers. Other initiatives discussed included the Local Jobs Program (LJP), which brings together expertise, resources and access to funding at the local level to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways. The LJP is a Federal Government COVID-19 economic recovery support measure and funding has been provided to 51 employment regions including the Central West region, where the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors are one of the highest employing industries (13.4%).

Regional Industry Engagement Partnership Officers (RIEP) highlighted the main projects being undertaken in the Central West region. RIEP officers have been supporting employers to engage with schools through an Agriculture Camp program, which aims to showcase a range of agricultural jobs to school students by taking them on industry-led site visits. The other major project being undertaken in the Central West is the development of a dedicated agriculture and horticulture facility at [Forbes High School](#).

If you are interested in any of the programs in this newsletter, please [contact us](#).

Best wishes,

Ben and Jess.

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# AFAM NSW Engagement Activities

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## Women in Trades workshops



AFAM attended a Women in Trades workshop hosted by the NSW Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU) and Trade Pathways Program team. A series of consultation meetings are being run with the aim to increase the number of women apprentices in non-traditional trades. This is an important step as women are currently underrepresented in trades making up only 2% of qualified trade workers. Attendees discussed the recruitment barriers and strategies to hiring more women apprentices and trainees, improving the employer and apprentice customer journey and how solutions could be adapted for each region.

If you are an employer who is looking to hire more women apprentices or trainees, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to connect you with Training Services NSW for support.

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## Smart and Skilled Updates





# Smart and Skilled NSW Skills List – v12.4

## Revised implementation schedule for performance-based contract arrangements

In acknowledgement of the impact of COVID-19 on the overall market as well as on individual providers, the NSW Department of Education has reviewed the rollout of performance-based contracting for [Smart and Skilled](#). The revised schedule maintains the commitment to improving student outcomes and delivering a higher quality government-subsidised VET market in NSW. Key steps will occur in the coming months including:

- sharing updated VET student outcomes snapshots
- updating the market comparison information through the Skills Compare (previously Market Comparison) tool on the Skills NSW website
- using performance data in funding allocations for the 2022-23 activity period
- the next round of provider performance assessments and high performing providers applications.

High scoring providers identified in the provider performance assessments for 2022-23 will be invited to apply for a high performing provider's contract variation, which will offer a three-year contract term and greater funding certainty.

For your information, The full Smart and Skilled Update for May 2022 can be found [here](#).

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## NSW Skills List Updated v.12.4

The Skills List has been updated as a result of updates to training packages and vocational training orders. Two of the seven revised training packages are as follows:

- Forest and Wood Products Training Package
- Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Industry Training Package

Version 12.4 of the NSW Skills List is available at: [NSW Skills List - Smart and Skilled | NSW Government](#)

Version 12.4 of the *Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule* has also been updated to cover changes to the Skills List and is available at: [Smart and Skilled prices, fees and subsidies | NSW Government](#)

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## Smart and Skilled Provider Webinar - Available for viewing



The recording of the Smart and Skilled Provider webinar held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 is now [available for viewing](#).

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# Industry Events and Programs

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AgSkilled and Tocal College are running a week of fully funded accredited skills training and personal development for women.

This is a great opportunity for AgSkilled industries where participants will upskill, alongside other women, to the latest farming practices and knowledge in practical, hands-on training designed to improve on-farm safety.

To find out more, download the brochure and/or apply, visit the [Tocal College website](#).

## AgSkilled: Women on Wheels

18-22 July 2022  
(Funding applications close on 31 May 2022)

### Courses

**Licence to operate a forklift**  
2.5 day course

**Tractor with front-end loader**  
2-day course

**Off-road four-wheel drive**  
2-day course

**Operate two-wheel motor bikes**  
1 day course

**Operate quad bikes**  
1 day course

Optional extra activities Tuesday and Thursday evenings

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Up to 120 scholarships of up to \$5,000 each year for up to three years are available to assist apprentices in NSW who have demonstrated:

- hardship in their personal circumstances
- capability for vocational education and training that leads to successful completion of their trade training
- a positive attitude and application in the workplace and formal training.

## Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships

Applications - Closing 27 May 2022



For more information go to [Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au) and to apply directly go to the [Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships \(scholarshipsplatform.com\)](https://scholarshipsplatform.com).

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# National Training Package Projects

Skills Impact has several Training Package projects at different stages of development. We welcome your feedback, please click through to the individual project pages for more details.

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**[Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)**: draft qualifications, skill sets and units for the meat processing industry are available for validation and comment.



**[Permaculture, Organic Production & Composting Projects](#)**: draft qualifications, skill sets and units for the permaculture, organic farming sectors are available for validation and comment.



**[Ag Horticulture Core Skills Project](#)** final draft qualifications, skill sets and units of competency for agriculture and horticulture core skills are now available for your validation and comment.



**[Pig and Poultry Farming Project](#)**: draft qualifications, skill sets and units for pig and poultry farming are available for validation and comment.

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## Other Training Package Projects Underway

### Available for validation soon

- [Respect for Country Job Skills Project](#)

### Progressing to finalisation soon

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

### Project submitted to AISC

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

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](#)

**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](#)

**Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarship:** Scholarships are available to assist apprentices in NSW who have demonstrated hardship in their personal circumstances, capability for vocational education and training that leads to successful completion of their trade training and a positive attitude and application in workplace and formal 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](#).

## **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](#).

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

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