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# AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management

November 2022

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The thoughts of the AFAM team continue to be with all stakeholders impacted by recent flooding. If you have been affected by the floods, the NSW Government is providing both up-to-date [information and support services](#). Financial and other assistance is available and you will find useful links in the Flood Recovery Grants article below.

This month, we welcome Jess Cleary into the role of AFAM ITABs interim Executive Officer. Jess is looking forward to building on the foundation laid by her predecessor Ben by continuing to be an effective voice to the NSW Government for the industries AFAM represents. Jess will also continue to work with AFAM's Industry Training Advisory Committee members and stakeholders to advocate for the skills and training needs of industry. Stakeholder engagement will remain a priority of the AFAM ITAB and the team looks forward to working and connecting with you all in the near future.

If you would like to discuss workforce and training development needs, please [get in touch](#).

Best wishes,  
The AFAM team.

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## 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](#). Financial assistance is available in a range of categories including for individuals, businesses and VET students impacted by the floods. 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>



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## Smart and Skilled Update

### Resources Library – Vocational Education and Training

As part of the commitment to provide easy access to information and resources, a resources library has been introduced to the NSW Government website following provider feedback. This will make it quicker and more efficient to find the forms, documents, training guides and other resources. The resource library can help you locate a resource simply by entering a few keywords or a qualification code into the search field.

You can further refine your search by using one or all four of the search filters below:

- Audience (e.g. Training providers)
- Topic (e.g. Smart and Skilled, JobTrainer)
- Publication type (e.g. Guide)
- Date range

Go to the [Resources library](#).

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### Smart and Skilled Program for 2023-24: Application Portal for Existing and Prospective Smart and Skilled Providers Now Open

Applications for the Smart and Skilled program opened on 1 November 2022. The application process will be open for four weeks. All existing and prospective Smart and Skilled providers need to apply as part of a new application process in 2023-24.

Training Services NSW are continuing to run a series of webinars giving an overview of the application process and providing an opportunity for providers to ask questions during the sessions.

training and education.

### **Upcoming webinars**

Wednesday 9 November 2022, 12.30 - 1.30pm

Wednesday 16 November 2022, 12.30 - 1.30pm

Wednesday 23 November 2022, 12.30pm - 1.30pm

If you're unable to attend the live session, recordings of previous sessions are also available.

To register for a webinar or access recordings, please visit [Training Services NSW](#).

Further information about the Smart and Skilled application process, including application terms and conditions, contract operating guidelines and user guides as well as FAQs are available on the [Smart and Skilled Webpage](#).

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## **Skilling for Recovery (SFR) Redeployment and Youth (R&Y) Program – Applications Close 30 November 2022**

The Department has announced further investment in fee free full qualifications with more information on the implementation of these initiatives to be released soon. The JobTrainer and Skilling for Recovery (SFR) initiatives will be finishing on 31 December 2022 and the SFR Redeployment and Youth (R&Y) program will also end on 31 December 2022.

As the Department moves towards the end of the SFR R&Y programs, funding will be targeted to training that is most needed for high priority student cohorts and industries. Priorities for the remaining period of these programs include funding for part qualifications on the SFR R&Y approved part qualifications list that support jobseekers in high priority industries. Each region will focus jobseeker part qualification funding to the highest priority industries for its region.

Any enrolments and commencements under the SFR R&Y program must occur by the end of December 2022 and in order to achieve this, Training Need Identification (TNI's) for these programs must be submitted by 30 November 2022.

For more information please refer to the [Smart and Skilled Update](#).

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# **MINTRAC's Careers Pathway Expo 2022**

The National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council (MINTRAC), in partnership with the NSW Government Small Business Month program, are holding a Meat Industry Careers Pathway Expo this month. This is a valuable opportunity for local employers to attract students looking for careers in the meat industry. Students will be able to speak directly to employers who have current employment vacancies, connect with local apprenticeship network providers, hear from RTOs who will speak about how training is delivered and the training support available and experience industry trade demonstrations.

