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# AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management

July 2022

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## AFAM NSW Engagement Activities



AFAM held several Industry Training Advisory Committee meetings this month – agriculture and production horticulture, food beverage and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and animal care and management.

Worker shortages continue to be a common theme across all industries. While employers offer higher wages and improved benefits to attract workers, there is still a

struggle to attract quality candidates. This issue is exacerbated in regional areas with a lack of accommodation. Committee members spoke of strategies being undertaken to address the housing shortage in regional areas, including employers offering subsidised accommodation and building accommodation. In one instance, a local council in the South Coast urged those who own a holiday house in the area to make it available to the long-term rental market.

Biosecurity was another issue that was widely discussed by the Committees. The Varroa mite outbreak is one example of a biosecurity threat impacting the beekeeping industry and pollination services for the horticultural industry. Varroa mite was first detected at the Newcastle Port at the end of June and has since spread to 38 sites. To contain the outbreak, the NSW government halted the movement of honeybees and hives and destroyed hives on infected sites within a 10km radius. The NSW Department of Primary Industries [website](#) has the latest updates, and an \$18 million compensation package has been developed for recreational and commercial beekeepers.

We continue to collect and report information on the impact of flooding, including disruptions to the value chains of industries. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the next wave of Covid-19 is emerging and governments are indicating that hospitals may struggle to cope with a rise in cases, along with difficulties associated with worse than usual flu and respiratory disease seasons. Once again, governments are recommending working from home and minimising personal visits. This will likely curtail our engagement activities in the regions for the next few weeks.

If you would like to discuss your training and skills needs, please [contact us](#).

Best wishes,

Ben and Jess.

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## Naidoc Week

The first week of July marked NAIDOC week. This week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

Training Services NSW has a number of [Aboriginal and Torres Islander \(ATSI\) programs](#) to improve post-training outcomes and opportunities for employment and training. We encourage you to engage with your local [Training Services NSW contact](#) to find out more.

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## Smart and Skilled Updates





## Smart and Skilled NSW Skills List - 13.1

The [NSW Skills List](#) has been updated. **Version 13.1** is now available.

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## Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications - Release of Version 4.0

The [Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications](#) was introduced in 2016 and aims to support individuals who have trade/industry experience and would benefit from a trade qualification, but for whom an apprenticeship may not be appropriate.

The Policy relates to whole qualification pathways in specific trade qualifications for students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. meet the **Smart and Skilled Eligibility Criteria**
2. are **over 21 years of age**
3. have at least **2 years of work experience** in the occupation/trade that relates to the qualification they will be undertaking
4. are currently working in the relevant industry or worked within the industry in **the past 5 years** in a role that relates to the trade qualification they will be undertaking.

Version 4.0 of the Policy takes effect for all new enrolments for training commencing on or after 1 July 2022. **Note:** This Policy is separate to, and complements, the [Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers Program](#).

The following qualifications are among those covered by the updated Policy:

- FBP30217 Certificate III in Plant Baking
- ACM40818 Certificate IV in Farriery
- RGR40218 Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey)

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## Northern Rivers Flood Grant Support Sessions

The NSW Government is holding support sessions for Northern Rivers residents affected by the February and March 2022 storms and floods. Residents, businesses and primary producers can book a session to discuss new or existing flood grant applications.

There will be grant specialists and Business Concierges on hand to offer support and help with any questions. Sessions are limited and there will only be a small number of places available for walk-in customers.

**Session location:** Ballina RSL Club, Auditorium, 1 Grant Street, Ballina, NSW 2478.

**Dates and times:** available from Wednesday 27 July through to 3 August 2022

For more information including how to book a session, please visit [Services NSW](#).



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## Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline

As the flood response continues, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services are encouraging flood-affected landholders to keep requesting assistance through the Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline, by calling **1800 814 647** (operating 7 days, 8am to 6pm).

Landholders can request emergency fodder for livestock, animal assessment, veterinary advice and if required, euthanasia and burial.

For more information, please visit the [NSW government website](#).

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# OCHRE Opportunity Hubs



Standing for **O**ppportunity, **C**hoice, **H**ealing, **R**esponsibility and **E**mpowerment, OCHRE is the NSW Government's plan for Aboriginal Affairs. It is symbolic of Aboriginal communities' deep connection with Country.

OCHRE Opportunity Hubs aim to provide Aboriginal young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway between school, further education, and employment. They link schools, employers, training providers, support services and Aboriginal communities. Among other responsibilities, the opportunity hubs connect Aboriginal students and their families to tertiary education and training pathways to align with students' career interests.

For more information, visit [OCHRE Opportunity Hubs](#)

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# Kids to Farms Schools Program



Kids to Farms aims to provide teachers and students with an opportunity to learn about our food and fibre production in a hands-on, interactive environment with the farmer. The [Kids to Farms: 2 by 12 initiative](#), created by NSW Farmers, is part of the Kids to Farms project. The premise is that if each primary school student in NSW has two direct interactions with agriculture by the time they are 12, students will have a far better understanding of the importance of the industry and the opportunities within it. By providing primary school students with the opportunity to undertake interactive, on-the-ground experiences, NSW Farmers hopes to improve students' understanding.

If you are a farmer who wants to become one of the amazing host farms or a teacher who wants to plan a unique on-farm experience for your students, we encourage you to [visit Kids to Farms](#) for more information about how to get involved.

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# Industry Skills Reports – Have your Say



Each year, Skills Impact produces a series of reports tailored to the industries we work with, outlining the opportunities and challenges facing them and their impact on skills. With potential changes in the operating environment due to proposed VET sector reforms, Industry Reference Committees have asked Skills Impact to design new ways of preparing these reports geared toward future skills and industry directions. As a result, Skills Impact produced the Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industries Skills Report and has now produced individual Industry Skills Reports, which are industry-specific and identify issues and priorities critical to the success of each industry.

The individual skills reports provide in-depth information about these industry-specific issues and priorities in addition to those covered in the larger [Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industries Skills Report](#). This report was made available for review and feedback on the Skills Impact webpage from 8 April to 9 May 2022, along with a summary document of key observations and intelligence. The draft documents, including comments, are still available to view.

We now invite you to provide feedback on the individual Industry Skills Reports relevant to your industry. You can do this by: clicking on the links below and posting your comments directly on the draft documents or you can email your feedback directly to [niall@skillsimpact.com.au](mailto:niall@skillsimpact.com.au).

Available for feedback

- [Agriculture and Production Horticulture](#)
- [Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping, Conservation and Land Management](#)
- [Animal Care and Management](#)
- [Aquaculture and Wild Catch](#)
- [Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical](#)
- [Forestry and Timber](#)
- [Meat](#)
- [Racing and Breeding](#)

Available for feedback soon

- [Pulp and Paper Manufacturing](#)

# National Training Package Updates



## Validation complete:

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

## Drafts submitted to AISC:

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

## Approved by AISC Ministers:

- [Australian Native and Bush Food Project](#)
- [Water Allocation & Entitlement Skills Project](#)

Approved by Ministers and published on the national training register [training.gov.au](https://training.gov.au):

- [Trainers of Assistance Dogs Project](#)
- [Small Companion Animal Incident Management Project](#)



Learn more about these training package [projects](#)

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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 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.

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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 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](#).

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