

VELG TRAINING eNews



Issue 53 | May 2026



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FORGING A TRUSTED FUTURE
NATIONAL VET CONFERENCE
GOLD COAST | 29 - 30 OCTOBER 2026

YOUR 2026NVC STARTS HERE!

AND THIS YEAR, PLANNING YOUR TRIP IS EVEN EASIER.

The National VET Conference is heading back to one of our favourite locations! The Gold Coast offers the perfect setting to combine professional development with an unforgettable experience.

This year Velg Training has arranged special accommodation rates through Watermark Events, as well as a discount code from Qantas (enter 401593 when you click to book a flight).

Now is the perfect time to secure your ticket and start making your travel plans.
Click the button to start planning!

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE!



QUESTIONS? VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL VELG FOR MORE INFORMATION



2026–27 BUDGET CONTINUES FOCUS ON SKILLS AND WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

The Australian Government's 2026–27 Budget includes continued investment in workforce capability and skills development, reinforcing the role of vocational education and training (VET) in supporting Australia's future workforce needs.

Released through the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, [the Budget](#) outlines a range of measures linked to skills, workforce participation and productivity, alongside broader employment and workplace relations initiatives.

A key focus is supporting industry capability through workforce planning, skills intelligence, and initiatives aimed at improving recognition of overseas qualifications and trade skills. These measures are intended to support faster pathways into employment for skilled workers in areas of demand.

The Budget also continues to support reforms connected to the National Skills Agreement and broader skills system priorities, including collaboration between governments, industry and the training sector to better align training with labour market needs.

It includes reforms to the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System, with employer incentives to be redirected toward

small and medium-sized employers and Group Training Organisations, and changes to better align support with national priorities from 1 January 2027.

Employment services and workplace relations measures also feature, including funding to strengthen the employment services system and support small businesses navigating Fair Work processes.

Overall, the Budget outlines a continued focus on skills, workforce participation and system integrity, with measures relevant to VET, employment services and apprenticeships. It also sits alongside [higher education reforms](#) to strengthen higher education regulation through expanded TEQSA powers, highlighting a wider focus on quality, integrity and student protection across the tertiary system.

Click to read the [employment, workplace relations, and skills initiatives](#).

Click to read the [higher education initiatives](#).



CLICK FOR OUR AUDIO FORMAT



DECLINING APPRENTICESHIP COMMENCEMENTS RAISE SKILLS CONCERNS

A new [Australian Industry Group \(AIG\) research note](#) warns that falling apprenticeship and traineeship commencements may place further pressure on Australia's future skills pipeline. The report notes that trade apprenticeship commencements fell by almost 10% in the 12 months to September 2025, while non-trade traineeship commencements fell by more than 18%.

In the 12 months to September 2025:

Commencements for trade occupations **fell by almost 10%**

The largest falls were among:

-  **Foods Trades Workers**
↓ 26.7%
-  **Engineering, ICT & Science Techs.**
↓ 23.3%
-  **Auto, and Engineering Trades Workers**
↓ 10.9%
-  **Construction Trades Workers**
↓ 6.1%

Commencements for non-trade occupations (traineeships) **fell by over 18%**

The largest falls were among:

-  **Sales Workers**
↓ 47.3%
-  **Clerical and Administrative Workers**
↓ 24.0%
-  **Labourers**
↓ 17.2%
-  **Community and Personal Service Workers**
↓ 13.5%

Source: NCVET VOCSTATS, Apprentices and trainees – September 2025

many skilled occupations rely on long-term workplace-based training pathways that can take several years to complete. It also warns that while governments are currently reporting high numbers of apprentices and trainees in training, many of these figures reflect the temporary surge created by pandemic-era incentives and subsidies.

AIG also highlights increasing pressure on employers, including rising costs, reduced incentives and broader economic uncertainty, which may further impact commencements in coming years. The report calls for stronger and more consistent support for apprenticeships and traineeships.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

The report argues that apprenticeship commencements act as an early indicator of future workforce shortages, noting that



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DON'T MISS OUT!

RISK-BASED ASSESSMENT WEBINAR | 10 JUNE

Smarter validation starts here. Don't miss this opportunity to gain clear, practical guidance that can help strengthen compliance and support better validation decisions across your RTO.

Explore a risk-based approach to assessment validation, including how to identify key risks, select units of competency, and determine effective sample sizes.

Ready to sharpen your validation strategy? Click the button to learn more!

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



Questions? Visit our website or call VELG for more information.



CATCH THIS WEBINAR!

