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AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management**

July 2024

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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
Executive Officer

Extension to AgSkilled Program for NSW Agricultural Producers

The NSW government has announced an additional investment of \$5 million to the AgSkilled program. The news was welcomed by the agricultural workforce as industry benefits from the continuation of funded training for new workers and upskilling their existing workforce.

AgSkilled is an industry-led training program for anyone working or interested in working in the agricultural plant-growing and livestock sectors. It is designed to upskill and better prepare the agricultural workforce for fast-moving change driven by innovation, research, and technology.

In the past year, the program delivered 601 courses across 145 locations in NSW, with 2,536 participants. An impressive 95% of these participants completed their courses, showcasing the program's effectiveness and popularity.

With the extension of AgSkilled funding, the program aims to:

- attract, develop and retain a productive agricultural workforce
- support career progression, entry pathways, and employment outcomes in agriculture
- increase agricultural farm efficiency, productivity, and profitability
- develop industry capacity to adopt new technologies and sustainable farming practices
- leverage research and development to ensure training is relevant, current, and meets industry needs.

To learn more about AgSkilled, please visit [AgSkilled](#) or contact AFAM Executive Officer, Jess Cleary at jcleary@skillsinsight.com.au



MINTRAC: Consultation Workshops in NSW

Broad consultation is underway for the [Essential Meat Processing Skills Project](#) with workshops to be held in **Dubbo** and **Wagga Wagga** in the coming weeks. In person consultation workshops have already been held in Launceston, Perth, Darwin,

Adelaide and Brisbane and the project team is looking forward to engaging with stakeholders in NSW.

There is one additional online session to be held from **12 to 2 pm AEST on Wednesday, 31 July** for those who cannot make it to the in-person workshops.

NSW workshops are scheduled for:

- Dubbo: **Tuesday 6 August**, 2-5 pm (AEST)
- Wagga Wagga: **Thursday 8 August**, 9 am-12 pm (AEST)

Learn more, register for workshops and provide feedback through the [project webpage](#).

The opportunity to provide feedback during the broad consultation phase **closes 15 August 2024**.

The [Essential Meat Processing Skills Project](#) is a Skills Insight JSC project that is being managed with the support of MINTRAC, as part of their collaborative partnership with Skills Insight. MINTRAC has a strong history working with the Australian meat processing industry on skills and training solutions and have been engaged by Skills Insight to deliver this project in partnership.



National Skills Taxonomy Discussion Paper

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) is gathering stakeholder views on the development of a National Skills Taxonomy for Australia and has released the [National Skills Taxonomy Discussion Paper](#) for your feedback.

The NST will replace the Australian Skills Classification, and this is your chance to shape its future. Your input is crucial in addressing the opportunities and challenges that a national skills taxonomy might bring.

Your feedback on the discussion paper will assist JSA to develop a new 'common language' and understanding of skills for all, and help to bridge the gap between education, employment and economic productivity.

Submissions close Friday 9 August 2024 at 5pm (AEST). [Lodge a submission](#).





Smart and Skilled Update

Fee Free Apprenticeships and Traineeships extended to 2025

The NSW Department of Education is pleased to confirm a further extension of fee free apprenticeships and traineeships for students who commence their Smart and Skilled training up until 30 June 2025. Fee free apprenticeships and traineeships remove financial barriers for students and support the future of skilled workers to build the NSW economy. During this period, student fees – approximately \$2,000 for apprentices and \$1,000 for trainees – will continue to be covered for individuals who commence their apprenticeships and traineeships by 30 June 2025.

Apprenticeship and Traineeship Roadmap

The Apprenticeship and Traineeship (A&T) Roadmap will inform the strategic direction of the delivery of apprenticeships and traineeships in NSW over 2024-2026 and beyond. The roadmap will ensure apprenticeship and traineeship delivery is efficient and effective going forward. It will help improve learning outcomes for apprentices and trainees, boost completion rates and ensure the NSW training system meets industry's ongoing need for skills. The roadmap could help you deliver training for apprenticeships and traineeships that responds to learner and industry needs.

For more information visit the [NSW government website](#) and [download the 2024-2026 Apprenticeship and Traineeships roadmap](#).

National Skills Week

"VET – It's a Game Changer!" will be the theme of this year's National Skills Week to be celebrated 19 - 25 August 2024.

This year, with the Game Changer theme, National Skills Week is an opportunity to demonstrate how VET training can be the ultimate game changer in a person's career and life as they gain the skills and confidence to thrive.

National Skills Week is dedicated to raising the status of skills and vocational learning and AFAM encourages you to part of the week by organising and showcasing activities and hosting or attending events. With this year's theme there is sure to be plenty of stories of personal and professional success from those who have undertaken VET training.

[Get involved](#) through the [National Skills Week](#) website.





Free Workshop: Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee

Did you know you can attend free workshops for employers and supervisors of apprentices or trainees in the workplace hosted by the NSW Department of Education & Training?

The workshops, held across regional and metro NSW, can teach you how to help your apprentice or trainee complete their training and you may be eligible for Continuing Professional Development points.

You will learn 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.

More information and the list of upcoming workshop dates and venues are available on the [Training Services NSW](#) website.

AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

The AgriFuture's Rural Women's Award finalists are recognised as creating impact, innovating and making a difference and/or contributing to enhancing the prosperity of rural agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries within Australia. AgriFuture recognises the unique challenges faced by rural women and supports those leaders who will benefit from the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about the future of their enterprises.

AFAM congratulates the national finalists of the 2024 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award for their contributions and leadership in regional communities. The winner will be announced at Parliament House in Canberra on 20 August 2024.

Learn more about the [AgriFutures Rural Women's Award](#).

The 2025 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award **applications open on Wednesday 21 August 2024.**



Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System - Background Paper Released

On 20 June 2024, the Australian Government released its background paper summarising the key challenges facing apprenticeships. This research document detailing key evidence and data, takes into consideration non-financial supports such as apprentice workplace conditions and culture, and opportunities for lifelong learning. It also identifies systemic impediments to the effective operation of the apprenticeships system.

Learn more about [the review](#) and [download the background paper](#).

Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC) Project Updates:

Skills Insight JSC currently have both training package and research projects underway in various stages. To learn more and provide input please follow the links below.

Development stage:

[Worker Safety Induction Pilot](#)
[Rural Operations Project](#)

Broad Consultation underway:

[Essential Meat Processing Skills Project](#)
[Exploring Training Demand Supply Challenges Project](#)
[From Training Package to Training Delivery](#)

Moving into Consensus Gathering stage:

[Livestock Operations Project](#)
[Shearing and Wool Classing](#)
[Training Support Materials for Meat Processing Project](#)

Report published:

[Ag Trade Apprenticeship Project](#) – Feasibility Report

Submitted to Assurance Body/Department:

[Connecting RTOs & Employers Project](#)

Endorsed and published on the National Training Register:

[AHC Improvements Project](#)
[Tree Felling Project](#)

Other projects underway:

[ANZSCO review project](#)
[Qualification reform](#)



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.

[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.

[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.

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.

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

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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