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AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

October 2022

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Our thoughts go out to all stakeholders impacted by recent rain events, and we hope that you are safe and well at this time. If you are affected by the floods, the NSW Government is providing [information and support services](#).

This month we have news to share about what's happening at AFAM ITAB. We will be saying farewell to our Executive Officer, Ben Norton-Smith who will be leaving to join Dairy Australia leading Dairy NSW's workforce attraction project. Ben's passion for skills and training have been instrumental to the ITAB's success and support of the NSW Government's efforts to support skills across the State. His enthusiasm and leadership have been greatly valued and we wish him every success as he takes this next step.

Jess Cleary will be stepping up into the role as AFAM ITAB'S interim Executive Officer. Jess has been managing and supporting stakeholders and committees, and having completed the AFAM establishment period, will now take on additional responsibilities.

Best wishes,
The AFAM Team

Engagement Activities

The AFAM team attended the FarmSafe Australia National Conference in Canberra. We met with industry farm safety professionals and discussed matters relating to farm safety induction training and educational resources.

We have also been busy developing the next round of consultations for the NSW Smart and Skilled applications that are due in November. We are engaging with stakeholders making applications ahead of the 1 November opening round, as well as regarding changes to the Skills Lists in the next month. You will find more information about these in the update section below, and we encourage you to provide your feedback relating to the new methodology for reviewing the Skills List before the **closing date of Friday, 21 October**.

Smart and Skilled Update

Program for 2023-24: Application process for existing and prospective Smart and Skilled providers

Applications for the Smart and Skilled program will open 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 for 2023-24.

Further information about the Smart and Skilled application process, including eligibility criteria, how applications will be assessed and a summary of application questions are available at the [Training Services NSW](#) website.

NSW Skills List Review Methodology - Provide Feedback

The Department of Education is updating its methodology for selecting qualifications for a government subsidy to ensure that all qualifications continue to meet the needs of the labour market and achieve good student outcomes.

A [discussion paper](#) has been released for stakeholder feedback which details the Department's new approach to selecting qualifications for government subsidy. AFAM encourages you to have your say on its new approach to updating the Skills List.

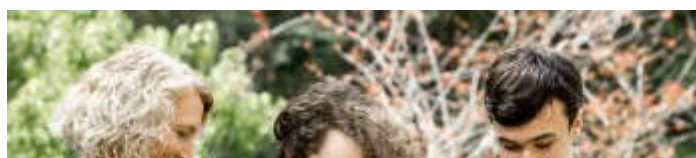
Please provide any feedback to: marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au by **Friday, 21 October 2022**.

Summer Skills 2022/23 – Intent to Participate

The Department is inviting Smart and Skilled providers to submit an Intent to Participate in delivering part qualifications for the 2022/23 Summer Skills initiative. The initiative supports young people, particularly school leavers, to obtain the skills they need in industries where there are immediate job opportunities. Eligible participants who can access Summer Skills training must meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria and also be one of the following:

- leaving school permanently in 2022, i.e. Year 11 and 12 school leavers
- not at school in 2022 and no more than 24 years old.

Training can commence now, and the training enrolment period ends **30 November 2022**. All training must be completed **by 28 April 2023**.





Critical Producer Grant

The Critical Producer Grant is now open with amounts from \$10,000 – 100,000 available to help key primary production industries, including agriculture, aquaculture and horticulture, in storm and flood-hit areas. The objective is to help primary producers and production enterprises remain viable and effectively recover, having been impacted by the February and March 2022 NSW severe weather and flooding events. The grants will enable the industry to rebuild and recover in the medium to the longer term to support job security and future resilience and enable future production.

The Critical Producer Grant is one of four recovery programs under the \$150 million Primary Industry Support Package announced in March 2022 and is administered by the Department of Regional NSW.

[Find out more](#) about eligibility and what your application needs to include and start your application online today.

Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industries Skills Report Available

As part of its skills reporting for 2022, Skills Impact has brought together the insights of 12 Industry Reference Committees to produce an Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industries Skills Report. The first of its kind, the report identifies common themes impacting industry sectors across food, fibre and agribusiness.

Along with this, nine individual Industry Skills Reports have been produced to present insights specific to each industry.

Together, these reports identify trends and skills priorities to provide advice and information to government. They highlight potential projects for the future Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industry Cluster to consider, moving into 2023, as part of the reinvigorated Skills system.



The reports are available below:

- [Agribusiness, Food and Fibre Industries Skills Report](#)

Individual Reports:

- [Animal care and Management](#)
- [Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management](#)
- [Australian Meat Processing](#)
- [Agriculture and Production Horticulture](#)
- [Aquaculture and Wild Catch](#)
- [Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical](#)
- [Forest and Timber](#)
- [Pulp and paper Manufacturing](#)
- [Racing and Breeding](#)

Women in Trades Survey

The Women in Trades survey aims to understand why people in NSW may or may not suggest a trade job to a woman they know, particularly in male-dominated trades. Trade jobs are in high demand, and employers want to know how to attract more workers, including women. By increasing women's participation in trades where there is low representation, NSW can:

- address skills shortages
- encourage broader career opportunities for all
- tackle gender discrimination in the workplace
- boost the state's economy.

[Complete the survey](#) to help employers understand how to recruit more women and girls into trades and help shape the future of growing industries in NSW.



2022 NSW School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year

The 2022 NSW School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year was awarded to Tahli Gleeson, who undertook a Certificate II in Agriculture in Tamworth.

Farming and agriculture have always been a big part of Tahli's life. She accepted a role as a school-based trainee with Local Land Services while enrolled in a Certificate II Agriculture qualification. Tahli was exposed to many practical and operational facets of agriculture and farming throughout her traineeship. She displayed an outstanding work ethic, and a get-it-done attitude, applying herself with enthusiasm to both administration and practical farming tasks. With an expanded resume and her Certificate II qualification in hand, Tahli knows that VET has helped her career.

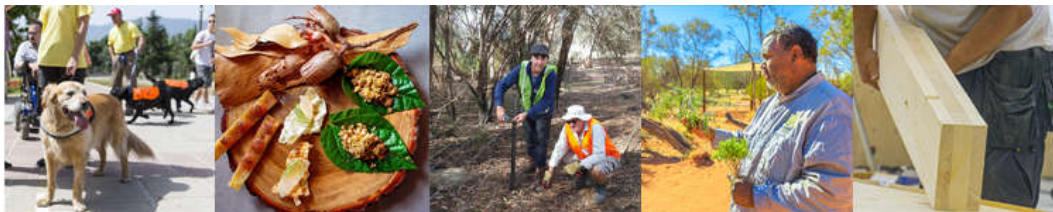


"VET is such a practical training pathway and full of opportunities... I now have further job qualifications and a supportive group of work colleagues and industry mentors to help me on my career journey to achieve my goal of working in agriculture."

AFAM congratulates Tahli and all the award winners of the NSW Training Awards, including the VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year Finalists Clint Giddings from the Western NSW region, Jill Clayton from the Hunter and Central Coast region and Luke Smith from the Western Sydney and Blue Mountains region.

For the complete list of 2022 award winners, please visit the [Training Services NSW](#) website.

National Training Package Updates



Submitted to STAs/TTAs:

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

Submitted to the Department:

- [Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project](#)

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

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

Endorsed by ministers (on hold until Respect for Country Job Skills is endorsed):

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

NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships

Training Services NSW is offering the following grants, opportunities and scholarships to employers and vocational learners:

[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.

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](#).

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

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