



AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

11 June 2021

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Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITAC) Meetings

AFAM NSW ITAB has established and hosted the inaugural meetings of three ITACs during April and May:

- Animal Care and Management ITAC (including representatives from racing and breeding)
- Agriculture and Production Horticulture ITAC
- Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping, Conservation and Land Management ITAC

These ITACs discussed the opportunities and challenges of the skills system in NSW, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their industries. Common themes across these industries have related to skills shortages, access to funding and the need for careers promotion. The ITACs have also recommended initiatives for AFAM ITAB to examine opportunities to participate and support their industries going forward.

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing ITAC will meet this month. The Meat Industry ITAC and consultation arrangements will be formed shortly, and will be supported by MINTRAC working in partnership with AFAM.

Regional Roundtables - Registrations Open Soon

The industries we work with are often based in rural, regional and remote NSW and this brings about unique skills challenges and needs. To better understand and respond to these needs, we are inviting regional industry stakeholders and registered training organisations to attend regional roundtables in the next few months. At this stage, it is likely that the roundtables will be held in Bega, Lismore, Orange, Newcastle, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga. We welcome suggestions for times and venues in each of these locations or other regions that may provide a good meeting location. The dates, locations and details of how to register for these roundtables will be published on the [AFAM webpage](#) and an alert will be distributed through this newsletter and other communication channels.

Smart and Skilled Update

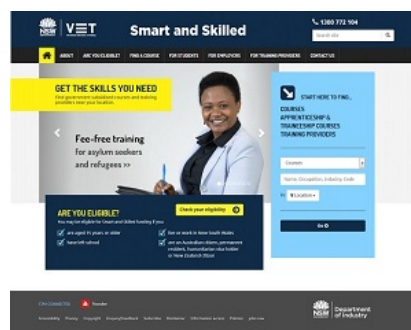
Smart and Skilled is helping people in NSW get the skills they need to find a job and advance their careers. It is administered by Training Services NSW in the NSW Department of Education, and offers subsidised training for courses on the [NSW Skills List](#).

Are you eligible for government-subsidised training?

- 15 years old or over?
- no longer at school?
- living or working in NSW?
- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen?

If you answered 'Yes' to all four questions, then you're eligible to enrol in a government-subsidised course with an approved Smart and Skilled training provider.

For more information, please visit the [Smart and Skilled](#) website.



AgSkilled - Funded Training

AgSkilled seeks to upskill NSW's cotton, grains, production horticulture, viticulture and rice growing industries to manage the challenges of the future.

The NSW Government has invested \$15 million to offer fully funded accredited training to meet training needs across four key pillars: Production, Technology, Business and Safety.

For producers and employers

AgSkilled 2.0 allows you to build the productivity of your business by upskilling existing workers and providing new industry entrants with training in the skills you need, now and into the future.

For existing industry employees and job seekers

AgSkilled 2.0 will help you gain the skills employers want with industry relevant and up-to-date training. Increase your career and employment prospects, both now and into the future.

[More information](#)



GROW is professional development program for women in NSW viticulture, cotton, grains, rice and horticulture industries. It is targeted towards business owners and managers who have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the workplace and have delegation over the WHS and HR systems of business. Tocal Collage is delivering this course through AgSkilled funding.

[Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

NSW Grants, Opportunities & Scholarships

Training Services NSW is offering the following grants, opportunities and scholarships to employers and vocational learners. Follow the links to find out about more.

Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative: support for existing Aboriginal owned and operated businesses to grow and diversify their business. [More details](#)

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. [More details](#)

Free Workshops to Assist in Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee: a series of face to face and/or virtual workshops are available. [More details](#)

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. [More details](#)

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. [More details](#)

Skilling for Recovery - JobTrainer

This program was announced in November last year and is the NSW program supported by the Australian Government's JobTrainer Fund. Skilling for Recovery has now been extended until June 2022.

Skilling for Recovery offers fee-free and low-fee training options for school leavers, young people and job seekers.







