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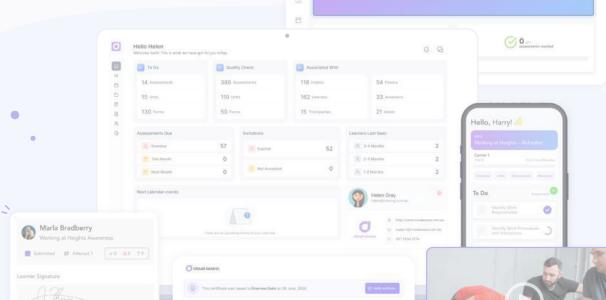




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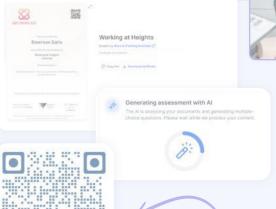
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DEWR CORPORATE PLAN HIGHLIGHTS SKILLS AND TRAINING PRIORITIES

"In 2025–26, our focus will be on targeted interventions to support people who want to upskill and increase their participation in the labour market in a way that is tailored to their experiences and life circumstances." - Natalie James, Secretary of DEWR.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) has launched its 2025–26 Corporate Plan, signalling a significant focus on targeted interventions to upskill the workforce and boost labour market participation. The plan prioritises reforms in employment, workplace relations, and skills development to meet Australia's evolving economic needs.

A key pillar of the strategy is to enhance the quality of vocational education and training (VET) to ensure graduates have job-ready skills. With most new jobs requiring post-school qualifications, DEWR will track VET completion rates, apprenticeship commencements in key sectors, and the uptake of nationally recognised training by employers. The VET Student Loans program will continue to play a crucial role in reducing financial barriers to higher-level vocational courses.

Reforms to the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System are also prominent, aiming to better align with current and future skills demands. This includes targeted financial support such as the Living Away From Home Allowance and payments for apprentices with disabilities. Initiatives like Fee-Free TAFE and the Commonwealth Prac Payment program are also set to continue, addressing persistent skills shortages.

Looking ahead, the plan emphasises creating skilled worker pipelines for growth areas like clean energy, care, and digital technologies. It also commits to improving VET access for First Nations learners through the TAFE Technology Fund and other tailored initiatives.

Furthermore, DEWR will collaborate with Jobs and Skills Australia, the Department of Education, and the new Australian Tertiary Education Commission. Their goal is to foster a more integrated tertiary education system where VET and higher education work in concert, placing students at the heart of learning and aligning qualifications with the demands of the labour market.

NCVER RELEASES 2024 VET GOVERNMENT-FUNDED DATA

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has released its latest annual report, Government-funded students and courses 2024, providing a summary of data relating to the government-funded VET system. The report highlights enrolment trends, qualification completions, and subject choices across the sector, offering insight into how training is meeting the needs of learners and industry.

According to the findings, just over 1.15 million students were enrolled in nationally recognised VET programs in 2024. While this represented a slight decline from the previous year, participation levels remained strong across the country. Young people aged 15 to 19 continued to be the most active age group in government-funded training, and participation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners and learners with disability continued to grow. These shifts point to the sector's ongoing role in providing inclusive access to skills and education.

Table 6 Distinct number of training providers by reporting type, 2019 to 2024 - Australia

Provider reporting type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAFE institutes	25	24	24	24	24	24
Other government providers	10	10	10	10	10	10
Community education providers	338	314	315	293	283	283
Private training providers	1 042	982	982	959	981	957
Other training providers	258	250	242	231	234	223
Total	1 620	1 527	1 518	1 464	1 481	1 447

Note: The total is a distinct count of training providers that submitted data through the state training authorities.

Source: NCVER, Government-funded students and courses 2024

Certificate III courses remained the most common level of study, underpinning many vocational pathways and apprenticeships. Apprenticeships and traineeships in priority occupations were also well represented, reinforcing VET's role in addressing areas of skills shortage.

Training activity was concentrated in several key fields. Community Services had strong enrolments, reflecting demand for care and support roles, while Construction and Plumbing, Electrotechnology, Health, Business Services, and Automotive also attracted large numbers of students. These areas illustrate the alignment between training activity and current labour market needs.

Short course enrolments showed mixed results, with nationally recognised stand-alone units recording fewer students while non-accredited modules grew in popularity. First aid training remained the most widely undertaken short course, demonstrating its relevance across industries.

Although completions were lower than enrolments, many students used their qualifications as a direct pathway into employment, while others progressed into further study. Overall, the data presents a sector that remains stable and responsive, continuing to provide Australians with accessible training opportunities that build workforce capability.

