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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

March 2023

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A reminder that applications for the [Trade Pathways Innovation Grant](#) of amounts up to \$500,000 **close 4 April 2023**. Please contact me if you have any questions relating to skills and training in NSW.

Best wishes,
Jess

Mid-North Coast Regional Meeting: Helping Employers Attract Young People

Join us on the Mid-North Coast to hear from employers who have found ways to source local talent to help address their workforce shortages. The meeting will be facilitated by NSW Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs) including AFAM.

The program will include:

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- A panel of local employers with experience utilising local programs to tackle attraction and recruitment challenges
- Roundtable discussions where employers and schools can share ideas
- Networking opportunities with other local employers and local school leader
- Information on the funding available to support pathway programs.

Dates:

Coffs Harbour - 9 May 2023

Kempsey - 10 May 2023

Taree - 11 May 2023

Time: 10am – 12.30pm (9.30am for 10am start with light lunch provided)

If you are an employer interested in attending this program, please contact Jess Cleary at jcleary@skillsimpact.com.au or 0402 128 312.

Smart and Skilled Update

NSW Skills List updated – Version 13.5

The NSW Skills list has been updated to cover changes as a result of updates to Training Packages and Vocational Training Orders and additional NSW Fee Free qualifications.

Versions 13.5 of the [NSW Skills List](#) and [Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule](#) are now available.

Read more in the [Smart and Skilled update](#).

Smart and Skilled Provider Webinar Recording Available

The recording of the [provider webinar held 10 February 2023](#) is now available.

AgSkilled 2.0 Expansion Into Livestock Sector

The AgSkilled 2.0 program with its key training pillars of Production, Technology, Business and Safety, is designed to deliver industry-relevant training, drawing on new and emerging technologies, with a focus on driving efficiency and productivity. Originally focussed on agricultural plant-growing industries where it has delivered approximately \$9.6 million in training across the state since 2020, the program has now been expanded into the livestock sector.

Under the expanded program, fee-free training is available for producers in beef cattle, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, honeybees, other livestock, animal management services used for commercial agricultural (food and fibre) production, and/or pest/disease management for these animals.

Training can be tailored to suit your business needs and to suit students with a range of skills and experience. You can learn more about the training, the funding and support available and how to become an AgSkilled trainer by following the link below

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[Learn more about the AgSkilled program.](#)



Farms of the Future – Agtech Grant Program

The NSW Government opened the \$20 million Farms of the Future grants in February 2023, which will provide up to \$35,000 to eligible farm businesses to purchase the latest Agtech equipment and connectivity solutions to address their farm needs. The grant will be for purchasing approved connectivity solutions and digital Agtech devices with a level of co-contribution required to participate in the program.

The Farms of the Future program aims to facilitate tech-enabled production and monitoring through improved connectivity and installation of sensor equipment which support increased productivity, competitiveness, job creation and sustainable use of resources in the selected agricultural sectors: Cotton, Livestock, Grains and Horticultural tree crops and vines.

It will support primary producers within five target regions, comprised of the following 11 local government areas (LGAs):

1. **Riverina Murray:** Carrathool, Griffith and Leeton
2. **New England:** Armidale
3. **North-West:** Moree Plains and Narrabri
4. **Central West:** Orange and Cabonne
5. **North Coast:** Ballina, Byron and Lismore

The program is committed to working with regional communities, farmers and industries, enabling them to become more self-reliant and better prepared for the impacts of extreme weather events and other economic shocks.

[Learn more about the Farms of The Future Grant Program.](#)

Applications **close 31 August 2023.**



School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships (SBAT) – Tailored Support and Mentoring

Employing a school-based apprentice or trainee allows you to train a young person who can contribute to the current and future growth of your business or organisation. If you employ a school-based apprentice or trainee from a school participating in the Educational Pathways Program you will gain the additional support of an SBAT Engagement Officer, who can mentor your apprentice or trainee as they navigate school, work and training.

SBAT Engagement Officers will work closely with employers to:

- Promote SBAT vacancies to students
- Connect interested students with your business
- Provide ongoing support during the SBAT

If you are interested in employing a school-based apprentice or trainee for your business or organisation, please complete the [expression of interest form on the Training Services NSW website](#).

Educational Pathways VET Ambassadors

The Educational Pathways VET Ambassadors initiative gives students a chance to hear from inspiring individuals who have achieved success through vocational education and training. The Ambassadors share their experiences with students, discuss the career pathways they have been able to pursue thanks to VET, and provide advice and informal mentoring to students.

Some of the VET ambassadors (pictured below) include:

- Sara Morgan (Captive Animals)
- Taylor Vandijk (Conservation and Land Management)
- Mark Doughty (Horticulture)

All recipients of NSW Training Awards, Sara was the 2022 NSW Training Awards Vocational Student of the year for North Coast & Mid North Coast Region studying a Certificate III in Captive Animals. Already a qualified Veterinary Nurse, Sara, in pursuing VET, not only expanded the depth of her knowledge, but discovered her true calling.

[Learn more about VET ambassadors.](#)



TAFE NSW YES+

TAFE NSW's Youth Engagement Strategy Plus (YES+) initiative helps students identify potential career pathways through vocational tasters in a wide range of industries, delivered at a local TAFE NSW campus. YES+ gets students out of the school setting into TAFE-style learning, usually attending a TAFE NSW campus one day per week over 6-10 weeks.

The following industry-related taster courses are available in term 2:

- Animal Care
- Meat – Butchery
- Hospitality and Bakery
- Bakery
- Horticulture
- Landscape Construction

[YES+ course dates and locations.](#)

\$250 Travel Card Available to Regional Apprentices and Trainees – Applications Open April 2023

The Regional Apprentice and University Student Travel Card (“RAUSTC”) is a community transport scheme, approved by the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and administered by Transport for NSW with delivery support from Service NSW.

The RAUSTC delivers a \$250 prepaid card to eligible apprentices, trainees and tertiary students in regional, rural and remote areas to be used towards the purchase of fuel and transportation services, such as taxi services and NSW TrainLink train

and coach services.

[RAUSTC terms and conditions.](#)



Industry Events

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is Australia's largest annual ticketed event, attracting over 828,000 attendees on average. It comprises a large agricultural showcase and the revenue generated from the show allows the Royal Agriculture Society (RAS) to invest in agricultural programs, competitions, education, youth and rural NSW.

There are a number of free resources to promote agriculture to start students on the paddock to plate and field to fibre journeys. An example of these is the Career Stepping Stones posters: A set of eight posters outlining careers in the poultry, aquaculture, red meat, dairy, wool, fruit and veg, grain and sugar industries.

[Download posters](#) and read more about [education opportunities at The Show](#).

The Sydney Royal Easter show is being held from **6 - 17 April 2023**.



National Training Package Update

Training Package updates have now been put on hold while the Jobs and Skills Councils are being established and initial workforce planning is undertaken. Qualifications reform is also in progress and this may lead to a revision in the ways that this work is undertaken. We recommend that stakeholders review the proposals related to qualifications reform and [participate in the public consultation](#) which closes at **5pm AEDT, Friday 31 March 2023**.

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. **Submissions close at 5.00PM 30 June 2023 (AEST).**

[Resources to Assist in Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee](#): a series of videos and resources are available.

[Trade Pathways for Innovation Grants](#): The Trade Pathways Innovation Fund will support industry-led projects that trial and test innovative approaches to obtaining trade qualifications. **Applications close 5.00pm on 4 April 2023.**

[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 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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