The NSW Government is partnering with industry, vocational education and training providers, and the Australian Government to make vocational training and skills development across NSW easier and more accessible.

[More information](#)

Small Business Recovery Site by TAFE NSW

To assist small businesses in the recovery period from COVID, TAFE NSW has developed a website that collates information on opportunities and programs. The [Small Business Recovery website](#) includes information on JobTrainer, the Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements Scheme, fee-free apprenticeships and traineeships, mature age workers' scholarships, foundation skills programs, the Adult Migrant English Program, AgSkilled, and the Women in Business Program.

Subsidised Government Training Programs Available

 <p>JobTrainer If you're a young person and open to new career options, TAFE NSW has hundreds of fee-free and low-fee courses to help you build the skills you need to hit the ground running. TAFE NSW</p>	 <p>Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements Scheme If a small business employer in Australia employed you or other 30 October 2020, you could be eligible for a 50% rebate of 50% cost of their wages. TAFE NSW</p>	 <p>Fee-Free Traineeship When you're commencing a TAFE NSW traineeship, they can help valuable industry skills, broader on-the-job experience, other opportunities, HR, or employment and communication technology. TAFE NSW</p>
 <p>Fee-Free Apprenticeships When your apprenticeship is fully qualified and valued employees, so they stay on the job and earn an income while studying at TAFE NSW. TAFE NSW</p>	 <p>Mature Age Workers' Scholarships Help your employees regain their energy with a help in touch with you and industry with the Mature Age Workers' Scholarships program. We can ensure that those aged over 35 gain the income from their needs to new needs of working skills needs. TAFE NSW</p>	 <p>Foundation Skills for New Trainers If you need to develop your English, literacy, numeracy, and digital skills, the Foundation Skills for New Trainers program can help you to meet the skill needs required by employers. TAFE NSW</p>

Skills Brokers

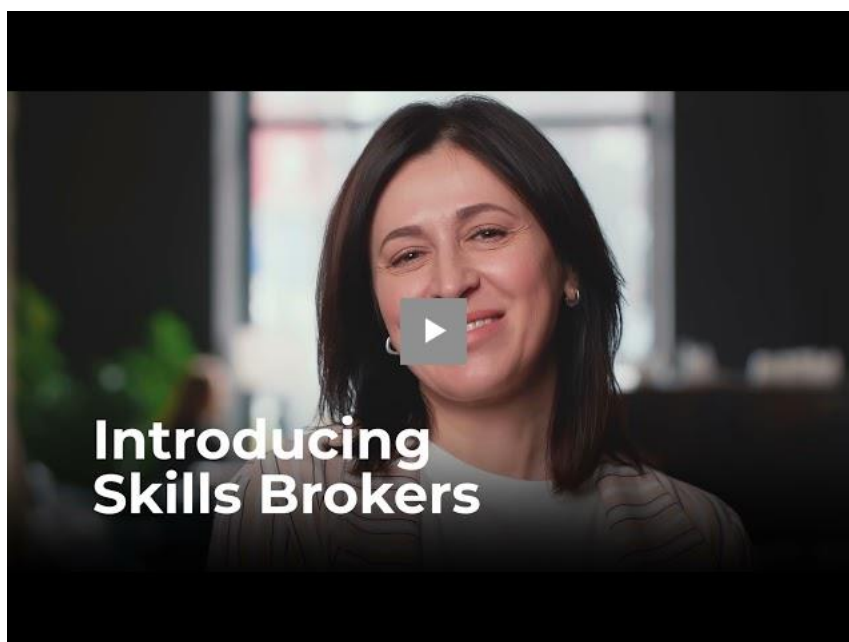
Training Services NSW has introduced 16 skills brokers located across several locations in NSW to help upskill displaced workers and/or people at risk of unemployment into job creating industries.

The skills brokers are available in regions to help employers:

- Locate new staff who are trained and ready to fill roles with specific skill requirements.
- Find ways to upskill existing staff, or newly employed staff who need training.
- Redeploy existing staff who have been stood down, or are at risk of being stood down or are facing retrenchment – either into a new role in your business or into a role at another business.
- Skills brokers can also help employers respond rapidly to skills needs. A skills broker can help businesses remain viable and competitive in a difficult employment and economic environment.

