

VELG TRAINING eNews



Issue 56 | July 2026



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ASSESSMENT COMPLIANCE: KEY ISSUES REVEALED

TOP ISSUES CONTRIBUTING TO ASSESSMENT NON-COMPLIANCE

Assessment is a key area of RTO non-compliance. This three-part series explores common issues and practical strategies to improve assessment quality, compliance, and confidence in outcomes.

The Human Factors
Undermining Assessment
Quality

Wednesday
2nd September, 2026

Training & Assessment
Practices That Create Risk

Thursday
10th September, 2026

Assessment Systems and
Tools That Contribute to
Non-Compliance

Wednesday
16th September, 2026

Each session focuses on real-world application – attend one or bundle all five and save 15%.

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

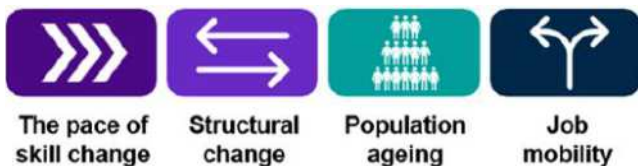




LIFELONG LEARNING IN FOCUS AS WORKFORCE CHANGES ACCELERATE

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) has released the first paper in a new lifelong learning research series, highlighting the growing importance of adult learning as technological, demographic and economic forces continue to reshape Australia's labour market.

Titled *Forces at Work: Adult Learning and the Australian Labour Market* the paper identifies four key drivers increasing the need for lifelong learning:



Source: Forces at Work: Adult Learning and the Australian Labour Market, pg. 3

One of the report's key findings is that skill requirements are changing more rapidly across most occupations. JSA's analysis found that 91 of the top 100 occupations experienced greater skill change in 2023–25 than in 2014–16, reinforcing the need for workers to regularly update and expand their skills throughout their careers.

The paper also highlights ongoing structural changes in the labour market, with employment continuing to shift towards higher-skilled and non-routine occupations. These roles often require stronger foundation skills and greater participation in ongoing learning, increasing the importance of both skill deepening and reskilling.

For the VET sector, the report reinforces the important role that vocational education and training plays in supporting adults to

maintain, deepen and broaden their skills throughout their working lives. The paper notes that lifelong learning extends beyond gaining new qualifications and includes formal, non-formal and informal learning activities that help individuals remain productive and adaptable in changing workplaces.

Population ageing is identified as another significant factor. With Australians working longer and retiring later, the length of time between initial education and retirement continues to increase, creating a greater need for ongoing learning and skills maintenance across longer careers.

Importantly, JSA concludes that adult learning is not only about changing careers or responding to disruption. It is equally important for helping workers remain effective in their current roles, supporting workforce participation, productivity and adaptability over time. The report also emphasises that meeting Australia's growing lifelong learning needs will require a shared effort across individuals, employers, governments and the education and training sector.

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

Also see other recent JSA reports: [Skills, Mobility and Productivity: Why Australia needs a skills-first tertiary education system](#) and [Internet Vacancy Index \(IVI\)](#).



CLICK FOR OUR AUDIO FORMAT



LATEST ASQA IQ FOCUSES ON INCLUSION, WELLBEING AND WORK PLACEMENTS

The June 2026 edition of [ASQA IQ – Integrity and Quality in Focus](#) has been released. This issue focuses on student diversity, inclusion and wellbeing, including provider responsibilities in relation to student work placements. It also clarifies ASQA's position on the delivery of elective units in response to stakeholder feedback.

A key focus of this edition is supporting students with disability. ASQA explores the role of reasonable adjustments and reinforces the expectation that learners should be able to participate in training and assessment on an equitable basis while maintaining the integrity of training products and assessment outcomes. The newsletter also discusses student mental health, highlighting the importance of creating supportive learning environments and ensuring students are aware of available support options.

The edition also places a spotlight on student work placements as an area of regulatory risk. ASQA reminds providers that work placements must be appropriately planned, monitored and documented, with clear evidence that placement requirements are being met and learners are being adequately supported throughout the process.

