

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



December 2022

In this newsletter:

[Engagement Activities](#)

- [Pivotal Education Lauches Pharmaceutical Qualifications in NSW](#)
- [Meat Industry Careers Expo, Singleton](#)

[Smart and Skilled Update](#)

- [RTO Standards Consultation](#)
- [AgSkilled 2.0: New Courses and Recommendations](#)
- [Additional Fee Free Training Places in 2023](#)

[Connecting Women to Trades Grant Program](#)

[Certificate IV in Trining and Assessment Update](#)

[New Jobs and Skills Councils](#)

[Training Package Update](#)

[Flood Recovery Grants](#)

[NSW Grants, Opportunities & Scholarships](#)

[COVID-19 Support](#)

AFAM would like to say a big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time this year to share information on skills needs, industry challenges and workforce development opportunities. Whether it was through one-on-one engagements, meetings or feedback provided on training packages, we thank you for your feedback. Your input is important to us and plays a valuable role in understanding the opportunities and barriers employers and learners face when accessing and using Vocational Education and Training (VET).

We know it has been a challenging year for those living in regional NSW and our thoughts go out to all those who are affected by floods and severe weather events across NSW. For information on flood recovery grants please refer to the grant section of this newsletter. If your respective industry sectors and businesses in NSW have been impacted and there are any training or workforce development-related priorities that will support your industry or business in recovering, please [contact us](#) so we can serve you in this area.

The AFAM team will be taking a break from 22 December and returning on 4 January 2023. We would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season and look forward to working with you in the new year.

Best wishes,
Jess and the team.

Engagement Activities

Pivotal Education Launches Pharmaceutical Qualifications in NSW

On 7 November, AFAM ITAB attended the Pivotal Education launch held at NSW Parliament House. The launch promoted training in the food, beverage and pharmaceutical training package specifically the Certificate III and IV in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing.

With the support of the AFAM ITAB, Pivotal Education played a key role in obtaining funding for the Certificate IV in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in NSW. Prior to Pivotal Education launching training in this area, industry was finding it difficult to address its skills needs as there were no RTOs approved to deliver training in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in NSW.

Over the past five years, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry Reference Committee (IRC) with support from Skills Impact, worked on redesigning the pharmaceutical manufacturing qualifications and skills standards so that they accurately describe industry practices. Pivotal provided important feedback to Skills Impact in updating pharmaceutical skills standards during this time. The voice of industry makes these changes possible.



Meat Industry Careers Expo, Singleton

On Tuesday 15 November 2022, MINTRAC (National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council), in partnership with the NSW Government's Small Business Month and supported by AFAM ITAB, held a Meat Industry Careers expo for high school students in Singleton.

Over 60 students from Singleton High School and St Catherine's Catholic College attended the expo at Club Singleton. Students had the opportunity to hear from an excellent line-up of presenters and speak directly to employers, training providers and other services providers.

Using a virtual reality headset that simulated a real-life work environment, there was no shortage of interaction for the students who got to experience cutting up a carcass and sorting different cuts of meat on a processing line. Students heard renowned butcher, Alison Meagher, speak about her career journey and the opportunities that being a trained butcher can bring beyond working in a retail store. Alison, who built the brand “Butcher Girl” over decades of international global industry experience showed the students how to make vegemite and cheese sausages.

The Careers Expo featured speakers from a variety of different roles within the meat industry including: Michael Robinson, butcher and founder of Hungerford Meat Co in Branxton NSW, Cody Burly a school-based apprentice of Roberts Meats and Warwick Bricknell, Head of Training at Sun Pork. Those working in industry were joined by education and other providers such as TAFE NSW, MEGT Australia and AMIST Super. Congratulations to all those involved in such a successful event.

Smart and Skilled Update

RTO Standards Consultation

As part of the national Vocational Education and Training (VET) Quality Reforms, the Commonwealth Government is seeking feedback on the draft revised RTO Standards. The Commonwealth is interested in hearing from all stakeholders and users of the VET sector including learners, RTO staff and managers, trainers and assessors, and employers about the proposed changes to the Standards.

A consultation paper that contains the draft revised RTO Standards is available online at the [Commonwealth's Skills Reform website](#).

You can provide feedback on the draft standards via the [survey](#).
The **survey closes 5.00pm, 31 January 2023**.

AgSkilled 2.0: New courses and recommendations

The AgSkilled 2.0 program is a \$15 million investment by the NSW Government to upskill NSW's plant production industries. AgSkilled provides fully funded accredited training for the cotton, grains, production horticulture, viticulture and rice growing industries.

The AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee has recently endorsed courses and Units of Competency for delivery under the program.

Seven (7) units have been added:

- FPBVIT2003 hand prune vines
- FBPVIT2005 install and vine trellis
- RIIMPO315E conduct tractor operations
- RIIMPO319E conduct backhoe/loader operations
- RIIMP3024F conduct civil construction on grader operations
- BSBXTW401 lead and facilitate a team

- BSBLDR413 lead effective workplace relationships

Four (4) new courses have been added:

- Weed Control
- Electrical Tag and Test
- Farm Fencing
- Customer Service

Training Services NSW are seeking recommendations for additional courses and units relevant to the plant-growing agricultural industry sectors and existing training pillars (i.e. Production, Technology, Business and Safety) to be included under the AgSkilled 2.0 program.

To submit a new course and Unit of Competency recommendation, please contact the AgSkilled Project Officer, Claudia Vicary at enquiries@agskilled.org.au

To find out more about the program, visit the NSW [AgSkilled website](#).



