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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

January 2023

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Engagement Activities

As we approach the end of this first month of 2023, the AFAM ITAB hopes that the beginning of this new year sees you and your family safe and well.

There is some good news this year with additional TAFE fee free training places and the Trade Pathways program adding new occupations/qualifications that provide Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for experienced workers. This is welcome news for many sectors that continue to face workforce shortages and are looking to recruit staff and upskill existing workers. We also understand that the NSW Government is considering the best ways of building on the successes of AgSkilled 2.0 and we suggest keeping a close eye out for any announcements. If there is any news, we will update you in the February e-news.

In March, AFAM's Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) will meet to discuss the skills and workforce needs of industry now and in the future as well as the current funding initiatives. A continued focus for AFAM and the ITACs will be how to support the workforce needs of regional communities and we plan to visit each region to engage with local communities and get first-hand experiences of workers within the region.

We wish you all the best for the new year and look forward to working with you in 2023.

Best wishes
Jess and the AFAM team.

Smart and Skilled Update

Additional Fee Free Training Places

There will be 120,000 fee free places delivered in NSW in 2023 for priority qualifications as part of the 12-month Skills Agreement signed by the NSW and Australian Governments to deliver Fee Free TAFE and more vocational education places in NSW. The NSW Government recognises the important role private providers play in the delivery of VET in NSW and will be directing a portion of the Commonwealth funds for fee free training places to Smart and Skilled providers other than TAFE NSW. For more information, visit the [Training Services NSW website](#).

Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers

Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers (TPEW) is a Trade Pathways Program initiative run by Training Services NSW to increase the number of trade qualifications obtained outside of an apprenticeship. TPEW recognises the skills of experienced workers and provides a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathway to trade qualifications. The initiative does not support students currently engaged in a traineeship or apprenticeship. This program specifically targets experienced trade workers to increase RPL and gap training.

Below is a current list of qualifications in the AFAM industry under TPEW.

The priority qualification list includes:

- All Certificate III apprenticeship qualifications.
- Occupation specific Certificate III traineeship qualifications that are aligned to trade industries.

Qualification	Apprenticeship or Traineeship
AHC30116 Agriculture Certificate III	T
AHC30216 Agriculture (Dairy Production) Certificate III AHC30221 Agriculture (Dairy Production) Certificate III	T
AHC30416 Pork Production	T
AHC30620 Production Horticulture Certificate III	T
AHC30916 Landscape Construction Certificate III	T
AHC30921 Landscape Construction Certificate III	A
AHC31016 Parks and Gardens Certificate III	A
AHC31021 Parks and Gardens Certificate III	A

AHC31120 Nursery Operations Certificate III	A
AHC31319 Sports Turf Management Certificate III	A
AHC31818 Beekeeping Certificate III	T
AHC32916 Shearing Certificate III	T
AHC33116 Advanced Wool Handling Certificate III Wool Classer	T
AMP30815 Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) Certificate III	A
FBP30321 Cake and Pastry Certificate III (**)	A
FBP30417 Bread Baking Certificate III (**)	A
FBP30421 Bread Baking Certificate III (**)	A
FBP30521 Baking Certificate III (**)	A
FBP31121 High Volume Baking Certificate III (**)	A

(**) TPEW participants undertaking a Baking (FBP) qualification must be currently employed in the baking industry

All training under the program must be completed and reported by **30 May 2024**.

Read more about the program in the [Smart and Skilled Update](#).

Thoroughbred Breeders Australia Fast Track Program

Thoroughbred Breeders Australia is committed to helping the industry find the next generation of workers and has launched the Fast Track program to create a pathway for talented horse people to enter industry. Successful learners will earn a Certificate III in Horse Breeding.

For interested learners who are passionate about horses this is an incredible opportunity: they will be employed and mentored on a respected stud farm; gain a formal qualification, plus have the opportunity to learn from leaders in the global horse industry. The program incorporates a mix of on-the-job training and formal study. The formal part of the program will take place in Scone NSW, in the heart of one of the world's biggest breeding centres

Applications for the 2023 Fast Track Program will open shortly. Those who register their interest in the 2023 program will be contacted when applications are open. Successful applicants will need to be ready to commence their traineeships and the first learning block in May 2023.

Find out more about the [Fast Track Program](#) and [register your interest](#).



Australian Apprenticeship Priority List Update

The federal government has updated the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List, adding an extra 39 occupations. Occupations on the Australian Priority List are eligible for financial support from the Australian Government. Support includes a wage subsidy of 10% which is provided to businesses in the first and second year, then 5% in the third year.

Occupations added to the list include:

- Gardener (General) - please note that this term is used to cover many horticulture occupations in the ANZSCO Codes
- Horse Trainer
- Senior Piggery Stockperson
- Tree worker
- Veterinary Nurse
- Wool Classer

Download the [Australian Apprenticeships Priority List](#).

Jobs and Skills Councils: New Entities Announced

AFAM congratulates the recently announced organisations responsible for establishing the new Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC) that are replacing Skills Service Organisations, Industry Reference Committees and the Australian Industry Skills Committee. The AFAM team looks forward to working closely with the Agribusiness JSC, Skills Insight, and the Manufacturing JSC, when it becomes established.

JSCs will identify skills and workforce needs for their sectors, map career pathways across education sectors, develop VET training products, support collaboration

between industry and training providers to improve training and assessment practice and act as a source of intelligence on issues affecting their industries.

More information on JSAs below:

- [Agribusiness](#) – a new entity, Skills Insight, will be established by Skills Impact
- [Arts, Personal Services, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality](#) – a new entity, WorkforceEquipped, will be established by the Australian Retailers Association
- Energy, Gas and Renewables – a new entity will be established by a consortium of employee and employer organisations including Master Electricians Australia, Electrical Trades Union, and National Electrical and Communications Association
- [Finance, Technology and Business](#) – a new entity will be established by the Digital Skills Organisation
- [Manufacturing](#) – a new entity, Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance, will be established by Innovation and Business Skills Australia
- [Mining and Automotive](#) – a new entity will be established by the Australian Minerals and Energy Skills Alliance
- [Transport and Logistics](#) – a new entity, Industry Skills Australia, will be established by Australian Industry Standards
- Public Safety and Government – a new entity will be established by the Public Safety Industry Committee
- [Early Educators, Health and Human Services](#) – a new entity, HumanAbility, will be established by a consortium of employee and employer organisations, led by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
- Building, Construction and Property – a new entity will be established by a consortium of employer and employee organisations from the building, construction and property sectors.

Learn more about the JSCs with [Industry Engagement Reform Frequently Asked Questions](#).

National Training Package Projects



The final training package changes for AHC, ACM, AMP, FBP, FWP, PPM and SFI have now been endorsed by the skills ministers and updated on the National Training Register (training.gov.au)

- [Ag & Horticulture Core Skills Project](#)
- [Pig and Poultry Farming Project](#)
- [Permaculture, Organic Production & Composting Projects](#)
- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)
- [Respect for Country Job Skills Project](#)
- [Australian Native and Bush Food Project](#)
- [Responding and Assisting in Bushfires Project](#)

- [Sawmilling and Timber Processing Project](#)

We thank all NSW stakeholders for the contributions they have made to the updating of all of these training packages over the last few years. They have undergone major updating, and NSW stakeholders have helped to ensure industry has achieved the outcomes they needed from the skills standards.

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.

[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.

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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