MEMORY STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING WEBINAR | 27 MAY

Unlock the secrets to stronger memory and better learner recall! Discover practical, evidence-based techniques that help learning stick long after the session ends.

This highly interactive webinar is packed with simple strategies you can apply immediately to support deeper understanding and lasting retention.

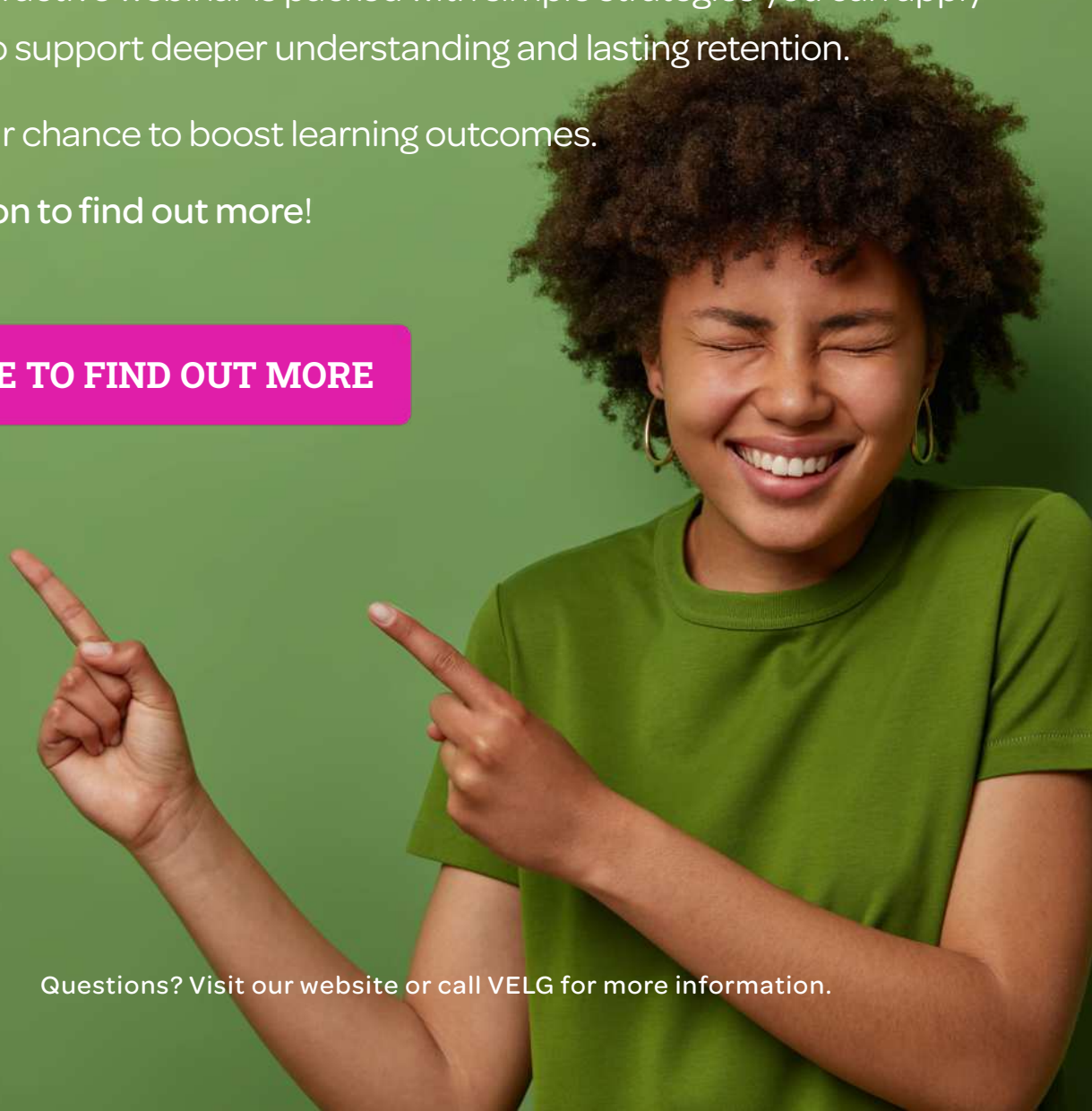
Don't miss your chance to boost learning outcomes.

Click the button to find out more!

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE



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STATEMENT OF REGULATORY EXPECTATIONS - FPPR AND MATERIAL CHANGE NOTIFICATIONS

The Australian Skills Quality Authority has released a new [Statement of Regulatory Expectations](#) outlining the responsibilities of registered training organisations (RTOs) in relation to fit and proper person requirements (FPPRs) and the obligation to notify ASQA of material changes under the Standards for RTOs 2025.

