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# AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management**

October 2023

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If you have any questions relating to skills and training in NSW, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,  
Jess

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## Industry Training Advisory Committee Meetings

Last month the Agricultural Production Horticulture (APH) Industry Training Advisory Committee met to discuss industry challenges and skills needs. A range of topics were discussed including the drier and hotter conditions being experienced and the impact that these conditions would have on the various regions in NSW and on training.

This month the Animal Care and Management Industry Training Advisory Committee met at RSPCA's Education Facilities in Yagoona, Sydney. It was the first time the committee has met in person, and it was great opportunity for committee members to meet each other and take a tour of RSPCA's facilities. The committee shared information on the skills and training needs of their industry sectors and discussed the most recent NSW inquiries into [veterinary workforce shortages](#) and resourcing of [animal pounds](#). Workforce shortages continue to affect the various animal care industry sectors at a time when pet surrender rates are extremely high.

The committee also discussed the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) – Round 3 and provided initial feedback on animal care occupations. Read more about the [ANZSCO review and information webinar](#) below.



Some of the participants who met at the RSPCA Education Facilities in Yagoona, Sydney.

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## New Ministers Strengthen Focus on Skills, Jobs and Regions

The NSW government will boost their focus on skills, domestic manufacturing and the importance of TAFE to regional NSW with changes to the NSW Ministry made on 27 September. Former Minister in the previous Labor Government and Member for Monaro, Steve Whan, was appointed Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education. Minister for Finance and Minister for Natural Resources, Courtney Houssos, MLC was also sworn in to the new, additional portfolio of Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement.

As part of the 2023-24 Budget, the Government has committed \$9.8 billion to build new and upgraded schools and other educational facilities. The budget also included an additional \$112.0 million to meet the TAFE funding shortfall and 1,000 extra apprentices across the NSW Government by 2026 at a cost of \$93.5 million.

NSW Premier Chris Minns said, “Steve has represented all communities, but particularly rural and regional NSW, with distinction throughout his career as a former Minister for Rural Affairs, Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Small Business.”

[Read about the changes.](#)

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## ANZSCO Review: Round 3 Consultations Open

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). This system describes and categorises occupations within Australia and New Zealand and is used in the census to collect data about the workforce.

Occupations are being reviewed by [focus area](#), with the current round featuring occupations in agriculture, horticulture, fishing, aquaculture, meat processing, racing and breeding, animal care and management.

The ABS are seeking feedback on the accuracy of occupation skill levels and descriptions and any occupations anticipated to emerge or decline in the next 5 to 10 years.

We want to support your input into the review so that the skill level and description of occupations within your industry are accurately reflected in the ANZSCO. This will promote fair and useful allocation of government supports that use data from the census to inform decision making.

On **9 November**, Skills Insight JSC with input from the ABS will be hosting an [online information session](#) to discuss ANZSCO, how it relates to stakeholders and how to provide feedback. Skills Insight will also outline some of their observations relating to occupations being reviewed in this round. There will be a Q&A section at the end of the session for stakeholders to ask questions of both Skills Insight and the ABS.

Provide input directly through the [ABS website](#) **by 5 December** and/or by contributing to a submission being prepared by Skills Insight Jobs and Skills Council (JSC). To contribute to the JSC submission, get in touch with Skills Insight at [contact@skillsinsight.com.au](mailto:contact@skillsinsight.com.au) or 03 9321 3526 **by COB Monday 20 November**.

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## Successful Launch of 2023 Landscape Trade Expo

Earlier this month the Landscape Association (TLA) hosted an inaugural trade expo which brought together over 800 people. Attendees included apprentices, employees, employers and suppliers from the landscape construction, landscape design, horticulture, nursery and gardens and turf industry sectors.

TAFE NSW's collaboration was central to the success of the day, both hosting the event and facilitating attendance by over 250 students studying landscape and horticulture qualifications – and encouraging them to bring their bosses as a way for everyone to connect with the industry.

This is the first landscape focused trade event offering in NSW/ACT in over a decade and featured trade exhibits, product demonstrations and an informative speaker

and featured trade exhibits, product demonstrations and an informative speaker program. The Expo provided a platform to educate members and showcase innovative solutions with its speaker program which included presentations on mental health, silica and featured celebrity landscaper from TV's *Better Homes and Gardens*, Charlie Albone.

Congratulations to TLA on such a successful event.



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## Support Grant Extended to Central West and Southern NSW

Flood-impacted medium-size businesses across the central west and southern NSW can now apply for up to \$200,000 in support through a jointly funded Albanese and Minns Government grant program, delivered by Service NSW.

