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## 1. SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACTING AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 ACTIVITY PERIOD

### a. Overview

Performance-based contracting allows the Department to measure the quality and performance of the overall market and adjust market settings to support the delivery of high-quality vocational training outcomes. The focus is on students gaining the skills they need to be employable and adaptable and contribute to the productivity and prosperity of NSW.

In 2021-22, the Department began implementing performance-based contracting and funding arrangements for Smart and Skilled. The aim is to ensure that student outcomes inform the Department's contracting and funding decisions to deliver a higher quality government-subsidised VET market in NSW. Providers are incentivised to continuously improve and strengthen the outcomes for their students and increase the benefits students gain from their Smart and Skilled training, which will in turn have a positive impact on employers and the economy.

The Department of Education has reviewed the rollout of performance-based contracting arrangements for Smart and Skilled and intends to adjust the implementation schedule, in acknowledgement of the impact of COVID-19 on the overall market as well as on individual providers. The revised implementation schedule maintains the commitment to improving student outcomes under Smart and Skilled through changes to the management of the NSW Skills List, Smart and Skilled contracts, Financial Cap allocations and other funding-related decisions.

Key steps will occur over coming months including: sharing updated VET Student Outcomes Snapshots, updating the market comparison information through the Skills Compare (previously Market Comparison) tool on the Skills NSW website, using performance data in funding allocations for the 2022-23 Activity Period, and the next round of Provider Performance Assessments and High Performing Providers applications.

Progress on outcome-focused reforms to Smart and Skilled and the next steps in these projects are outlined below. The Department will be consulting further with Providers and stakeholders on these activities as we move forward.

#### **b. Sharing Outcomes and Indicators data with Providers and Students**

The Department will use Student Outcomes Survey (SOS) 2020 data to produce VET Student Outcomes Snapshots. (**Note:** More recent data will be used in the next Provider Performance Assessment for the 2022-23 Activity Period).

Although the VET Student Outcomes Snapshots will not be published, three (3) of the seven (7) indicators (employment benefit, satisfaction and non-drop-out rate) will appear publicly in the Skills Compare tool on the [Skills NSW website](#).

#### **c. Provider Performance Assessments for the 2022-23 Activity Period**

The Department has been taking steps to improve the Provider Performance Assessments to:

- Expand the coverage of Providers contracted to the NSW government-subsidised training market and also to consider highly unique organisations.
- Transition to the most current SOS data
- Ensure the Provider Performance Assessment methodology evolves and takes into account changing operating conditions.

The Department will share findings of an external analysis of student outcomes data and the performance assessment methodology and seek feedback from Providers and stakeholders before finalising Provider Performance Assessments for the 2022-23 Activity Period.

The consultations will occur in the final quarter of this financial year. Provider Performance Assessments will be released in the first quarter of the 2022-23 financial year.

#### **d. High Performing Provider Applications for the 2022-23 Activity Period**

High Scoring Providers identified in the Provider Performance Assessments for 2022-23 will be invited to apply for a High Performing Providers Contract variation, which will offer a three-year contract term and greater funding certainty.

## **2. NSW SKILLS LIST UPDATED – VERSION 12.4**

The NSW Skills List has been updated. This update covers changes as a result of:

- updates to Training Packages; and
- updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs).

Version 12.4 of the NSW Skills List is now available at:

[nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/nsw-skills-list](https://nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/nsw-skills-list)

Version 12.4 of the *Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule* has also been updated to cover changes to the Skills List and is now available at:

[nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/smart-skilled-fees](https://nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/smart-skilled-fees)

Version 12.4 of the NSW Skills List and *Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule* is effective as of 1 April 2022.

#### a. Updates to the NSW Skills List

The NSW Skills List has been updated as a result of revisions to the following seven (7) Training Packages:

- Manufacturing Training Package
- Gas Industry Training Package
- Transport and Logistics Training Package
- Business Services Training Package
- Financial Services Training Package
- Forest and Wood Products Training Package
- Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Industry Training Package

#### i. Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List

**Table 1** shows the superseding qualifications that are equivalent to their superseded version.

Please note that equivalent qualifications are updated automatically in your Approved Qualification Activity Schedules (AQAS) when the Training Package is updated and can be delivered under Smart and Skilled when this automatic update occurs.

**Table 1**

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
FNS40820	Certificate IV in Finance and Mortgage Broking	FNS40821	Certificate IV in Finance and Mortgage Broking
FWP20116	Certificate II in Forest Growing and Management	FWP20121	Certificate II in Forest Operations
FWP30620	Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply	FWP30621	Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply
FWP31019	Certificate III in Saw Technology	FWP31021	Certificate III in Saw Technology
FWP31119	Certificate III in Wood Machining	FWP31121	Certificate III in Wood Machining

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
FWP40116	Certificate IV in Forest Operations	FWP40121	Certificate IV in Forest Operations
FWP50116	Diploma of Forest and Forest Products	FWP50121	Diploma of Forest Operations
AHC31016	Certificate III in Parks and Gardens	AHC31021	Certificate III in Parks and Gardens
AHC31420	Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management	AHC31421	Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC50616	Diploma of Landscape Design	AHC50621	Diploma of Landscape Design
ACM30817	Certificate III in Performance Horse	ACM30821	Certificate III in Horse Care
ACM50417	Diploma of Performance Horse Management	ACM50421	Diploma of Equine Management

## ii. Merged qualifications on the Skills List

**Table 2** lists the superseding qualification that merges with two or more superseded qualifications.

The prices of superseding qualifications in **Table 2** will be reviewed prior to the start of the next Activity Period.

