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## 1. SMART AND SKILLED TPPPQ PROGRAM INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING STRATEGY: UPDATE

The Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ) Program Infection Control Training Strategy remains a key priority for the NSW Government.

The Department is continuing to promote priority Infection Control Skill Sets and is encouraging the continued delivery of training throughout the remainder of 2020 and up to 30 June 2021 to assist businesses to recover from COVID-19 and to encourage consumer confidence.

The Department has notified many industry groups and employers regarding the availability of fee-free infection control training and has provided them with a link to information on the Training Services NSW website at [training.nsw.gov.au/programs\\_services/funded\\_other/icts/index.html](http://training.nsw.gov.au/programs_services/funded_other/icts/index.html).

As per the original Expression of Interest process, the priority industries for training remain those such as retail, food and beverage, tourism, hospitality, cleaning, security services, transport and logistics as well as other sectors such as aged care and disability care.

The Department would like to thank those Smart and Skilled providers who have delivered infection control training to date. As indicated in the recent Smart and Skilled Provider Webinar held on 29 October 2020 (a recording of this webinar is available [here](#)), providers have faced some challenges with the delivery of training and not all allocated training places have been taken up to date.

### a. Reallocation strategies

While many Smart and Skilled providers are successfully delivering infection control training and are on track to utilise the allocated places in their Provider Activity Schedules (PAS), the Department is continuing to consider reallocation strategies for any unused places.

Any reallocation offers to existing providers will be made at the discretion of the Department and based on consideration of criteria including but not limited to:

- A scope of registration in NSW that includes at least one of the priority Infection Control Skill Sets
- Performance monitoring issues
- Provider capacity and history of provision of this training
- Skill Set training completion rates, and
- Regional take-up and identified need.

**b. Extension of existing PAS training enrolment and training completion dates**

To assist providers in fully utilising their allocated infection control training places, the Department has extended all current PAS enrolment dates to **31 January 2021** and training completion dates to **28 February 2021**.

Consistent with this change, it should be noted that:

- Training completion means that all training, assessment, marking and results have been entered into the provider's Student Management System
- No further extensions for existing PAS will be possible, and
- Any new infection control PAS created in 2020 due to the reallocation strategy will have the same enrolment and completion dates as above.

**c. Infection control training for CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support – Funding for fee-free delivery of the HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set under Smart and Skilled**

The Department supports the need to strengthen the quality of infection control training for students undertaking training in the Ageing and Disability specialisations of the CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support qualification.

In conjunction with the recent decision by the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC) to add HLTINF001 *Comply with Infection Prevention and Control Policies and Procedures* to the required units of competency for the Ageing and Disability specialisations of CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support, the Department will consider funding the HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set (consisting of the unit HLTINF001 *Comply with Infection Prevention and Control Policies and Procedures*) for eligible Smart and Skilled students.

Further information regarding the inclusion of the additional unit of competency for CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support is available at [aisc.net.au/hub/communique-emergency-response-sub-committee-2-october-2020](https://aisc.net.au/hub/communique-emergency-response-sub-committee-2-october-2020).

**i. Priorities for HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set funding**

Priorities for funding will be based on:

- Enrolled Smart and Skilled students who are undertaking training in CHC33015 Certificate III Individual Support (Disability and Ageing specialisations only) as at the date of this Smart and Skilled Update

**AND**

- Whose enrolment and finishing dates meet the criteria for one of the eligible student enrolment categories in the table below.

Student enrolment category	Priority for funding
Enrolled prior to 9 September 2020 and finish before 28 February 2021	No
Enrolled prior to 9 September 2020 and finish after 28 February 2021	Yes
Enrolled on or after 9 September 2020 and finish before 28 February 2021	Yes
Enrolled on or after 9 September 2020 and finish after 28 February 2021	No

**Note:** Funding will **not** be considered for students enrolled in the CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support (Home and Community specialisation).

All priority students are strongly encouraged to undertake training in the HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set.

#### ii. Requests for funding to deliver fee-free training in the HTLS00064 Infection Control Skill Set under Smart and Skilled

Should your organisation be interested in submitting a request(s) to deliver fee-free training in the HTLS00064 Infection Control Skill Set to eligible CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability specialisations) students, please complete the online form [here](#) and submit your request by **COB, Friday 4 December 2020**.

Requests may be submitted for consideration by **all** providers who are training Smart and Skilled students in CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability specialisations) and have the HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set on their scope of registration.

The Smart and Skilled price for the HLTSS00064 Infection Control Skill Set will be \$620 per student place and will be subsidised in full by the Department. Any applicable Smart and Skilled needs and location loadings will be paid in addition to this subsidy.

The Department will review request(s) and may issue a Provider Activity Schedule (PAS).

The PAS training enrolment period start and end dates will be **8 December 2020** and **31 January 2021** respectively.

The training and assessment completion date for this Skill Set must be on or prior to 30 April 2021.

**Note:** Decisions related to requests associated with infection control training remain at the Department's absolute discretion.

#### d. Other important PAS and reporting requirements

Providers are reminded to follow the conditions contained in any issued PAS, including meeting the enrolment period requirements and the start and completion dates for training.

Providers are also reminded to submit data in accordance with the current Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions, namely clause 14.2 *Frequency of Reporting* (i.e. at least once every 28 days), even if no Unit of Competency Outcome Achievement Stages have occurred.

For any further information regarding infection control training, please contact [training.market@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:training.market@det.nsw.edu.au).

## 2. RECORDING OF SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER WEBINAR 2, HELD THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020, NOW AVAILABLE

If you missed last Thursday's webinar, you can now watch it [here](#).

In this final webinar for 2020, David Collins, Executive Director, Training Services NSW, Emil Tabone, Director, Training Quality and Regulation and Mathew Pearson, Director, Training Market Design provided updates on the following:

- The 2020/2021 NSW Budget, what's in it for vocational education and training, including the new Trades Skills Pathways Centre, and
- Progress on implementation of Skilling for Recovery/JobTrainer initiatives.

The webinar series will continue in 2021 with upcoming dates to be announced early in the New Year.

## 3. NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSEDOWN

The Department of Education, including Training Services NSW regional offices, will close down for the Christmas/New Year period from **Friday, 25 December 2020 to Friday, 8 January 2021** inclusive.

All functionality in STS Online will continue to be available during this period.

Please note that during the closedown, there will be limited technical/other support for Training Market Customer Support, Smart and Skilled Information and Customer Support. The [training.market@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:training.market@det.nsw.edu.au) email address will be monitored weekdays during this period from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding public holidays and 29 December 2020. Payments, where due, will also continue to be processed.

For providers who are closing, it is expected that you will put in place processes and contingencies to ensure that you are able to meet Smart and Skilled contractual obligations regarding the reporting of Training Activity Data at least once every 28 days.

The Department's offices will re-open on **Monday 11 January 2021**.

For support with issues such as system/information access and functionality, reporting and other technical matters, please contact Training Market Customer Support at [Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au). Unless otherwise indicated, please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps and programs/initiatives such as Skilling for Recovery to your Strategic Relationship Manager, as advised in the relevant Smart and Skilled Update.

*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.*