The Medium Business Support Grant is available to business and non-profit organisations with more than 20 and less than 200 full-time equivalent employees who were directly impacted by storms and floods from August to September 2022.

Funds can be used to help offset the costs of recovery and re-establishing a business, including for safety inspections, building repairs, cleaning equipment, materials needed to resume trade, disposing of debris and spoiled stock or leasing temporary space.

The Medium Business Support Grant will be available in the local government areas (LGAs) of Balranald, Berrigan, Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cabonne, Carrathool, Central Darling, Cobar, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Edward River, Federation, Forbes, Griffith, Gunnedah, Hay, Junee, Lachlan, Leeton, Moree Plains, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Parkes, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle and Wentworth.

[More information and online application.](#)



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## Social Enterprises Receive Funding to Advance Economic Wellbeing of Women

The NSW Government, through the Department of Education and Office of Social Impact Investment (OSII), has partnered with five job-focused social enterprises to advance the economic wellbeing of women who face increased barriers to economic security, independence and workforce participation.

[Bread and Butter Project](#) is one of the social enterprises that has been selected to receive outcomes-based funding. The enterprise supports women who are refugees with training and skills into baking careers.

The Bread and Butter Project invests 100% of their profits into training and employment pathways. Their trainees undertake a 6 - 8-month traineeship, which includes on-the-job bakery training, TAFE accreditation, English-language tutoring and job readiness support. The Bread & Butter Project then supports trainees after

graduation to secure employment with like-minded organisations.

[Learn more about the grant and the social enterprises.](#)



## Fully Funded Traineeship Opportunities in Poultry Production and Food Processing

The AgriFutures Cultivate Program will offer 12 fully funded traineeships in the chicken meat industry for people seeking an early career opportunity. The program provides Certificate III level training to launch a career in a thriving sector for young people interested in animal welfare, innovation, and sustainability.

NSW opportunities include:

Role	Qualification	Company	Location
Breeder Farm Hand	Cert III in Poultry Production	Baiada	Griffith, NSW
Feed Mill Hand	Cert III in Poultry Production	Baiada	Griffith, NSW OR Newcastle, NSW
Hatchery Process Worker	Cert III in Poultry Production	Baiada	Tamworth, NSW
Primary Processing Trainee	Cert III in Food Processing	Baiada	Griffith, NSW Tamworth, NSW

**Applications close 13 November.** For more information, visit the [Agrifutures website](#).



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# Upcoming: Celebrate National Agriculture Day

National Ag Day is a day to support our farmers and encourage all Australians to think about where their food and fibre comes from. The theme this year is: **Grow You Good Thing!**

Australians everywhere are encouraged to celebrate **National Ag Day on Friday 17 November** by:

- Attending an [AgDay event](#)
- [Shopping the iconic range](#) of 'I Love Farmers' merchandise which now includes cattle tags and bucket hats along with t-shirts, trucker caps, stickers and tote bags.
- Entering the [photo and video competition](#) with a prize pool of \$5000. Capture Australian agriculture and the theme 'Grow you good thing!' for a chance to win. **Entries close 5pm AEDT 17 November.**



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## Jobs and Skills Councils Project Updates:



### Ag Trade Apprenticeships

Research is underway into the dynamics of a trade apprenticeship in agriculture to help attract new entrants and promote career pathways.

In person and online workshops continue to be held during November to discuss various options for an apprenticeship model. Stakeholders with experience as trainers, employers or employees in the industry are encouraged to register and provide input into how an agricultural apprenticeship could work.

To register for a workshop [visit the project page](#).

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### AHC Improvements Project

Some of the core skills for work across the agriculture, horticulture, conservation and ecosystem management (AHC) sector have been revised as part of recent projects, bringing them in line with changes in technology, systems and regulations, as well as updated skills in biosecurity, environmental sustainability, quality assurance and work health and safety.

Broad consultation is now closed. Documents will be available for validation in November. [Learn about the project.](#)

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## Tree Felling Project

A project is underway to review three forest and wood products units which describe the skills for felling trees with a chainsaw at a basic, intermediate and advanced level. These units are used in a range of environments in which manual tree felling skills are required, including in arboriculture and agricultural settings.

In consultation with stakeholders, the tree felling units have been reviewed and updated where applicable to improve deliverability, while also supporting safety and competency. They are available for [review and feedback](#) until 14 November.

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# 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.

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