

# Smart and Skilled

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**SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE**

**November 2021**

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## 1. NSW JOBTRAINER FUNDING EXTENDED UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2022

The NSW Government recently signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Government to continue the NSW JobTrainer program until 31 December 2022.

While the extension will largely be consistent with the original program, the Department is currently finalising its approach to rolling out the additional funding.

Below is initial advice on changes related to the extension. The Commonwealth has made changes to the student eligibility requirements and the extension means new end dates are now possible for existing PASs in some circumstances.

### a. Eligibility criteria extended

The program will continue supporting NSW residents who meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria and who are:

- unemployed (including welfare recipients)
- at risk of losing their job
- aged 16-24 years (including school leavers)
- veterans and their partners.

Eligibility is being extended for the following priority industries:

- aged care
- childcare
- disability care, and
- digital skills.

Employed people (existing workers) will be able to access fee-free training in specific full and part qualifications in each of the four industries listed above.

More details about when you can start enrolling these additional cohorts as fee-free students, how to do this, as well as any other changes to the program will be released in the coming weeks.

### b. Extensions for existing Skilling for Recovery (SfR) PASs

For existing SfR part qualification PASs, providers can seek extensions to training enrolment/commencement end dates beyond 31 December 2021. Extensions to training completion end dates can also be submitted. Extension requests must be submitted by 7 December 2021.

These requests will be considered on a case by case basis:

- Extension requests for training enrolment/commencement period end dates cannot be for more than six weeks from the commencement period end date that currently appears on the PAS.
- Extension requests for training completion dates cannot be for more than six weeks from the completion date that currently appears on the PAS. Extension requests for training completion dates for a period greater than six weeks will be considered where a strong case is provided.

Please submit any extension requests to [MarketDesign.Implementation@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:MarketDesign.Implementation@det.nsw.edu.au).

**Note:** The Department will advise on when providers can start submitting new Training Needs Identification applications (TNIs) – including for Summer Skills – with training commencement period start dates from 1 January 2022 within the next two weeks.

## 2. SUMMER SKILLS ENROLMENTS EXTENDED

Providers can also seek extensions for current Summer Skills 2021-22 PASs as follows:

- Training enrolment/commencement period end date extension requests cannot be for more than six weeks from the commencement period end date that currently appears on the PAS.

Extension requests for a period greater than six weeks will be considered where a strong case is provided. Please note, however, that the training enrolment/commencement period end date can be **no later than 28 February 2022**.

- Training completion date extension requests cannot be for more than six weeks from the completion date that currently appears on the PAS.

Extension requests for training completion dates for a period greater than six weeks will be considered where a strong case is provided. Please note, however, that the completion end date can be **no later than 30 April 2022**.

If interested, providers should contact the relevant Training Services NSW regional office to request an extension.

If PASs have been issued for a Summer Skills part qualification by multiple regional offices, providers will need to seek extensions from each office.

## 3. SUMMER SKILLS IN THE MEDIA

The [Summer Skills program](#) was recently announced in different media outlets, from national to regional channels. This was a joint effort between State and Federal Government representatives and included the endorsement of celebrity chef Matt Moran.

In the few first weeks, over 2,000 people have enrolled in Summer Skills courses.

Check out some Summer Skills media coverage:

- [PRIME7 News Central West – Labour shortage \(1 min 40 sec video\)](#).
- [Mirage - Free training to support push for bush this summer](#)
- [Muswellbrook Chronicle - State government launches Summer Skills program offering free training courses for young people](#)

In the coming weeks, more stories will hit the media, prioritising industries such as hospitality, retail, construction, digital technologies, recreational services, etc.

#### a. Social media

The department's social media channels have started advertising the program, getting positive feedback and many enrolment inquiries. This included a paid social media advertisement campaign in TikTok and Facebook.

Check out some Summer Skills social media coverage:

- [NSW Government Facebook post – 2 November 2021](#)
- [NSW Department of Education Facebook post – 8 November 2021](#)
- [Training Services NSW Facebook post – 8 November 2021](#)

#### b. It's easy for training providers to promote Summer Skills

Providers are encouraged to use their own channels to promote the program. You can do the following:

##### i. Create a Summer Skills section on your website

Having a dedicated section on your website to advertise Summer Skills courses will make it easier for potential learners to find enrolment information.