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Individuals this quarter who have held Membership with Velg Training for 10+ Years

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Mark McCarthy

Peter Crawshay-Williams Robyn Kristenson

Organisations this quarter who have held Membership with Velg Training for 10+ Years

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Operations (QLD)
Pty Limited T/A FS
Alliance

George Brown
College

Greenwich College

Karben Training Solutions

Professional Real Estate Training Pty Ltd

RMIT University



MINISTER GILES OUTLINES VISION FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING ON GUARDIAN PODCAST

The Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training, joined The Guardian's *Australian Politics* podcast on 29 August 2025 to outline his vision for Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector. He framed his approach around three interlinked challenges: equipping individuals with the skills they want, addressing persistent skills shortages, and fostering economic growth through fairness and opportunity.

Reflecting on progress since the Economic Reform Roundtable and a recent Press Club address, Minister Giles described the government's response in three stages. The first stage involved acknowledging the scale of Australia's skills shortfall - among the most severe in decades. The second phase established foundational systems, such as Jobs and Skills Australia for labour market insight, industry-led Jobs and Skills Councils, and the five-year National Skills Agreement to guide cooperative reform.

The final stage looks ahead. Minister Giles highlighted three core themes shaping future reform: elevating VET's status beyond a "Plan B" pathway, promoting lifelong learning in a rapidly changing economy, and strengthening partnerships across Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry, unions and communities to build an inclusive and forward-looking skills system.

Another major focus was the recognition of skills acquired overseas. Minister Giles emphasised the value of Australia's multicultural workforce and the need to remove barriers that prevent skilled migrants and refugees from contributing at their full potential. He acknowledged challenges within the recognition system and stressed that improved oversight must balance integrity and fairness, ensuring migrants can access work suited to their credentials without undue delay or cost.

Minister Giles also addressed the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the future of work and skills. He highlighted a capacity study from Jobs and Skills Australia that forecasts which workforce tasks are likely to be augmented or replaced by AI. He identified AI capabilities as an emerging foundation skill and underscored the importance of preparing all Australians - regardless of age - to adapt to technological change.

Finally, Minister Giles noted the important role of Free TAFE and Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) in unlocking new opportunity. He revealed that over 100,000 enrolments in Free TAFE programs were by job seekers, with notable participation by First Nations Australians. These initiatives, he said, help bridge the gap for Australians locked out of employment and open pathways toward secure and meaningful work.

Read the full interview here and listen to the podcast here.



JOBS AND SKILLS COUNCILS & TRAINING PACKAGE NEWS





News Updates:

- 2025 Core Skills Occupations List Consultations
- Australia's Al future: Augmenting human work with the power of AI
- Exploring all the options at National Skills Week 2025
- International Labour Market Update August 2025
- Our Gen Al Transition Implications for Work and Skills - Analysis Paper
- Our Gen Al Transition Implications for Work and Skills - Case Studies
- Recruitment Experiences and Outlook Survey
- Read more on the JSA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- BSB Training Package Update: Safe and Respectful Workplaces UoC
- **Digital Capability Training Product Trail**
- FSO Future Skills News 2 September 2025
- FSO Skills Accelerator Al
- FSO Workforce Plan 2025 Report
- Why building furniture builds better futures
- Workforce Plan 2025 Pathways to impact
- Read more on the FSO's LinkedIn

BuildSkills Australia

News Updates:

- **CPP Swimming Pool and Spa Review**
- Experienced Water Sector Leader Joins **BuildSkills**
- People and Culture Coordinator
- Read more on BuildSkills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- Aged Care, Disability, Leisure and Health **Qualifications Review Project**
- **Audiometry Qualification Review**
- CHC Community Services: Qualification **Review Consultation Log**
- **Dental Qualification Review**
- Earn While You Learn Research Project
- **Enrolments and Completions Research**
- Health Administration and Practice Management Qualification Review
- **HumanAbility Projects**
- **Sterilisation Services Consultation** Workshops
- Workforce Plan 2025
 - Read more on HumanAbility's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- 2025 Workforce Plans
- **Autonomous Train Operations Project**
- Building Awareness and Pathways for the Future of Rail
- Insights from the 2025 Aviation Summit
- Sign up for our Industry & RTO Roundtables
- Subscribe
- Read more on Industry Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- 2025 Manufacturing Workforce Plan
- Current Projects
- Engage With Us
- Mentoring and Succession Planning Tools
- Stay informed Manufacturing Matters
- Read more on MISA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- A Bright Future Growing the First Nations
 Clean Energy Workforce
- Consolidation of Competency Development Units
- Insight Update 29 August 2025
- July TAG Workshops Recording Available
- <u>UEE Full Training Products Review Have Your Say!</u>
- <u>UET High Voltage Rubber Cables Elective Unit</u>
 <u>Development</u>
- UET Rescue and Refresher Units
- Workforce and Training Data Dashboard
- Read more on Powering Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- Apply to join a Technical Committee
- CUA: Unit Currency Audit
- July 2025 Policy and Reports Update
- Learn more about our board
- New Perspective on Old Problems: What the Latest JSA Research Reveals
- Review of Community Pharmacy
 Qualifications
- SaCSA The Latest August 2025
- SHB, SFL, SIF, SIT, SIR: Unit Currency Audit
- You're Invited Tour Guide Roundtable Online
- Read more on SACSA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- 2025 Workforce Plan Evolving Together
- Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS)
 Consultation
- Apply to Join Our Mining or Automotive SWAP
- National Roundtable Consultations
- Replace Major Welded Panels on Vehicles
 Revised Unit Consultation
- Superseded Units Review Project
- The Journey September 2025
- Training Product Feedback
- Workforce Plan and VET Workforce Blueprint Roundtable Consulatations
- Read more on AUSMASA's LinkedIn



