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AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management**

November 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

Engagement Activities

NSW Skills Symposium

On Friday 24 November 2023, AFAM attended a NSW Skills Symposium. This event was a gathering of stakeholders from across the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

The Symposium shared initial findings from the NSW VET Review consultation phase, looked at some of the big shifts impacting the VET system and provided an opportunity to hear a range of different voices across the VET sector. A highlight of the day was the student voices panel which featured perspectives from previous VET trainees and students of the year.

The VET review, led by Dr Michele Bruniges, conducted 18 online and face-to-face consultations across regional and metropolitan NSW. The review panel revealed themes to emerge from the consultations included the call for greater transparency especially in relation to data sharing, a desire for government to play a stronger role in coordinating effective industry partnerships and the need for equitable access to training in regional, rural and remote communities.

An interim VET Review Report is due to be published in December 2023 and the Final VET Review Report will be presented to the NSW Government in 2024.

To learn more about the review, visit the [NSW Department of Education and Training](#).

National Ag Day 2023

This year National Agriculture Day celebrated the incredible food and fibre Australian farmers grow with the theme **Grow You Good Thing!**

National Agriculture Day provides an opportunity to celebrate and learn about the agricultural industry. In NSW, various events were held including a National AgDay BBQ Lunch at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and an AgDay dinner was celebrated by Central West young farmers and agricultural professionals.

AFAM attended the Cattle Australia Forum in Albury to learn more about the cattle sector and celebrate agriculture with sessions on the current market situation, livestock emissions, soil carbon, feedbase monitoring and sustainability reporting. AFAM also joined the Skills Insight JSC team meeting where AgDay was celebrated with team members sharing stories of the things they are most proud of growing.



Stakeholder Survey - Jobs and Skills Australia: 2024 Skills Priority List

To better understand the skills profile in Australia, the Jobs and Skills Australia [2024 Skills Priority List \(SPL\) stakeholder survey](#) is now open until 5pm (AEDT) Friday 23 February 2024.

The on-the-ground knowledge and experience you can provide as part of this survey will give Jobs and Skills Australia insights into the recruitment challenges and occupations that might be in shortage across the Australian labour market. The SPL informs analysis and advice on potential policy responses to shortages in the Australian labour market which may affect your industry and we encourage your input to help make sure the 2024 SPL is based on comprehensive evidence.

You are also able to provide additional evidence and information such as member surveys that you have run, relevant industry reports commissioned, and other data you may have to further paint an accurate picture.

Read about Jobs and Skills Australia's [SPL Methodology](#) and [take the survey](#).

Smart and Skilled Update

The Department is continuing its commitment to deliver educational support for Smart and Skilled providers through a series of educational webinars, face-to-face workshops and the development of additional resources. You can access and view the latest webinar recording, '*Marketing and Information on Smart and Skilled – dos and don'ts*', previous webinars and other useful resources online now. [Go to the resources page](#).

The On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program is providing \$30 million over 2 years to enable primary producers in agriculture, forestry and/or fisheries to take advantage of digital agribusiness solutions to boost productivity and improve safety.

The objectives of the program are to:

- extend digital connectivity and take advantage of advanced farming technology
- enhance a primary producers' capacity to implement digital agribusiness solutions through improved connectivity
- capitalise on the agricultural sector's potential for increased productivity and growth
- support access to new communications equipment by offsetting some of the cost.

Applications are now open, and rebates will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until the round one funding of \$15 million is exhausted or until 30 June 2024, whichever occurs first. Primary producers can claim up to 50 per cent of the cost of eligible equipment up to a maximum of \$30,000.

More information including the catalogue of eligible equipment, eligible suppliers and frequently asked questions can be found on the [On Farm Connectivity Program webpage](#).

Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee

Employers and supervisors play a vital role in coaching apprentices or trainees in the workplace. They also provide workplace training and ensure workplace safety.

A series of videos are available to support employers and workplace supervisors. The videos show both how to meet training obligations and get the best from staff.

Through viewing the series, you can help your apprentice or trainee complete their training by learning how to:

- effectively supervise and 'coach' apprentices and trainees
- understand the importance of effective communication in the workplace
- understand the relationship with the training provider – arranging training that works for you and your business
- address workplace bullying and harassment issues.

[View the video series.](#)



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 were held across the country during November to discuss various options for an apprenticeship model. Stakeholders with experience as trainers, employers or employees in the industry provided input into how an agricultural apprenticeship could work, and issues that would need to be addressed to support success.

For more information, [visit the project webpage.](#)

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.

Curriculum management (and) 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.

Final drafts are now available for validation and comment until 29 November. For more information, [visit the project webpage](#).

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 subject matter experts, the units have been revised to reduce the barrier to training while still supporting the safety and competency of learners. Final drafts will be made available for validation and comment in the coming weeks.

For more information, [visit the project webpage](#).



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.

[Medium Business Support Grant](#): 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. **Closes 11.59pm 29 March 2023.**

[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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AFAM NSW ITAB
jcleary@skillsinsight.com.au
PO Box 329
Edgecliff, NSW 2027
Australia

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