If you have a direct weblink to your Summer Skills courses on your website, send it to [skillsbrokers@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:skillsbrokers@det.nsw.edu.au) and we will update the Summer Skills website for you.

##### ii. Promote Summer Skills on your digital channels

Visit the [Summer Skills website for training providers](#) to get social media messages, banners, and social media tiles that you can use to promote the program. Use the assets on your Facebook or Instagram pages or also include them in your website or newsletters.

**Remember:** the more you promote the program, the more possibilities to attract enrolments.

## 4. AGSKILLED 2.0 PROGRAM: NEW INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION, UPDATED COURSE AND UNIT OF COMPETENCY LISTING, AND NEWLY ENDORSED TRAINING PROVIDER

#### a. New industry representation on the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee

AgriFutures Australia (formerly known as Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)) is an organisation dedicated to growing the long-term prosperity of Australian rural industries.

AgriFutures Australia is responsible for:

- Attracting capable people into careers in agriculture, building the capability of future rural leaders, and supporting change makers and thought leaders

- Research and analysis to understand and address important issues on the horizon for Australian agriculture
- Research and development for established industries that do not have their own Research and Development Corporation (RDC), including the rice, chicken meat, honey bee and pollination, thoroughbred horse, pasture seeds, export fodder, ginger and tea tree oil industries
- Research and development to accelerate the establishment and expansion of new rural industries, such as deer, buffalo, kangaroo and camel milk.

AgriFutures Australia's role on the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee is to advise Training Services NSW on the training and workforce development needs for all other plant-growing agricultural industry sectors not covered by the existing five (5) industry associations representing the plant-based fibre e.g. cotton, grains, production horticulture, viticulture and rice growing industries.

#### b. Updated Courses and Units of Competency (UoCs) available for delivery and recommendations sought

The AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee has endorsed the following changes to courses and Units of Competency (UoCs) for delivery under the program. Two (2) Units of Competency marked \*\* have been added, as listed below.

Ref	Course / Skill set	Units of Competency (UoCs)		Training Pillar
S4	Work in Confined Spaces	RIIWHS202E	Enter and work in confined spaces	Safety
		RIIWHS201E **	Work safely and follow WHS policies and procedures	
S5	Work Safely at Heights	RIIWHS204E	Work safely at heights	Safety
		RIIRIS201E **	Conduct local risk control	

**Legend:** New UoCs are marked \*\*

Employers and training providers can select any combination of UoCs from the list of endorsed AgSkilled 2.0 courses published on the [Training Services NSW AgSkilled 2.0 webpage](#) to design a customised course which best fits their business, industry and/or employee needs.

#### c. Recommendations sought for additional courses/UoCs

Training Services NSW seek recommendations for additional courses and UoCs relevant to the plant-growing agricultural industry sectors and existing training pillars (i.e. Production, Technology, Business and Safety) to be included under the AgSkilled 2.0 program.

To submit a new course and UoC recommendation, please contact the AgSkilled Project Officer, **Claudia Vicary** at [enquiries@agskilled.org.au](mailto:enquiries@agskilled.org.au) or your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM).

#### d. Training providers endorsed to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training – EOIs for training delivery sought

An additional training provider, Ironbark Training, has been endorsed by the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training.

The list of 14 training providers currently endorsed to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training is on the [Training Services NSW AgSkilled 2.0 webpage](#).

Training Services NSW is currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from training providers who wish to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training. To submit an EOI, please contact the AgSkilled Project Officer, **Claudia Vicary** at [enquiries@agskilled.org.au](mailto:enquiries@agskilled.org.au) or your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM).

**e. Further information**

For further information, please visit/contact:

- [Training Services NSW AgSkilled 2.0 webpage](#)
- [AgSkilled 2.0 website](#)
- AgSkilled Project Officer, Claudia Vicary, at [enquiries@agskilled.org.au](mailto:enquiries@agskilled.org.au)
- your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM)
- your nearest [Training Services NSW Regional Office](#) on 13 28 11.

## **5. WEBINAR FOR SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDERS HELD FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2021 – RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE**

Thank you to everyone who attended our most recent Smart and Skilled Provider webinar on Friday 12 November 2021. The link to the recording is available for viewing [here](#).

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.