News Updates:

- <u>Correctional Services Implementation</u> <u>Finding Report</u>
- Expression of Interest: Government
 Investigations Qualifications Review
 Technical Committee
- Let's Shape the Future of Auslan,
 Interpreting, and Translating Qualifications
 Together 12 May 2025
- View Projects
- Read more on Public Skills' LinkedIn



News Updates:

- Career pathways for Agriculture Trades How to Provide Feedback
- Consultation on Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL)
- Feeding Australia: A National Food Security Strategy
- <u>Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Workforce</u>
 <u>Insights</u>
- Read more on Skills Insight's LinkedIn





AS()A

Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)



Training Accreditation Council (TAC)



Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA)

News Updates:

- 2025 Standards ASQA Information Webinar
- 2025 Standards for RTOs FAQ Version 2
- ASQA Corporate Plan 2025-26
- ASQA IQ 19 August 2025
- ASQA Update August 2025
- ASQA Regulator Risk Priorities 2025-26
- Standards for RTO's Video for Providers
- Standards for RTO's Video for Students

News Updates:

- TAC Education Program Calendar
- TAC FAQs
- TAC Talks Podcast
- <u>TAC Trainer & Assessor Requirements Webinar</u>
- TAC Update Issue 109 August 2025

News Updates:

- 2025-26 enforcement and compliance priorities
- Effective supervision of apprentice electricians
- Employer of fabrication apprentices banned
- VRQA e-News 3 September 2025

YOUR VET NEWSLETTERS AND PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTERS

- AAIR Announcement 29 August 2025
- Ai Centre for Education and Training #40 8
 August 2025
- ASQA IQ 19 August 2025
- ASQA Update 28 August 2025
- ATEC Insights Edition 1
- AUSMASA The Journey September 2025
- FSO Future Skills News 2 September 2025
- Institute for Learning Performance L&D Insights August 2025 Edition
- <u>Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth</u> 31 July 2025
- NCVER News Edition #612 27 August 2025
- Powering Skills Organisation Insight Update
- Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect July 2025

- Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect 22 August 2025
- SaCSA The Latest August 2025
- SkillsAware Newsletter 8 September 2025
- <u>TAC Update Issue 109</u> 31 August 2025
- <u>TAFE Directors Australia News</u> 8 September 2025
- <u>Tafe Directors Australia News</u> 1 September 2025
- TEQSA eNews July 2025
- VOCEDplus News June 2025
- VRQA e-News 3 September 2025
- Your Career News August 2025

PUBLICATIONS

- Al and the future of education: disruptions, dilemmas and directions
- A Guide to Al in Schools Perspectives for the Perplexed
- Australia 2035 Maximising Our Potential
- Australia's economic and labour market outlook An employer's guide to 2025-26
- Building a skilled and adaptable workforce
- Department of Employment and Workforce Relations Corporate Plan 2025-26
- Delivering net zero infrastructure: workforce report August 2025
- Feeding Australia: A National Food Security
 Strategy

- Generative Artificial Intelligence and Higher Degrees By Research
- Government-funded students and courses 2024
- Our Gen Al Transition Implications for Work and Skills - Analysis Paper
- Our Gen Al Transition Implications for Work and Skills – Case Studies
- Removing Barriers to TAFE: Childcare, Transport, and Hidden Costs
- TEQSA Act consultation paper
- TEQSA Corporate Plan 2025-29
- Voice AI and authenticity: current issues and emerging challenges







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