

Smart and Skilled

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SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 111

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1. REVIEW OF THE NSW QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The NSW Quality Framework, located on the Training Services NSW website at www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw_quality_framework.html, sets the Department's expectations for the quality of training delivered by Smart and Skilled Providers.

The Department is seeking to embed high performance and quality post-training outcomes into the design and management of Smart and Skilled, and is revising the NSW Quality Framework accordingly.

Underpinning the review is the expectation that quality under Smart and Skilled exceeds the minimum standards required to operate as a Registered Training Organisation. The focus is instead on best practice.

The Department has identified the following five areas as key to high quality training delivery and assessment:

- Student-centred approach to the training experience
- Connection to industry so training is relevant and innovative, and students have access to placements and post-training job opportunities
- Individualised support for students, particularly disadvantaged students
- Capability building of training provider staff and systems
- Use of external sources to validate assessment practices.

a. Consultation on proposed changes

The Department is therefore inviting Smart and Skilled Providers and stakeholders to participate in consultations on the proposed revisions to the NSW Quality Framework. The Department has prepared draft documents to assist in communicating the direction and approach outlined above and to seek feedback from participants in the NSW training market.

The relevant documents attached to this update are as follows:

1. The revised draft NSW Quality Framework, which captures the shift of focus to high performance and identifying, assessing and evaluating each Smart and Skilled Provider's student outcomes.

The document focuses providers' attention to the five key areas for high quality, with listed examples of best practice in each area to encourage improved student outcomes. This is in addition to the requirements of the Smart and Skilled Contract and compliance with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) *Standards for Registered Training Organisations*.

2. A new student-centred resource, which provides information for students on navigating their training journey.

This resource will ensure that students are informed about key quality indicators when choosing their training provider and course, to better help them reach their goals. This resource would be made publicly available for all prospective VET students, and not just cover Smart and Skilled.

b. How to participate

Providers and stakeholders can participate in consultations through webinar sessions and/or by providing written feedback through the NSW Quality Framework Feedback survey, details of which are provided below.

Training Services NSW Regional Offices will send out invitations to Providers for regionally-based webinar sessions shortly. The webinars will begin week commencing 21 September 2020 and run over a two week period. Each one hour session will include a presentation and an opportunity for Providers to ask questions.

Feedback can also be provided through the online survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSWQualityFramework,

which will close at **5pm, Tuesday 6 October 2020**.

2. CHANGES TO THE NSW SKILLS LIST AS A RESULT OF RECENT CONSULTATIONS

The NSW Skills List identifies the qualifications eligible for a government subsidy under Smart and Skilled. The Skills List currently has 774 qualifications and is designed to include a wide range of qualifications to support the diverse skills needs of NSW employers.

The Department has recently finished consultations on 16 qualifications that have had no Smart and Skilled commencements over the last three years and no Smart and Skilled providers delivering them. Consultations were undertaken with a variety of stakeholders, including Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs), industry and provider peak bodies, Smart and Skilled providers and other government agencies.

As a result of the feedback received, the Department will remove 13 qualifications from the Skills List (see **sections d** and **e** below) and create a pre-qualified list for qualifications that have had temporary drops in demand.

These changes will be implemented through a Skills List update which will be advised in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions regarding the outlined changes, please contact marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au.

a. Ongoing annual review of NSW Skills List qualifications based on activity and outcomes

Following finalisation of the initial review, as outlined above, the Department will implement an annual review process for qualifications on the Skills List, based on activity and outcomes.

This review process is not aimed at lowering the amount of subsidised training activity, but is intended to simplify student choice and refocus Smart and Skilled on qualifications that give students better post-training outcomes.

b. Introduction of the *NSW Skills List Management Policy*

The Department has developed the *NSW Skills List Management Policy*, which is attached to this Update, to set out the processes regarding the ongoing management of the Skills List.

The policy includes information on:

1. adding qualifications to the Skills List
2. the review process to assess whether qualifications should be removed or placed onto the pre-qualified list
3. updating qualifications on the Skills List.

The *NSW Skills List Management Policy* is also available for future reference at www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw_skills_list.html.

c. Status of qualifications on the pre-qualified list

As a result of the feedback received, the Department has introduced a pre-qualified list for qualifications that have had temporary drops in demand.

Qualifications which are removed from the NSW Skills List and placed on the pre-qualified list will be able to be returned to the Skills List through an expedited additions process which allows a request to be made at any time that demand for the qualification increases.

More information on the pre-qualified list and the related additions process can be found in the *NSW Skills List Management Policy*.

d. Qualifications to be removed from the NSW Skills List

Five qualifications will be removed from the Skills List based on the feedback from the recent consultations, as listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Qualifications to be removed from the NSW Skills List

Qualification code	Qualification name
AUR40816	Certificate IV in Automotive Mechanical Overhauling
FWP60116	Advanced Diploma of Forest Industry Sustainability
ICT41119	Certificate IV in Telecommunications Network Design
MSS20316	Certificate II in Competitive Systems and Practices
SFI40119	Certificate IV in Aquaculture

e. Qualifications to be placed onto the pre-qualified list

Eight qualifications will be removed from the Skills List and placed onto the pre-qualified list. These are qualifications that have been identified as having no training activity but which are

otherwise relevant and expected to have increased demand in the future, as listed in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Qualifications to be removed from the NSW Skills List and placed on the pre-qualified list

Qualification code	Qualification name
CUA20315	Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts Industry Work
CUA50615	Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts Industry Work
FBP40117	Certificate IV in Flour Milling
HLT50113	Diploma of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT50213	Diploma of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice
MSF40418	Certificate IV in Glass and Glazing
PSP50816	Diploma of Translating
SFI20219	Certificate II in Fishing Operations

For any technical support in relation to this update, contact Training Market Customer Support at Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au.

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled providers only. If providers require further information for students or employers, please contact Training Market Customer Support, as above, unless otherwise instructed.