Skills brokers can also help redeploy staff who have been stood down or are facing retrenchment.

For more information, please visit [Training NSW](#).



New Digital Learner Profile

The NSW Department of Education and Department of Customer Service are developing a new 'education passport' for NSW students.

The AFAM team recently participated in a workshop about the new [NSW Student Learner Profile](#). This new initiative will allow students to store and share their achievements in one digital place, supporting them when applying for jobs or further education and training. These records could include:

- Formal qualifications like HSC results and the ATAR
 - Vocational education and training (VET) competencies
 - Extra-curricular and sporting achievements
 - Work experience
 - Volunteering
 - Caring responsibilities
 - Hobbies
-

2021 Federal Budget Summary

The 2021-22 Federal Budget included measures to improve training and skills. Some of the key items are summarised below.

- The Government is continuing to negotiate a new [National Skills Agreement](#) with the states and territories. These reforms are designed to support high-quality and relevant training that is responsive to current and future skills needs, with more opportunities for Australians.
- \$149.2 million over four years to support new industry engagement arrangements for the VET system, including the establishment of Industry Clusters to enhance the role of industry and broader engagement.
- The JobTrainer Fund will be expanded to continue delivering low fee or free training places in areas of skills need.
- \$30.9 million to deliver a new National Training Register to support work with the states and territories to reform qualifications design.
- \$19.6 million for the [Skills for Education and Employment](#) (SEE) program.
- \$12.1 million to Apprenticeships and Training promotion and support of implantation.
- \$2.7 billion to extend and expand the [Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements](#) (BAC) wage subsidy.
- \$12.1 million to establish a National Digital Australian Apprenticeships Portal.
- \$25.2 million provided over 4 years for [AgATTRACT](#). AgATTRACT aims to shift perceptions of agriculture work and showcase the diverse career opportunities on offer.
- \$4.6 million provided over 4 years for [AgFAIR](#). AgFAIR will help agricultural employers adopt best practice workforce management and planning practices and to attract and retain employees.

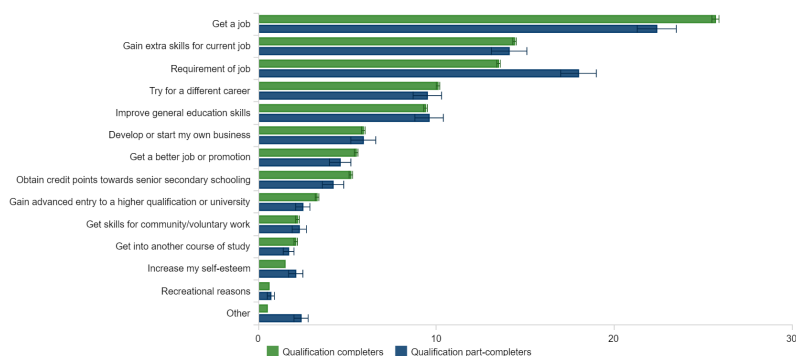
NSW Budget out soon

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet has announced the 2021-22 NSW Budget will be handed down on Tuesday, 22 June 2021.

National Student Surveys

The 2021 **National Student Outcomes Survey** will commence June 2021 for students who completed a VET qualification, skill set or unit during 2020. The survey will be available [here](#). It is Australia's largest survey of VET students. The latest report asked students about their satisfaction with training, employment, and further study outcomes, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected them. The findings from the report can be found on the [National Centre for Vocational Education Research \(NCVER\)](#) website.

NCVER are also undertaking a new survey which asks current VET students about their training experiences. The [VET Student Experience Survey](#) is being developed jointly by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), the Department of Education, Skills and Employment and the NCVER. Students will be contacted to complete the survey from mid-May.



