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AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management**

June 2023

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If you have any questions relating to skills and training in NSW please [contact me](#).

Best wishes,
Jess

Bert Evans Apprenticeship Scholarships - Applications Open

The Bert Evans apprentice scholarships are a NSW Government-run program offering grants of \$5,000 annually over three years to help applicants overcome personal barriers to finish their apprenticeships and go onto rewarding careers. The scholarship program is named in honour of the late Bert Evans AO, a passionate advocate of vocational education for more than 30 years.

Scholarships are open to NSW registered apprentices in both metropolitan and country areas, including school-based apprentices who have demonstrated:

- hardship in their personal circumstances
- capability for vocational education and training that leads to successful completion of their trade training
- a positive attitude and application in workplace and formal training.

The program will support 150 people with \$15,000 each (\$5,000 per year) to complete their training and further their career. **Applications close 21 July 2023.**

Read more about [eligibility criteria](#) and [how to apply](#).



Smart and Skilled Update

Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that helps people get training for in-demand skills and industries

Expanded Training Opportunities for NSW Skills Providers

In a major boost for vocational education and training, a \$710 million investment will allow more than 500 approved providers to deliver subsidised training to address skills needs in New South Wales.

The 2023-24 skills provider contracts will feature more providers, more qualifications and more regions. 198 providers have been offered contracts for the first time. Minister for Skills TAFE and Tertiary Education Tim Crakanthorp said:

‘By offering subsidies for priority qualifications, we are empowering individuals to gain the skills required for rewarding careers and driving economic growth.’

Learn more about [training opportunities for skills providers](#).

Skills List: Version 14.0 now available

This NSW Skills List update covers changes as a result of:

- updates to Training Packages; and
- updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs).

Versions 14.0 of the NSW Skills List and Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule are effective as of and apply to training that commences on or after 1 July 2023. [Download Version 14.0](#).

To view the complete list of courses impacted by this update please [read the June Smart and Skilled Update](#).

NSW Skills Brokers: How They Can Help You

AFAM ITAB attended a Skills brokers Conference in North Wollongong on 24 May 2023. NSW ITABs were invited to connect with Skills Brokers and discuss the training demands for their respective sectors.

Skills brokers help connect jobseekers and recent school leavers with training providers and help upskill displaced workers or people at risk of unemployment.

There are 16 skills brokers located across NSW to help employers:

- locate new staff who are trained and ready to fill roles with specific skill requirements
- find ways to upskill existing staff, or newly employed staff who need training
- redeploy existing staff who were stood down, are at risk of being stood down, or who are facing retrenchment into a new role in your business or another business
- find jobs seekers who have relevant skills or are in training to get the necessary skills.

Learn more about [NSW Skills Brokers](#) and contact AFAM ITAB to facilitate an introduction with your local Skills Broker.



**Introducing
Skills Brokers**

Connecting Young People to Agriculture in Western NSW

The Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) program, in collaboration with Humans of Agriculture, have inspired students from Western NSW to consider a career in the agriculture industry.

Sixty students from schools in Western NSW participated in two interactive workshops delivered by RIEP to challenge students' perceptions of traditional farming roles and connect them with meaningful career opportunities in their local communities. Students had the opportunity to engage with the Humans of Agriculture team and ask questions which were then used to develop a series of case studies starring local agriculture employers aimed to further engage students into the industry.

The following businesses provided insights to give students a better understanding of the agriculture industry as a whole and answered their workshop questions: Little Big Dairy Co, Fletcher International Grain, Ben Furney Flour Mills, Hutcheon and Pearce - Dubbo and Australian Food and Fibre. [Access and watch the industry insights videos.](#)

The [RIEP program](#) supports employers of all sizes and across all industries in connecting with schools to create lasting impacts through vocational pathways.

AFAM ITAB are happy to facilitate an introduction with your local RIEP officer or you can contact RIEP directly at RIEP@det.nsw.edu.au.



Students from schools in Western NSW who participated in the Future of Agriculture workshops.

Plan Your Event for National Skills Week

National Skills Week is dedicated to raising the profile and status of vocational education and training (VET), dispelling outdated myths and showcasing the

education and training (VET), developing talented interns and showcasing the attractive career pathways and the success stories that emanate from VET.

There's never been a more important time to promote VET and you can find [many ways to be involved](#) during this year's [National Skills Week 21 - 27 August](#).

AFAM's Collaboration With New Jobs and Skills Council, Skills Insight

AFAM ITAB is very happy to be working in collaboration with the new national Jobs and Skills Council, Skills Insight, built on the foundation of Skills Impact the former national Skills Services Organisation. As a result of this collaboration, you may have noticed our updated email address afamITAB@skillsinsight.com.au. Our webpage can be viewed at skillsinsight.com.au/afam and you can contact Jess at jcleary@skillsinsight.com.au.

AFAM continues to be supported and funded by the NSW government. Our values and commitment to working with industry to understand and communicate your vocational education and training (VET) needs and challenges remains unchanged.

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 First Nations owned and operated businesses to grow and diversify their business.

[Barranggirra](#): to provide end-to-end support for First Nations learners through culturally appropriate mentoring to ensure successful retention and completion of training and improved post-training employment outcomes.

[Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships](#): scholarships are available to assist NSW apprentices who have experienced hardship. **Applications close Friday 21 July 2023. Closing soon.**

[Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant](#): the grant adopts a number of strategies to develop and support First Nations people through the creation of training and employment opportunities. **Submissions close at 5.00PM 30 June 2023 (AEST). Closing soon.**

[Farms of The Future AgTech Grant 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 (sheep and beef), Grains and Horticultural (tree crops and vines). **Applications close 31 August 2023, 5.00pm.**

[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.

[OCHRE Opportunity Hubs](#): aim to provide First Nations young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway between school and further education and/or employment through partnerships with schools, coordination of local opportunities, mentoring, support and more.

[Regional Skills Relocation Grant](#): This grant assists regional NSW businesses in identified industries attract skilled and specialised employees from NSW metropolitan areas, interstate or internationally, to regional NSW. **Applications close 15 December 2023.**

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

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

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Skills Insight

AFAM works in collaboration with Skills Insight.



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