ADDITIONAL FEE FREE TRAINING PLACES IN 2023

Drawing on the success of JobTrainer, the NSW and Australian Governments have signed a 12-month Skills Agreement to deliver Fee Free TAFE and more vocational education places in NSW. Under this agreement, the Commonwealth will provide \$164 million for VET delivery and support. Recognising the important role private providers play in the delivery of VET in NSW, a portion of this will go to Smart and Skilled providers other than TAFE NSW. There will be 120,000 fee free places delivered in NSW in 2023 for priority qualifications.

Fee free training places under this Agreement will be rolled out under a Smart and Skilled initiative known as 'NSW Fee Free'. Read more about the initiative, qualifications, provider and student eligibility and more in the [Smart and Skilled update](#).

Connecting Women to Trades Grant Program – Applications Close 21 December 2022

The NSW Government has allocated \$5 million in grants, as part of the round two offers, to fund projects aimed at increasing the number of women embarking on a career in trades. Round two is focused on supporting women to enter trade

occupations experiencing skills and labour shortages, where women are underrepresented.

Priority 1 occupations where women are underrepresented AND in skills shortage include:

- ACM 40818 – Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) – Butcher or Smallgoods Maker
- AHC31319 – Certificate III in Sports Turf Management – Sports Turf Manager
- AMP30815 – Certificate IV in Farriery – Farrier

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for projects commencing in February 2023 and delivered over 14 months. \$500,000 from the grant fund will be prioritised to fund projects delivered in NSW local government areas (LGAs) affected by floods in 2022.

The grant program will fund at least 15 projects across the state to support women to pursue careers in trades through participation in introductory trade training and career development activities, all aligned to the desired outcomes in the [Women in Trades Strategy 2021-24](#).

Read more about the [Connecting Women to Trades grant](#) including [the guidelines](#) and [how to apply](#).

Applications close at 11pm AEST on **Wednesday 21 December 2022**.



Certificate IV in Training and Assessment Update

Version 5.0 of the TAE Training and Education Training Package has been released.

The newly released *TAE40122 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment* supersedes and is equivalent to the *TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment*.

The newly released *TAE50122 Diploma of Vocational Education and Training* merges two previous TAE Diploma qualifications - the *TAE50116 Diploma of Vocational Education and Training* and the *TAE50216 Diploma of Training Design and Development*. Due to the merging of qualifications, the new Diploma is deemed not equivalent to both previous Diplomas.

For more information visit the [PwC website](#) or read the [FAQs document](#).

New Jobs and Skills Councils

On Tuesday 13 December 2022, Brendan O'Connor, Minister for Skills and Training [announced](#) the establishment of 10 Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs), to provide industry with a stronger, more strategic voice in ensuring Australia's VET sector delivers stronger outcomes for learners and employers.

The sector and training package coverage of 10 new Jobs and Skills Councils (renamed from industry clusters) is [available here](#).

Skills Impact has been contracted by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), to establish the Agribusiness Jobs and Skills Council and will operate under the new name of 'Skills Insight'. The Skills Insight Jobs and Skills Council will cover industries of primary production, plants and animals, textiles, clothing and footwear, forestry, timber and furnishing as well as emerging industries around natural resources security and environmental management.

The food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries will now be supported by [BSA](#), who will be responsible for establishing the Manufacturing Jobs and Skills Council. It follows the requests of several key industry organisations to be a part of manufacturing, in particular to recognise the role of advanced manufacturing in food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries, and the need for Government to ensure a balance of industries across all 10 Jobs and Skills Councils.

Further updates will be made available via the [DEWR Industry Engagement Reforms website](#), where you can register your interest to stay up to date and to engage with the Jobs and Skills Councils once established.

National Training Package Projects

All of the projects for 2022 are now completed or in their final stages.

Approved by the AISC:

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

These are now being considered by the state and territory training ministers and will then be published on the national training register: training.gov.au.

Endorsed by skills ministers and will be published soon:

- [Responding and Assisting in Bushfires Project](#)
- [Sawmilling and Timber Processing Project](#)
- [Australian Native and Bush Food Project](#)

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the projects this year.



Flood Recovery Grants

There are a range of grants and payments available to people affected by severe weather and flooding in NSW. Guidance related to these can be found on the [NSW government website](#). Please use the links below to access the information most suited to your circumstances.

- Individuals: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/floods/financial-assistance>
- VET students: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/floods/financial-support/floods-additional-financial>
- Farmers and Primary Producers: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/floods/financial-support/farmers-and-primary-producers>
- Businesses: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/storm-and-flood-assistance-businesses/grants-and-loans>

NSW Grants, Opportunities & 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.

[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. Training Services NSW is offering the grants, opportunities and scholarships to employers and vocational learners.

[Travel boost for apprentices and trainees](#): \$250 travel card to help apprentices, trainees or with the cost of the commute to work, training or university.

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.

If you have been forwarded this email and would like to stay up to date with news from NSW AFAM ITAB, you are welcome to subscribe to our mailing list.

[Subscribe here](#)



AFAM works in collaboration with Skills Impact.



AFAM is supported and funded by the NSW Government.

Copyright © 2022 Skills Impact Ltd, All rights reserved.

AFAM NSW ITAB
jcleary@skillsimpact.com.au
PO Box 329
Edgecliff, NSW 2027
Australia

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe from the AFAM newsletter list.