The statement reinforces that RTOs are expected to engage with ASQA in an open, honest and transparent manner, while maintaining effective governance and compliance arrangements to support ongoing regulatory obligations.

According to ASQA, the expectations outlined in the statement are intended to strengthen regulatory confidence and support transparency, integrity and public confidence in the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

ASQA makes clear that providers failing to comply with fit and proper person requirements or notification obligations will be found non-compliant with the Standards for RTOs 2025, with further regulatory action potentially taken where required.

ASQA has published both the Statement of Regulatory Expectations and a printable reference poster to support providers in understanding the requirements and expectations. You can find them [here](#).

You can find them [here](#).



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JOBS AND SKILLS COUNCILS & TRAINING PACKAGE NEWS

News Updates:

- [Chart your carer path from training to employment](#)
- [Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Occupation and Industry Profiles](#)
- [REOS March quarter 2026 results](#)
- [Training Occupation Pathways Dataset](#)
- [Read more](#) on the JSA's LinkedIn



Australian Government



Jobs and Skills Australia



BuildSkills
Australia

News Updates:

- [BuildSkills Australia Events](#)
- [Civil Construction Review](#)
- [VET Workforce Study](#)
- [Read more](#) on BuildSkills' LinkedIn



Industry Skills
Australia

News Updates:

- [Building Stronger Rail Workforce Partnerships in Newcastle](#)
- [Examining Earn While You Learn Promising Models – Consultation Snapshot Report](#)
- [Industry Engagement Strengthened Through Townsville Site Visits](#)
- [Industry Roundtables Now Open](#)
- [ISS Facilities Site Visit](#)
- [Read more](#) on Industry Skills' LinkedIn



FUTURE SKILLS
ORGANISATION
Finance Technology Business

News Updates:

- [Digital Knowledge Exchange](#)
- [From bootcamps to prompt-a-thons: how Akkodis is preparing VET for AI](#)
- [FSO Future Skills News](#) – 28 April 2026
- [FSO Skills Accelerator – AI – What's new](#)
- [What We Heard: Insights from the FSO Workforce Roadshows](#)
- [Read more](#) on the FSO's LinkedIn



HumanAbility

News Updates:

- [2026 Roadshow](#)
- [Early Childhood Education and Care Qualification Review](#)
- [HLT Health Services Assistance Qualification Review](#)
- [HumanAbility Newsletter](#) – 4 May 2026
- [Policy Submissions](#)
- [Read more](#) on HumanAbility's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Best Practice Case Studies – Chisholm Institute](#)
- [Manufacturing Workforce Plan 2025](#)
- [PMB: Polymer Technician and Processing](#)
- [Read more](#) on MISA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [2026 Energy Workforce and Skills Survey](#)
- [Energise Newsletter](#) – April Edition 2026
- [Expression of Interest: SparkED Pilot](#)
- [Productivity and Skills – Exploring their unique relationship in the energy sector](#)
- [PSO VET Blueprint – IgnitED](#)
- [V2X Accreditation – Vehicle to Everything – Finalisation](#)
- [Read more](#) on Powering Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [April 2026 Policy and Reports Update](#)
- [EOI: Call for Participants in the Arts and Creative Industries – Share Your Journey](#)
- [Federal Budget 2026-27 Breakdown](#)
- [Hairdressing Futures: Addressing Workforce Shortages](#)
- [Service and Creative Skills Australia – The Latest](#) – April 2026
- [SaCSA Travel, Tourism and Guiding Qualifications Review Survey](#)
- [Update of Beauty Qualifications – Industry Feedback Survey](#)
- [The Latest](#) – March 2026
- [Read more](#) on SACSA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [2026 Workforce Insights Report – Workforces in Transition](#)
- [AUSMASA Sundowner: Progress in Partnership](#)
- [Feedback for the review of AUR32721 Cert III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology](#)
- [The Journey Newsletter](#) – May 2026
- [Read more](#) on AUSMASA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Correctional Services Training Implementation \(Phase 2\)](#)
- [Public Skills Australia – Workforce Insights Reports](#)
- [PSP Public Sector Training Package – Government Investigations Consultation](#)
- [PSP Public Sector Training Package – Procurement Consultation](#)
- [Read more](#) on Public Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Attraction and retention tools for employers](#)
- [Biosecurity Skills Review](#)
- [Essential Meat Processing Skills Project](#)
- [Furnishing Apprenticeship Guidance Project](#)
- [Jurisdictional Action Plan 2025-2026 Update](#)
- [Mapping Workplace Training to PPM Qualifications](#)
- [Read more](#) on Skills Insight's LinkedIn