In the latest Myth Busted segment, ASQA addresses misconceptions surrounding the delivery of elective units. The article clarifies provider obligations and reinforces the importance of ensuring training and assessment practices align with the requirements of the training product.

ASQA IQ remains one of the regulator's key communication channels for sharing guidance and highlighting areas of focus across the sector. Providers are encouraged to review the June 2026 edition and ensure relevant staff remain informed about current regulatory expectations, emerging risks and sector developments.

To read ASQA IQ in full, click [here](#).



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GRAB A SEAT & JOIN US

CLUSTERING WITH PURPOSE WEBINAR | 15 JULY

Want to streamline assessment through clustering without creating unnecessary complexity?

Discover how to identify meaningful overlaps between units and build holistic assessments that reduce duplication while maintaining quality.

Learn practical strategies to avoid forced clustering, capture evidence more efficiently, and ensure every unit requirement is clearly met.

Click the button to find out more!

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE



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

CATCH THIS WEBINAR!

BACKWARDS DESIGN IN VET WEBINAR | 17 AUGUST

Want to create training that leads to real competency while meeting compliance requirements? Discover how the backward design model can help you align outcomes, assessment, and learning for stronger training results.

Explore the three-stage process, practical tools, and proven techniques that support effective training and assessment design in the VET sector.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



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





APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

The latest NCVER publication, *Apprentices and Trainees 2025: December Quarter*, provides an updated picture of apprenticeship and traineeship activity across Australia, highlighting ongoing challenges and emerging signs of growth.

As at 31 December 2025, there were 282,430 apprentices and trainees in training, representing an 8.6% decline compared with the same period in 2024. Trade contracts decreased by 5.2%, while non-trade contracts recorded a larger decline of 17.1%, continuing a trend seen across recent reporting periods.

Despite these decreases, the quarterly data points to some areas of growth. Trade commencements increased by 12.5% during the December quarter, with growth recorded in several key occupations experiencing workforce shortages. Electrician commencements increased by 18.2%, while commencements for carpenters and joiners rose by 11.9% and plumbers by 12.2%.

The report also highlights strong completion outcomes in the trades. Over the 12 months to December 2025, trade completions increased by 8.1%, reaching record highs across several major trade occupation groups. Growth was particularly evident among electricians, plumbers and motor mechanics, reflecting the flow-through of stronger commencement numbers from previous years.

In contrast, non-trade activity continued to soften. Non-trade commencements declined by 14.9% over the year, while completions fell by 11.8%. However, some occupations recorded quarterly growth, including child carers, and aged and disabled carers, reflecting ongoing demand in care and support sectors.

Figure 6: Apprentice and trainee contracts by occupation group, non-trades, December quarter, 2021-2025

State/territory

Contract status

Reporting period

Table % change 2024-2025

Occupation	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% change 2021-2025	% change 2024-2025
Clerical and Administrative Workers	35,995	40,565	21,665	13,010	10,155	-71.8	-21.9
Community and Personal Service Workers	39,335	43,855	44,240	40,405	35,915	-8.7	-11.1
Labourers	13,225	13,285	10,790	9,710	8,350	-36.9	-14
Machinery Operators and Drivers	14,710	16,710	15,270	13,565	11,555	-21.4	-14.8
Managers	5,120	4,275	2,355	1,320	980	-80.8	-25.7
Professionals	2,365	3,525	2,210	1,170	955	-59.7	-18.5
Sales Workers	19,985	22,525	14,555	9,425	5,570	-72.1	-40.9
Total	130,730	144,740	111,085	88,600	73,475	-43.8	-17.1

82 View full table

Occupation groups are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics ANZSCO 1-digit (major group) classifications.

Cancellations should be interpreted alongside recommissions, as apprentices and trainees may recommence training under a new contract when changing employers.

Source: *Apprentices and trainees 2025: December quarter*

The data also shows declines in apprentice and trainee numbers across all states and territories, with non-trade contracts contributing most significantly to the overall reduction. Similar patterns were observed across equity groups, although decreases among Indigenous apprentices and trainees and those with disability were smaller than the broader national decline.

To explore the quarterly data, click [here](#). Read the media release [here](#).