**Table 2**

Merged qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
BSB40220	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance	BSB41021	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance
BSB50220	Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance		
FWP30116	Certificate III in Forest Growing and Management	FWP30121	Certificate III in Forest Operations
FWP30216	Certificate III in Harvesting and Haulage		
PPM30216	Certificate III in Papermaking Operations	PPM30121	Certificate III in Pulp and Paper Operations

Merged qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
PPM30116	Certificate III in Pulping Operations		
PPM40116	Certificate IV in Pulping Operations	PPM40121	Certificate IV in Pulp and Paper Operations
PPM40216	Certificate IV in Papermaking Operations		

### iii. Accredited courses on the Skills List

**Table 3** lists the accredited course that replaces an expired accredited course on the Skills List

**Table 3**

Replacement accredited courses on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
10588NAT	Fundamental English for Speakers of Other Languages	10982NAT	Fundamental English for Speakers of Other Languages
10589NAT	Basic English for Speakers of Other Languages	10984NAT	Basic English for Speakers of Other Languages
10590NAT	Certificate II in Routine English for Speakers of Other Languages	10985NAT	Certificate II in Routine English for Speakers of Other Languages
10582NAT	Certificate I in Preparation for Work and Training	11005NAT	Certificate I in Preparation for Work and Training
10592NAT*	Certificate III in English for Further Study	11022NAT	Certificate III in English for Further Study
10578NAT	Diploma of Applied Aboriginal Studies	11026NAT	Diploma of Applied Aboriginal Studies
10586NAT	Certificate III in Vocational and Study Pathways	11036NAT	Certificate III in Vocational and Study Pathways for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People

\* This qualification is still active whilst an application to renew its accreditation is being reviewed.

### iv. Deleted qualification on the Skills List

**Table 4** lists those qualifications which have been deleted from their respective Training Package and removed from the Skills List as a result.

Table 4

Qualifications removed from the NSW Skills List	
Qualification code	Qualification title
AHC32116	Certificate III in Commercial Seed Processing
AHC33516	Certificate III in Seed Testing
AHC41416	Certificate IV in Seed Production
AHC41516	Certificate IV in Seed Testing

#### b. VTO changes affecting the NSW Skills List

Following updates to NSW VTOs, a number of superseding qualifications detailed in previous Smart and Skilled Updates can now be delivered under apprenticeship and traineeship pathways under Smart and Skilled. These qualifications are shown in **Table 5** below.

Table 5

VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
MSM30418	Certificate III in Fenestration	Traineeship
UEG30121	Certificate III in Gas Supply Industry Operations	Apprenticeship
UEG20121	Certificate II in Gas Supply Industry Operations	Traineeship
TLI21221	Certificate II in Driving Operations	Traineeship
TLI31221	Certificate III in Driving Operations	Traineeship
TLI31321	Certificate III in International Freight Forwarding (Operator)	Traineeship
TLI50221	Diploma of Logistics	Traineeship
TLI20421	Certificate II in Supply Chain Operations	Traineeship + School based traineeship
TLI30321	Certificate III in Supply Chain Operations	Traineeship
TLI40321	Certificate IV in Supply Chain Operations	Traineeship
TLI21921	Certificate II in Track Protection	Traineeship
TLI40521	Certificate IV in Traffic Control Room Operations	Traineeship

### VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates

Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
TLI42621	Certificate IV in Train Driving	Traineeship

#### i. Removal of apprenticeships and traineeships on the Skills List

**Table 6** shows the qualifications that have had their apprenticeships and traineeships removed as a result of updates to NSW VTOs.

**Table 6**

Superseding qualifications with VTO changes resulting in the removal of apprenticeships and traineeships	
Qualification code	Qualification name
TLI22418	Certificate II in Furniture Removal
TLI40219	Certificate IV in International Freight Forwarding (Senior Operator)
TLI20420	Certificate II in Supply Chain Operations
TLI30118	Certificate III in Mobile Crane Operations
TLI33118	Certificate III in Rail Customer Service
TLI27120	Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure
TLI37120	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure
TLI40120	Certificate IV in Rail Network Control
TLI23220	Certificate II in Shunting
TLI20319	Certificate II in Stevedoring
TLI32715	Certificate III in Track Protection

#### ii. Corrections to three traineeship fees on the Skills List

*Table 7* shows three qualifications that have had their traineeship fees corrected due to a system error. There are currently no fee-paying traineeship enrolments that would be affected by these changes.