## **6. SKILLING FOR RECOVERY PART QUALIFICATIONS FUNDING FOR THE EXTENDED JOBTRAINER PERIOD**

Whilst the Department is finalising the revised arrangements for Skilling for Recovery part qualifications, the Department will not be accepting new Skilling for Recovery (SfR) Training Needs Identification (TNI) applications for the Redeployment and Youth program or Construction program, including for Summer Skills, **from Monday 29 November 2021** until further notice, with the exception below.

This is expected to be a short term pause and is necessary to ensure that part qualifications are aligned going forward to funding priorities under the program extension.

**a. Exception for identified Aged Care and Digital Skills part qualifications**

The Aged Care and Digital Skills sectors are priorities under the extended JobTrainer agreement. The Department will therefore continue to accept TNI applications for delivery of part qualifications on the SfR approved priority part qualifications list targeting the aged care or digital skills sectors.

A list of the priority part qualifications that will currently be accepted in a TNI application is included as an attachment to this update.

TNI applications for aged care or digital skills part qualifications from this list must be applied for **via the SfR Redeployment and Youth program**.

**Please note:**

TNI applications for aged care or digital skills part qualifications **not** on the attached list will **not** be accepted during this period. There will be opportunities to add part qualifications for these sectors to this list in the future. Further advice will be provided in an upcoming Smart and Skilled Update.

**b. SfR TNI applications already submitted**

The Department will continue to consider SfR TNIs that were submitted up to the end of 26 November 2021.

Please note that submission of a TNI is not a guarantee of funding and decisions regarding the approval of TNIs remain at the Department's absolute discretion.

**c. Timeframe for accepting new SfR TNIs**

Once the funding approach for SfR part qualifications has been finalised for the remainder of the JobTrainer period, the Department will notify providers through a Smart and Skilled Update, including advice on any policy changes and the timeframe for when providers can recommence submitting TNIs.

An updated *Smart and Skilled Policy for the Skilling for Recovery Initiative* and updated *Smart and Skilled NSW JobTrainer/Skilling for Recovery – Construction* and *Smart and Skilled NSW JobTrainer/Skilling for Recovery – Redeployment and Youth Provider Factsheets* will also be distributed, so please keep an eye out for updates in the coming weeks.

## 7. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR AGED CARE AND DIGITAL SKILLS SECTORS

Student eligibility has been expanded for specific sectors, including aged care and digital skills. This means that any person interested in undertaking training in one of the part qualifications on the SfR approved priority part qualifications list targeting the aged care or digital skills sectors attached is now eligible **regardless** of their employment status.

**Please note:**

This means that people who are currently employed, regardless of the sector they work in, are eligible to undertake one of the part qualifications on the SfR approved priority part qualifications list targeting the aged care or digital skills sectors attached.

**a. Selecting the correct Skilling for Recovery strategy in the Notification of Enrolment**

It is very important that providers **select the correct strategy** when undertaking a Notification of Enrolment.

Providers should enrol students undertaking a part qualification from the SfR approved priority part qualifications list targeting the aged care or digital skills sectors attached under one of the Skilling for Recovery strategies below (listed in priority order), according to the applicable eligibility category criteria.

Code	Strategy Name	Priority
<b>S120</b>	SFR Initiative - Veteran	1
<b>S140</b>	SFR Initiative - Veteran's Recognised Partner	1
<b>S100</b>	SFR Initiative - Youth (16-24)	2
<b>S101</b>	SFR Initiative - Commonwealth Benefit Recipient	3
<b>S102</b>	SFR Initiative - Unemployed (Not a Commonwealth Benefit Recipient)	3
<b>S103</b>	SFR Initiative - People expected to become unemployed	5

Students who do not meet any of the above eligibility category criteria should be enrolled in the relevant strategy from one of the **new** strategies below.

Code	Strategy Name	Priority
<b>S160</b>	SFR Initiative- Currently employed (undertaking aged care)	4
<b>S161</b>	SFR Initiative- Currently employed (undertaking digital skills)	4

Where a student meets the criteria for more than one eligibility category, please select the relevant strategy with the highest priority in the above tables.

## 8. SKILLING FOR RECOVERY FULL QUALIFICATIONS FUNDING FOR THE EXTENDED JOBTRAINER PERIOD

Information on the approach for Skilling for Recovery full qualifications will be provided in a future Smart and Skilled update, which the Department expects to issue in the coming week.

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