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JOBS AND SKILLS COUNCILS & TRAINING PACKAGE NEWS

News Updates:

- [Australian Jobs Report 2026: Exploring pathways in a changing world of work](#)
- [Internet Vacancy Index \(IVI\)](#)
- [Jobs ads down 3.3% nationally in May 2026](#)
- [New paper calls for a skills-first approach to tertiary education](#)
- [Partial VET completion: Insights on outcomes and pathways](#)
- [Skills, Mobility and Productivity: Why Australia needs a skills-first tertiary education system](#)
- [Read more](#) on the JSA's LinkedIn



Australian Government



Jobs and Skills Australia



**BuildSkills
Australia**

News Updates:

- [Home energy efficiency and sustainability](#)
- [Fencing and Gate Industry](#)
- [VET Workforce Study](#)
- [Your Next Big Project – How do I start my VET career?](#)
- [Read more](#) on BuildSkills' LinkedIn



**Industry Skills
Australia**

News Updates:

- [CCAA Heavy Vehicle Workshop Brings Industry Together to Address Key Sector Challenges](#)
- [Industry Skills Australia Roundtables Wrap Up – Key Themes and Insights](#)
- [The Australian Rail Track Corporation: Creating a national approach to rail safeworking](#)
- [Working Together for a Stronger Road Transport Sector: ISA at Trucking Australia 2026](#)
- [Read more](#) on Industry Skills' LinkedIn



**FUTURE SKILLS
ORGANISATION**
Finance Technology Business

News Updates:

- [By 2030, Australia is expected to need 3.5 million finance, technology, and business professionals – almost 450,000 more than today](#)
- [FNS Update: Sustainable Finance Disclosures](#)
- [FSO Future Skills News](#) – 16 June 2026
- [Learning Pathways into Technology Careers](#)
- [Read more](#) on the FSO's LinkedIn



HumanAbility

News Updates:

- [Early Childhood Education and Care Qualification Review](#)
- [HLT Health Services Assistance Qualification Review](#)
- [HumanAbility Newsletter](#) – 2 June 2026
- [Traineeships in Aged Care and Disability: What the industry told us](#)
- [Read more](#) on HumanAbility's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Australia's Food Manufacturing Capability & Future Needs Project – Tender](#)
- [Best Practice Case Studies – Kwinana Industries Council](#)
- [Manufacturing Workforce Plan 2025](#)
- [PMB: Polymer Technician and Processing](#)
- [Read more](#) on MISA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Correctional Services Training Implementation \(Phase 2\)](#)
- [Correctional Services Training: Good Practice Forums](#)
- [Local Government Skills Audit](#)
- [Public Skills Australia – Workforce Insights Reports](#)
- [Read more](#) on Public Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Exploring the Drivers of Travel Consultant Shortages](#)
- [Exploring the Drivers of Hairdressing Workforce Shortages](#)
- [Funeral Sector Skills and Capability Review](#)
- [Subcontractor Application Form](#)
- [The Latest](#) – June 2026
- [Read more](#) on SACSA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Development of new training products for Advanced Driver Assistance Systems \(ADAS\) calibration](#)
- [Driving industry conversations](#)
- [Member Spotlight June 2026: Nissan Motor Company Australia](#)
- [The Journey Newsletter](#) - June 2026
- [Workforce Insights roundtables and webinars](#)
- [Read more](#) on AUSMASA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Energise Newsletter](#) – June Edition 2026
- [PSO VET Blueprint – IgnitED](#)
- [PSO: Insight Update](#) – 24 June 2026
- [Read more](#) on Powering Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- [Ag Trade Apprenticeship Qualification](#)
- [Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Skills Mapping Project](#)
- [Textile Flooring Manufacturing Pathway](#)
- [Tree Allocation Partnerships Project](#)
- [Updated Certificate II in Rural Operations available for comment](#)
- [Read more](#) on Skills Insight's LinkedIn



UPDATES FROM THE REGULATORS



ASQA

Australian Skills Quality Authority
(ASQA)

News Updates:

- [ASQA IQ](#) – 18 June 2026
- [ASQA IQ](#) – 23 April 2026
- [ASQA Update](#) – 23 February 2026
- [Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2026-27 now available](#)
- [Read more](#) on the ASQA LinkedIn



