

Media release

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Workforce Plan highlights skills needed to sustain Australia's food security, essential industries

Australia's agribusiness, food, fibre, furnishing, animal care and environment care industries depend on a skilled workforce to maintain essential supply chains, regional communities and meet national priorities.

Skills Insight today released its Workforce Plan 2026-2027, launched by the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, at an industry event at Melbourne Polytechnic.

The Workforce Plan identifies workforce challenges and opportunities across these industries, including skills shortages, changing workforce needs and pathways into employment. It sets out priorities for collaboration between industry, governments and the vocational education and training, or VET, sector.

Minister Giles recognised the contribution of these industries to Australia's economic resilience and national priorities.

"Without these industries, Australia stops. Skills Insight is playing such an important role in bringing them together to identify the challenges and opportunities, and most importantly ensure we're taking action now to prepare for the future," Minister Giles said.

Dugald Murray, CEO of Skills Insight, said the Workforce Plan brings together industry intelligence to support practical workforce solutions and rewarding careers.

"Skills Insight works with industries that care for Australia's land, water, animals and food systems, and support supply chains Australians rely on every day, including housing construction," Mr Murray said.

"These industries need people with the right skills, in the right places, to respond to changing workforce needs and continue delivering for communities across Australia.

"VET is central to this effort. It creates job-ready pathways for people entering or progressing in the workforce, while helping industries and regions access the skills they need.

"Our *Workforce Plan 2026-2027* identifies where workforce pressures are emerging and how industry, government and the VET sector can work together to create better pathways into these vital industries."

The plan will guide Skills Insight's work with industry over the coming year and is reviewed regularly to remain responsive to changing workforce needs.

View the *Workforce Plan 2026-2027* at skillsinsight.com.au/workforce-planning.

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