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AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management**

August 2023

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It was great to see the positive messages highlighting the talents, skills and career pathways and the value of apprentices and trainees during National Skills Week last week.

The NSW launch of National Skills Week, hosted by Training Services NSW and SkillsOne, was held at the Parliament of NSW on Tuesday 22 August. The event brought together two diverse panels of NSW Training Award Winners - VET Teachers and students plus employers and parents speaking on skills future, initiatives, and programs to meet the needs of industry. AFAM was delighted to see representatives from industry, RTOs, JSCs and Training Services NSW at the event.

Best wishes,
Jess



L-R: MINTRAC CEO Mick Crouch, AFAM's Jess Cleary, Georgia Smith and Mark Wadsworth from MINTRAC at the NSW launch of National Skills Week.

Engagement Activities

This month, AFAM met with the [Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance \(MISA\)](#) Jobs and Skills Council (JSC) during which the JSC provided an outline on their proposed structure and plans. MISA are currently meeting with stakeholders in manufacturing, including those in [Food and Beverage](#) and [pharmaceuticals](#), to provide input into their workforce plan. Stakeholders in food, beverage and pharmaceuticals are encouraged to provide information on industry skills, training and workforce needs to Industry Manager, Mark Shaddock: Marks@manufacturingalliance.org.au and directly to AFAM ITAB so we can represent your interests.

If you haven't already provided feedback to the [Skills Insight JSC Workforce Plan](#), we encourage you to provide feedback directly to [Skills Insight](#) and [AFAM ITAB](#).

The National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council (MINTRAC) attended the NSW Department of Education's "Try a Trade and Employment Expo" in Wagga Wagga last week to help promote retail butcher opportunities and educational pathways to

the local area students. The event was a success with hundreds of local students attending to find out more about career pathways in VET.

Smart and Skilled Update

Targeted Priorities Prevocational Part Qualification Program is Now Open

Smart and Skilled providers can now start negotiating and submitting Training Needs Identifications (TNIs) for consideration for the 2023-2024 Activity Period.

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

NSW VET Review – Consultation Phase Underway

The NSW VET review is a NSW Government commitment to restore TAFE to be the best it can be and re-skill NSW. Deep research and analysis were conducted during phase 1 of the review and form the foundation for a public-facing discussion paper being used to guide consultations in Phase 2 which is now underway.

The discussion paper supporting this consultation phase poses questions to prompt feedback and engagement across four key themes:

- Boosting student success
- Placing TAFE NSW at the heart of the system
- Delivering VET in NSW
- Preparing VET for the future.

You can [download the discussion paper](#), find more information and read about the phases of the review and the review panel on the [NSW vocational education and training \(VET\) review webpage](#).

Submissions to phase 2 close Friday 24 November at 11.59pm. For those who want a quick and easy way to have their say, a [simple survey](#) is also available.

Meat Industry Exposure Event

Under funding from the NSW Trade Pathways Fund, MINTRAC is partnering with TAFE NSW and Youth Express to host an industry event showcasing retail butchery and small goods careers. Meat processing employers, job seekers and school students from the NSW Hunter Region will come together on 12 September to celebrate local jobs and training opportunities in the region. This is an important initiative that is encouraging the uptake of trade study and addressing labour shortages.

For further information [contact Mark Wadsworth](#) or [book online](#) to attend the event.



NSW Training Awards 2023 – Finalists Announced

The annual NSW Training Awards recognise outstanding achievement in the vocational education and training sector by individuals, employers and Registered Training Organisations. This year's 40 finalists have been announced and the winners of the 12 main categories will be announced during the state ceremony taking place at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 15 September.

Joining in the celebration of the NSW Training Awards provides an opportunity to appreciate the dedication and passion of those involved in the VET sector. By recognising their efforts, we demonstrate the importance of VET and its impact on the development and prosperity of NSW.

AFAM ITAB congratulates all finalists for outstanding achievements in VET and celebrates the following finalists from industries that AFAM represents:

Apprentice of the Year

Raychel White

Qualification: Cert III in Nursery Operations

Employer: Penrith City Council

RTO: TAFE NSW

Trainee of the Year

Celina Pellett

Qualification: Agriculture (Dairy Production)

Employer: GW & KM Forbes

RTO: Tocal College

Industry Collaboration

Department of Education and Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

[Learn more](#) and [book tickets](#) to the 2023 NSW Training Awards event.



Jobs and Skills Councils Project Updates:

AgTrade Apprenticeships

Improving the visibility of career pathways and enhancing the attractiveness of a career in agriculture are crucial steps in addressing the current workforce challenges faced by this industry, particularly when it comes to attracting new entrants. Skills Insight will hold a series of workshops around the country in October, as part of a consultation and research process, to discuss various options for a potential AgTrade apprenticeship model.

Please contact [Andrew Horgan](#) if you are interested in project updates and consultation opportunities and [visit the project page](#).

Recommendations for an agricultural trade pathway have been made by the [Agricultural Workforce Working Group](#), the National Agricultural Labour Advisory Committee in the [National Agriculture Workforce Strategy](#) and the National Farmers' Federation in their [2030 Roadmap](#).



AHC Improvements Project

Over the past few years, the Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management (AHC) Training Package has been undergoing strategic revisions to keep it in line with industry skills needs. Reviews have been made based on unit sector, rather than qualification to improve efficiency and minimise disruptions.

As a result, several qualifications and skill sets need to be updated to incorporate units of competency that have been developed or revised in recent projects, including several work health and safety and environmental care related units. Four units are proposed for deletion while 40 qualifications and 28 skill sets will be reviewed.

Skills Insight JSC has planned online information sessions to provide further information about updates to the qualifications and skills sets and how to provide feedback. The one hour sessions are planned for:

- **Tuesday 12 September, 10-11 am**
- **Thursday 14 September, 2-3 pm**
- **Wednesday 20 September, 12-1pm**
- **Thursday 21 September, 11 am - 12 pm**

Those with an interest in the qualifications being updated are encouraged to [register for one of the sessions](#) with Skills Insight JSC.



Tree Felling Project

Skills Insight and ForestWorks are undertaking a project to revise three tree felling units in consultation with industry. The project focuses on the following units of competency:

- [FWPCOT2274 Fell trees manually_\(basic\)](#)
- [FWPCOT3347 Fell trees manually_\(intermediate\)](#)
- [FWPCOT3348 Fell trees manually_\(advanced\)](#)

The project is particularly relevant for training providers, businesses and workers involved in tree felling with chainsaws. This includes forestry workers, arboriculture workers, gardeners, farm workers, and authorised personnel from fire services, state emergency services and parks and wildlife services

emergency services and parks and wildlife services.

The consultation sessions and project updates will be published on the [Tree Felling Project webpage](#) on the Skills Insight website.



Image supplied by Power Safety Training

NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships

The following grants, opportunities and scholarships are available 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.

[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.

[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.

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.

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

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