The careers pathway expo will enable:

- employers to gain direct access to students from the region who are planning their careers post-graduation and are seeking employment opportunities.
- engagement with local school Careers Advisors, building relationships with future pipelines of employees.
- interaction with apprenticeship network program providers and the opportunity to learn how to leverage funding when hiring and training new workers (and existing workers).
- exchange of information from RTOs about how work-based training programs operate.
- exhibition of your local business at the Careers Expo and advertisement of current employment vacancies.
- showcasing of the benefits that meat industry careers have to offer young people.

**Date:** 15 November

**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Location:** Club Singleton

50 Pitt Street, Singleton, New South Wales 2330 Australia

**Cost:** Free

For more information and to register for the event visit [MINTACs Career Pathway Expo 2022](#).



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## National AgDay – 18 November 2022

National Agriculture Day, on 18 November, is a day for industry and the nation to celebrate! This year's theme is innovation in agriculture – celebrating the innovation and technology that is changing the face of farming.

Australians everywhere are encouraged to get involved in this opportunity to celebrate and learn about Australia's incredible farm sector:

- Get involved in events by either [hosting](#) or [attending](#)
- Wear your [I love farmers t-shirt](#)
- Enter the Innovation in Agriculture [photo/video competition](#). Entries close at

5pm, 18 November.

To find out more about the day visit [AgDay.org.au](http://AgDay.org.au)



## RDA Southern Inland - Conference, Gala Dinner and Auction

Regional Development Australia Southern Inland will be celebrating AgDay this year by hosting a conference followed by a paddock to plate gala dinner and charity auction on **Friday 25 November** in Goulburn. The conference is an opportunity to learn about future Agri-development with keynote speakers and panel discussions.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the [RDASI website](#).

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## Summer Skills 2022-23

Do you know a young person aged between 16-24 who has left school and wants to learn new skills through the Summer Skills program? The NSW Government is once again offering fee-free, industry aligned short courses for young people. Participants can kickstart their careers with short courses, learning online at their own pace or at a location near them. Designed specifically with school leavers in mind, the program allows them to gain skills that can be used to help bridge the gap from school to work. Learners develop skills that may lead to further study, part-time work or a career in industry. Region specific courses create opportunities for skilling up school leavers, assisting them and supporting local industry and employer need. There are a range of courses available for industries including agriculture and animal care and management.

- Agricultural Chemical Skill Set
- Statement of Attainment in Animal Care (Work in Animal Industry, Feed and Water Animals)
- Statement of Attainment in Horticulture (Apply Chemicals, Prune Scrubs/Small Trees, Treat Weeds, Operate Machinery and Equipment).

For more information, visit the [Training Services NSW](#) website.





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## Travel Boost for Apprentices and Trainees

The NSW Government are boosting the budgets of regional apprentices, trainees and university students with a new \$250 travel card to help with the cost of the commute to work, training or university. Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the initiative will take the pressure off the hip pocket of apprentices, trainees and university students in regional NSW.

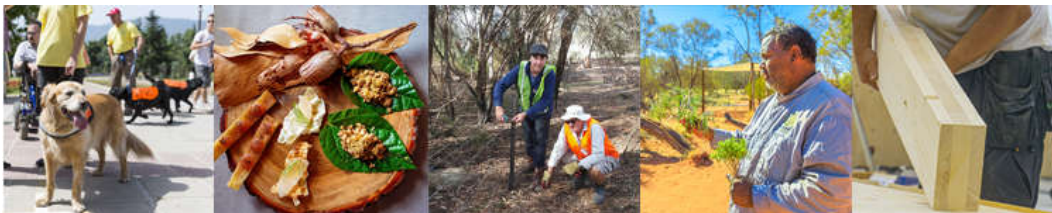
*'We know apprentices and university students in the bush often need to travel long distances for work or between training, classes and practical learning – and this is about easing that burden.'*

The prepaid debit card can be used for taxi trips, fuel, Opal card top ups, public transport, privately-operated coaches and electric charging stations.

For more information including eligibility requirements, please visit the [Training Service NSW website](#).

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## National Training Package Updates



Submitted to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) for endorsement:

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

Drafts approved by the AISC and endorsed by State/Territory Skills Ministers:

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

Endorsed by State/Territory Skills Ministers (on hold until Respect for Country Job Skills project is endorsed):

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

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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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Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested.

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