WA.gov.au

Training Accreditation Council
(TAC)

News Updates:

- [Focus on Quality Article – Using Feedback to Drive Continuous Improvement](#)
- [RTO Reporting Requirements](#) – 10 June 2026
- [TAC 2026 Roadshows](#)
- [TAC Education Program – Focus on Quality Article: Assessment in the Workplace](#)
- [TAC Update – Issue 119](#) – June 2026



TEQSA

Tertiary Education Quality and
Standards Agency (TEQSA)

News Updates:

- [Assuring quality learning in a gen AI-integrated future: The role of adaptive capabilities](#)
- [New resource for gen AI and assurances of learning](#)
- [Online degrees in the age of gen AI: webinar](#)
- [Recording available for recent gen AI webinar](#)
- [Statements of Regulatory Expectations](#)
- [TEQSA eNews](#) – June 2026
- [Read more](#) on the TEQSA LinkedIn



Victorian Registration & Qualifications
Authority (VRQA)

News Updates:

- [2026 Victorian Training Awards](#)
- [An update on our client and stakeholder research](#)
- [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

- [AAIR Announcement](#) – May 2026
- [ASQA IQ](#) - 18 June 2026
- [ASQA Update](#) – 23 February 2026
- [Community Education Australia](#) – June 2026
- [FSO Future Skills News](#) - 16 June 2026
- [FSO Future Skills News](#) – 11 June 2026
- [HumanAbility Newsletter](#) – 2 June 2026
- [Manufacturing Matters](#) – April 2026
- [Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance - The Journey](#) - June 2026
- [National AI Centre – Issue 23](#) – 19 June 2026
- [NCVER News – Edition #630](#) – 17 June 2026
- [Powering Skills Australia = Engergise Newsletter](#) – June 2026
- [Service and Creative Sils Australia – The Latest](#) – June 2026
- [SkillsAware: The Journey So Far 2026](#)
- [Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council Communique](#) – 19 June 2026
- [TAC Update – Issue 119](#) – June 2026
- [TAFE Directors Australia News](#) – 29 June 2026
- [TAFE Directors Australia News](#) – 22 June 2026
- [TEQSA e-News](#) – June 2026
- [VDC News – Edition 10](#) – 17 June 2026
- [VOCEDplus News](#) – June 2026
- [VRQA e-News](#) – 23 March 2026
- [WorldSkills Australia – Skill News](#) – May 2026

PUBLICATIONS

- [2026 Australian Student Wellbeing Report](#)
- [Agentic AI addendum to the AI technical standard for Australian Government](#)
- [AI adoption in Victorian local government](#)
- [Apprentices and trainees 2025: December quarter](#)
- [Assessment reform for the age of artificial intelligence](#)
- [Annual Workplan 2026 – National TAFE Network](#)
- [Assuring quality learning in a gen AI-integrated future: The role of adaptive capabilities](#)
- [Empowering learners for the age of AI](#)
- [Enacting assessment reform in a time of artificial intelligence](#)
- [FSO – Workforce Plan 2025 – Pathways to Impact](#)
- [Government-funded students and courses 2025](#)
- [Historical time series of government-funded vocational education and training from 1981 to 2025](#)
- [International Students in Higher Education](#)
- [Local Government Skills Audit](#)
- [National TAFE Network – Annual Workplan 2026](#)
- [Partial VET completions: Insights on outcomes and pathways](#)
- [Skills, Mobility and Productivity: Why Australia needs a skills-first tertiary education system](#)
- [Who do AI agents work for?](#)

FOCUS WEEK
20 – 24 July | Artificial Intelligence (AI)

GET READY: FOCUS WEEK STARTS SOON!

FIVE DAYS. FIVE WEBINARS. REAL-WORLD AI FOR THE VET SECTOR.

This July, take the next step in your professional development with
Focus Week: Artificial Intelligence.

This five-day webinar series builds confidence and capability in
practical AI applications across the VET sector.

Each session focuses on real-world application – attend one or bundle all five and save 15%.

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