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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

August 2022

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Apprenticeship and Traineeship Opportunities

In agribusiness, food and fibre Industries, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities are growing. According to the latest statistics released by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), apprenticeship and traineeship commencements across agribusiness, food and fibre qualifications have increased nationally to 3,255 (or by 65%) in the June quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.

If you have any questions about apprenticeships and traineeships in your sectors, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Best wishes,

Ben and Jess

National Skills Week

This month, **National Skills Week** will be held on 22 – 28 August to highlight skills, career pathways and the value of apprentices and trainees across Australia to the wider public and employers.



The theme of National Skills Week this year is, *A Universe of Skills: Go Beyond Your Imagination*. The week aims to raise the status of practical and vocational learning, and we encourage employers and training providers in NSW to get involved by attending activities or showcasing your industries. The National Skills Week website includes information on [how schools, training providers and employers can get involved](#) and a list of [upcoming events](#).

Smart and Skilled Update

North Coast Education Flood Recovery Support Package

The NSW Government's North Coast Education Flood Recovery Support Package includes actions to alleviate financial pressures on students and their families coping with flood recovery in the flood-affected local government areas (LGAs) of Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed. The package aims to support students to complete their training as well as increase their access to training.

As part of this package, Training Services NSW is rolling out the following initiatives:

- fee reimbursements for students enrolled or in training during the flood period
- fee waivers for new students
- one-off support payments for Smart and Skilled providers delivering training to affected students.

The three initiatives will be available for eligible students who have been enrolled with a Smart and Skilled provider for a full qualification(s) under Smart and Skilled. To be eligible, students must either reside, work, or study in a location within the seven flood-affected LGAs.

Smart and Skilled students will be emailed about the initiative and providers will be contacted in the coming weeks with details of retrospective fee adjustments and fee waivers.

Launch your Career - AgSTEM





The Department of Education, Pathways and Transitions, TAFE NSW and REIP, NSW Department of Education introduced stage 5 and 6 of the [‘Launch your Career’](#) series. ‘Launch your Career’ presents free, live virtual events connecting secondary students with industry to identify future career pathways. As part of the series, a virtual event on AgSTEM was held which attracted over 450 attendees from across NSW.

The virtual event took a deeper dive into the diverse roles across the agricultural science and technology sector, including where it applies to food production such as grain growing, horticulture and livestock. It showcased young professionals working in the industry who can keep students up-to-date on the skills and employment opportunities within the industry. The event recordings are now available for online viewing.

Launch your Career in AgSTEM [highlights video](#) and [full length recording](#)

Online Varroa Mite Training



As part of the NSW Varroa mite emergency response, Tocal College's Digital Delivery team have launched a new [online training course](#).

The free online course is a compulsory step in the process for registered commercial beekeepers to submit a Hive Movement Declaration to move their honeybees and hives in low-risk areas of the State and thereby enable pollination to proceed for those industries that depend on it. The course is also freely available to anyone interested in protecting bees from the Varroa mite.

Young Farmer Business Program



The Young Farmer Business program connects young farmers and fishers, aged 18 – 35yrs, to skills and information. An initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industries to help gain skills needed for the farming and fishing office, not the paddock or the boat! The program empowers young farmers and fishers across NSW to build and run more productive and profitable farm and fishing businesses.

Through the program, young people can:

- gain practical skills for getting started and shifting into managing or levelling up their business
- get the information they need through practical toolkits, podcasts and a blog
- access funding to help meet goals or bring group projects to life
- be supported when they need someone to listen, follow up with action and provide help with programs tailored to suit.

Learn more about the [Young Farmer Business Program](#)

National Training Package Updates

National Skills Standards for Navigating Australia's Water Markets Now Published

Water catchments and systems are a vital resource that need to be preserved and managed for the long-term to support the interests of all Australians. For farmers and irrigators, skills to navigate water markets can help improve farm productivity, provide greater choice and flexibility in business decision-making, and help inform risk management.

Over the past 12 months, industry experts with experience in the water trading sector have participated in [the Water Allocations Entitlements Project](#) to develop national VET skills standards for water allocations and entitlements.



Three units and two skills sets have been created to capture the practical skills required to trade water and understand the intricacies of Australia's complex trading market. This will support the next generation of farmers and others with water entitlements to effectively navigate Australia's various water markets.

The new units and skill sets are now published on the national training register (training.gov.au).

New Skills Standards in Assistance Dog Training and Companion Animal Incident Management Published



Australia's animal care and management industry is continually adapting its skills to best protect animal welfare and support those who work and coexist with animals. The 2019-20 bushfires highlighted the need for a national approach to manage the safety of companion animals and the people they live with during fires, floods and other incidents. Meanwhile, an increasing demand for assistance dogs has led to a need for consistency in how assistance dogs and prospective handlers are trained.

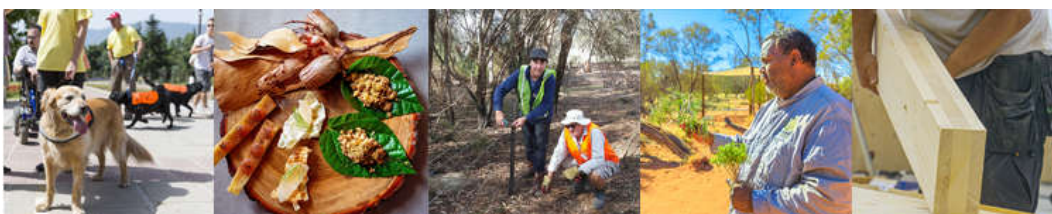
Over the past year, industry has contributed to two national projects to update and develop qualifications, skill sets and units of competency for [trainers of assistance dogs](#) and [companion animal incident management](#).

As a result of consultation throughout these projects, eight units and four skill sets have been developed and revised to support the unique skills requirements of responding to an incident involving companion animals. Five units and two skill sets have also been developed to capture the skills required to train assistance dogs for a broad range of purposes and to work with and instruct prospective handlers. The new units have been added to existing qualifications as applicable.

This will equip the animal care and management industry with the expertise it requires to protect companion animals and the people they live with from harm, and to facilitate rewarding relationships between assistance animal and their handlers.

The new and updated units, skill sets and qualifications are now published on the national training register (training.gov.au).

Other Projects Underway



Validation complete:

- [Ag & Horticulture Core Skills Project](#)
- [Pig and Poultry Farming Project](#)
- [Respect for Country Job Skills Project](#)

Drafts submitted to AISC:

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

Drafts being finalised:

- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)
- [Permaculture, Organic Production & Composting Projects](#)

Endorsed by ministers (to be published when Respect for Country Job Skills is endorsed):

- [Australian Native and Bush Food Project](#)

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 - Skilling for Employment Initiative](#): 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.

[Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant](#): the grant adopts a number of strategies to develop and support Aboriginal people through the creation of training and employment opportunities.

[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 stressed, 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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AFAM works in collaboration with Skills Impact.



AFAM is supported and funded by the NSW Government.

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