Main reason for undertaking training, for qualification completers and part-completers, 2020

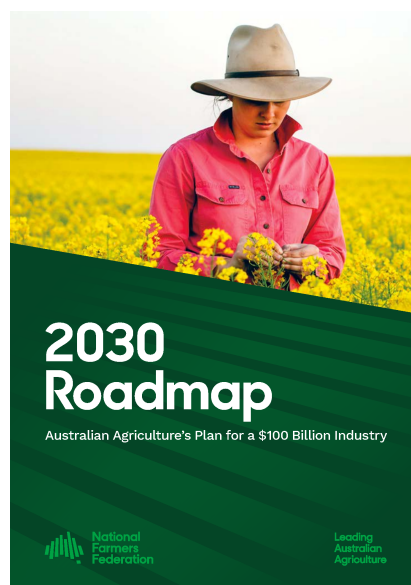
National Farmers' Federation (NFF) 2030 Roadmap Goals

The NFF is hosting a national forum series, aimed at taking stock of progress towards their 2030 Roadmap goals.

A forum will be held in Moree on Wednesday 30 June. Anyone is welcome to attend. You will hear from a wide range of industry leaders – across politics, innovation and government – about the steps being taken to grow Australian agriculture.

The 2030 Roadmap details a vision for agriculture to become Australia's next \$100 billion industry. It was released in 2018 and was developed by industry through a series of workshops and forums across the country.

[Read more and register for updates](#)



ANZSCO Review Update

The Federal Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is undertaking a consultation process on the statistical classification of job roles for the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries. The Department is working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to review the way these job roles are defined in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Your input to this project is important as it may contribute to the development of a new version of ANZSCO which better describes the agriculture sector's workforce. Although the initial survey section of the consultation closes on 14 June, it is anticipated that there will be future opportunities for contributions. Information can be found [here](#).

ANZSCO is used when gathering statistics about the Australian workforce. ANZSCO underpins the apprenticeship system and informs important government programs and funding, including the National Skills Needs List, eligibility for VISAs and skilled migration programs. It is also central to the Federal Skills Occupation List.

This 2021 update aims to produce a trial version of ANZSCO that better reflects modern agriculture by improving the capture of existing and emerging agriculture and related occupations, and the attribution of skill levels to those occupations.

We encourage you to provide input:

- [Click here](#) to provide feedback directly to the Department's submission process.

And/or

- Work with your peak industry association who can submit a response on behalf of the whole sector, such as the National Farmers' Federation, Seafood Industry Australia, Australian Forest Products Association or ForestWorks. Please note that AFAM Executive Officer Ben Norton-Smith is working with the National Farmers Federation on this project.

Skills Impact will make a submission based on the feedback received from IRCs and the way the qualifications framework interacts with ANZSCO classifications. Skills Impact will highlight that a key challenge is how only one ANZSCO job code can be allocated to a qualification, but a qualification can be applicable to different job roles. This means several job roles in the qualifications for these industries are hidden to ANZSCO data.



TAFE NSW Information Sessions

RTOs throughout NSW have open days to provide information about their programs. TAFE NSW has organised information sessions for learners looking at career and enrolment options from 21-25 June 2021. These sessions are held on-campus and online.

[More information](#)

National Training Package Projects

The following projects are underway to review and update national qualifications and skills standards. Follow the links to find out more and to provide input.

Feedback collected and being used to inform further updates to drafts:

- [Horse Care Project](#)

Validation Underway:

- [Crops Pastures and Seeds Project](#)
- [Dairy and Milk Harvesting Project](#)
- [Landscaping Project](#)
- [Parks and Gardens Project](#)
- [Skills for Land Rehabilitation \(Mined Land\)](#)

Validation completed and further updates being made:

- [Animal Reproduction Project](#)
- [Meat Rendering Project](#)
- [Meat Slicing Project](#)

Submitted for Endorsement:

- [Food and Beverage Processing Project](#)
- [Flour Milling Project](#)
- [Greyhound Racing Careers and Jockeys Project](#)
- [High Volume Production Baking Project](#)

For the June update on these projects from Skills Impact, [click here](#).

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

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AFAM is supported and funded by the NSW Government.

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