UPDATES FROM THE REGULATORS



Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority

ASQA

Australian Skills Quality Authority
(ASQA)

News Updates:

- [2026 ASQA Provider and Course Owner Survey opens](#)
- [2026 ASQA Sector Webinar](#)
- [ASQA IQ](#) – 23 April 2026
- [ASQA Update](#) – 23 February 2026
- [Statement of Regulatory Expectations – Fit and Proper Person Requirements and notification of material changes](#)
- [Suspension on new CRIOCS applications](#)



WA.gov.au

Training Accreditation Council
(TAC)

News Updates:

- [TAC Registration Standards 2025 Hub](#) - Updated 2 January 2026
- [TAC 2026 Roadshows](#)
- [TAC Update – Issue 117](#) – April 2026
- [TAC Special Bulletin](#)



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA

Tertiary Education Quality and
Standards Agency (TEQSA)

News Updates:

- [Academic integrity toolkit](#)
- [New and updated academic integrity resources now available](#)
- [Student Advisory Panel](#)
- [TEQSA eNews](#) – 30 April 2026
- [Upcoming webinar: Assuring online degrees in the age of gen AI](#) – 4 June 2026



Victorian Registration &
Qualifications Authority

Victorian Registration & Qualifications
Authority (VRQA)

News Updates:

- [2026 Victorian Training Awards](#)
- [Free and confidential counselling for apprentices and trainees](#)
- [Have your say on our updated guidelines](#)
- [VRQA e-News](#) – 23 March 2026

CLICK HERE FOR OTHER NEWS + OTHER MEDIA RELEASES

YOUR VET NEWSLETTERS AND PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTERS

- [ASQA IQ](#) - 23 April 2026
- [ASQA Update](#) – 23 February 2026
- [Community Education Australia](#) – May 2026
- [FSO Future Skills News](#) – 28 April 2026
- [HumanAbility Newsletter](#) – 4 May 2026
- [Manufacturing Matters](#) – April 2026
- [Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance - The Journey](#) - May 2026
- [National AI Centre – Issue 21](#) – 8 May 2026
- [NCVER Data Support Bulletin](#) – April 2026
- [NCVER News – Edition #628](#) – May 2026
- [Service and Creative Sills Australia – The Latest](#) – April 2026
- [TAC Update – Issue 117](#) – April 2026
- [TAFE Directors Australia News](#) – 18 May 2026
- [TAFE Directors Australia News](#) – 11 April 2026
- [TEQSA e-News](#) – 30 April 2026
- [VDC News – Edition 7](#) – 6 May 2026
- [VRQA e-News](#) – 23 March 2026
- [WorldSkills Australia – Skill News](#) – March 2026

PUBLICATIONS

- [2026–27 Budget snapshot](#)
- [Approved: how AI and data can transform Australia’s environmental approvals](#)
- [Budget 2026-27: overview](#)
- [Employment outcomes for Victorian TAFE learners](#)
- [First Nations Bespoke Qualification Project – PSO](#)
- [Free TAFE](#)
- [Identifying success factors and impacts of social and emotional well-being programmes for First Nations youth in Australia](#)
- [International students in higher education](#)
- [Making agentic AI work for government: a readiness framework](#)
- [Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance – 2026 Workforce Insights Report – Workforces in Transition](#)
- [On AI glasses and wearable AI in assessment](#)
- [Productivity and Skills – Exploring their unique relationship in the energy sector](#)
- [REOS March quarter 2026 results](#)
- [‘Someone you can run to’: teachers at the coalface of complex trauma](#)
- [The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 2024–2030](#)
- [Towards a financially inclusive higher education system](#)
- [Understanding the journey to higher education: decision-making insights from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students](#)
- [What if we could achieve sustainable change for women in manual trades?](#)

CLICK HERE FOR AI NEWS AND TOOLS



LEARN FROM ASSESSMENT MASTER: MICHELLE CHARLTON

TOOLS FOR TRUSTED ASSESSMENT

These webinars are part of our Master Mentoring: Assessment series.

Want to explore the full series? [Click here.](#)

Strengthen your assessment tools whilst exploring compliant observation checklists and effective third-party evidence collection. Discover smarter strategies to improve assessment quality, reliability, and compliance.

**THE DO'S AND DON'TS
OF OBSERVATION
CHECKLISTS | JUNE 3**

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

**THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF
EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY
OTHER PARTIES | JUNE 24**

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



Questions? Visit our website or call VELG for more information.