**Table 7**

Superseding qualifications with traineeship fee adjustments				
Qualification code	Qualification name	Fund type	Old fee	Corrected fee
FNS20120	Certificate II in Financial Services	Traineeship	\$1,000	\$880

Superseding qualifications with traineeship fee adjustments				
Qualification code	Qualification name	Fund type	Old fee	Corrected fee
BSB20120	Certificate II in Workplace Skills	Traineeship	\$1,000	\$880
BSB30120	Certificate III in Business	Traineeship	\$870	\$1,000

### 3. BERT EVANS APPRENTICE SCHOLARSHIPS – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships.

The scholarships offer financial assistance to eligible apprentices who have experienced hardship. They are designed to support first year apprentices, including school-based apprentices, who have shown capability for their trade training and demonstrate a positive attitude both in the workplace and in their formal training.

There are a maximum of 120 scholarships available, each worth \$5,000 per year for up to three years.

Applications require a supporting statement from the apprentice's employer and a representative of their RTO.

Providers are encouraged to support their eligible first year apprentices to apply for the Scholarships.

Applications close **11:59pm, Friday 27 May 2022.**

For further information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please go to [education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/bert-evans-scholarships](http://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/bert-evans-scholarships).

### 4. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS ON THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION SKILLS FRAMEWORK

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) has initiated stakeholder engagement on the draft National Foundation Skills Framework (the Framework) developed by Australian governments.

The Framework outlines collective action by governments working with stakeholders to improve the foundation skills of Australian adults. It replaces the 2012 National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults and operates from 2022 to 2032. The Framework is now available at [Skills Reform](#).

DESE held a webinar in April to provide further information and background on the Framework.

Further details on the webinar, are available at [Skills Reform](#).

### 5. CHANGES TO NOTIFICATION OF ENROLMENT PROCESS FOR FULL QUALIFICATIONS (FACILITATED TRAINING)

A significant amount of training has been supported by Training Services NSW's Skills Brokers and Workforce Development teams under the Smart and Skilled and Skilling for Recovery part qualifications programs.



To better enable these teams to support training activity for full qualifications, the Department is introducing new strategies in the Notification of Enrolment process, which will assist in identifying new areas for development of funding initiatives.

**a. New strategies available in the Notification of Enrolment process for full qualifications**

If any full qualification training under Smart and Skilled or Skilling for Recovery has been facilitated by either the Training Services NSW Skills Brokers or Workforce Development (Bespoke Skilling) teams, the following additional steps should be taken in the Notification of Enrolment process for a student:

1. Selecting “Yes” to the question “Is the student being enrolled under Strategy/Initiative?”
2. Selecting the appropriate strategy from the dropdown box that appears:
  - Bespoke Skilling supported training
  - Skills Brokers supported training.

**6. TRAINING SERVICES NSW AND SMART AND SKILLED WEBSITES DECOMMISSIONED AND REDIRECTS IN EFFECT**

The Department has undertaken a migration of content from the Training Services NSW (TSNSW) and Smart and Skilled websites.

As a result, the Training Services NSW and Smart and Skilled websites have been decommissioned, with redirects from these sites remaining in place for the foreseeable future.

This means that any existing links will automatically take you to where the content is now housed.

Training provider and employer-focused content is now on [the VET section of nsw.gov.au](#), with student-focused content on the [NSW Department of Education \(Skills NSW\) website](#).

Please note that the Smart and Skilled Course Finder landing page on the Smart and Skilled website, and all pages within the Course Finder, now redirect to the [Skills NSW landing page](#). Visitors to the site can use the Skills Compare tool on that page to find the course they are looking for.

**7. SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER WEBINAR HELD WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2022 – RECORDING AVAILABLE**

Thank you to everyone who attended our most recent Smart and Skilled Provider webinar on Wednesday 13 April 2022. The recording is available for viewing [here](#).

**8. RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING: PRINCIPLES FOR STUDENTS ON PLACEMENTS IN NSW HEALTH FACILITIES**

NSW Health has advised the Department that the Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) has released a set of principles for students under the Respiratory Protection Program (RPP).

NSW Health has further advised that students who are required to wear a respirator during placement at NSW Health facilities should be fit tested to suitable P2/N95 respirators in line with NSW Health RPP guidance.

The principles outline that **education providers are responsible for:**

- determining which students should undergo a respirator fit test by undertaking a risk assessment against the CEC's RPP guidance
- conducting fit testing on the identified students to the standard of the NSW RPP for NSW Health approved respirators
- ensuring students are competent with relevant PPE requirements prior to undertaking placements where respiratory protection is required, including point of use fit checking, and donning and doffing respirators.

Health services are responsible for ensuring students who require respiratory protection are provided with PPE approved for use in NSW Health facilities. NSW Health advises that the mandatory module 'Donning and fit checking of P2 or N95 respirators in NSW healthcare settings' is already available to students in My Health Learning. Student mask fit testing results will be recorded in ClinConnect.

Providers are asked to please advise relevant staff and students of this information.

More information can be found on the [CEC's website](#). Further queries on this matter should be directed to Nicole Banks, Manager ClinConnect and Student Placements, at [nicole.banks@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicole.banks@health.nsw.gov.au).

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.*