

Smart and Skilled

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SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 160 - 162

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Contents

1. Updates to Skilling for Recovery Policy.....	2
a. Change to Policy – Promotion of “fee-free” training	2
b. Identifying and marketing Skilling for Recovery/JobTrainer courses	2
2. Non-government Enterprise Registered Training Organisation (ERTO) eligibility	2
3. Update to Skilling for Recovery qualifications on the NSW Skills List	2
4. Skilling for Recovery – Aged Care and Disability Care Strategy – Intent to Participate.....	3
a. About the Strategy	3
b. Evaluation process.....	4
c. Enrolment and training delivery dates	4
d. Key dates.....	4
e. Furtehr Information.....	4
5. Financial Cap Review – Variations for the 2021-22 Activity Period	4
a. Criteria for allocations	5
b. Approved qualifications associated with new Financial Caps for Skilling for Recovery	5
c. Approved qualifications associated with new Financial Caps for Smart and Skilled	5
d. Offers of additional Financial Caps will be made via Contract Variation Offers in STS Online	6
e. Providers not receiving a Contract Variation Offer	6
f. Further information.....	6
6. Training Activity Data reporting for training disrupted by COVID-19 or floods	6

1. UPDATES TO SKILLING FOR RECOVERY POLICY

The *Smart and Skilled Policy for the Skilling for Recovery Initiative* has been updated to Version 2.1.

a. Change to Policy – Promotion of “fee-free” training

The following addition has been made to the Policy in order to clarify the Department’s expectations of Providers promoting training under Skilling for Recovery (SfR):

- Clause 1.3 of the *Smart and Skilled Operating Guidelines* prevents Providers from promoting Smart and Skilled subsidised training as being ‘free of charge’.

- For the purposes of training funded under SfR, this section of Clause 1.3 will not apply in its entirety.
- This means that in Providers’ marketing and information materials, Providers will be allowed to advertise that training funded under SfR is fee-free. However, if Providers choose to do so, any provider websites, flyers, emails and other promotional materials **must** use the following statement:

‘Training under JobTrainer is fee-free and fully funded by the NSW and Commonwealth governments’.

b. Identifying and marketing Skilling for Recovery/JobTrainer courses

The Department encourages Smart and Skilled Providers to engage with employers/industry and potential learners to deliver training under Skilling for Recovery that will create sustainable employment opportunities in critical industries upon completion. However, Provider campaigns such as bulk emails to employers/industry and potential learners promoting ‘free training - sign up here’ or similar promotions are **deemed inappropriate by the Department**.

When approving TNIs, the Department will prioritise part qualifications from the current National Skills Commission (NSC) approved *Skilling for Recovery – Priority Part Qualifications List*, which focuses on training in areas of anticipated employment growth.

The Department will be collecting case studies for the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, outlining how Skilling for Recovery funded training has:

- supported job seekers, youth and existing workers with sustainable employment opportunities;
- facilitated Providers to actively work with industry and local businesses to identify areas of skills needed in post-COVID workplaces;
- demonstrated appropriate use of Government funds to assist learners gain employment opportunities.

2. NON-GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION (ERTO) ELIGIBILITY

As per the *Smart and Skilled Policy for Market Management in the 2021-22 Activity Period*, non-government ERTOS are only able to deliver apprenticeship and traineeship training under Smart and Skilled. They cannot deliver training under any capped programs nor any part qualification programs. This includes any training under Skilling for Recovery, including where extended eligibility for students in Aged Care, Disability Care, Childcare, Digital Skills, Training and Assessment (TAE) and existing workers in construction applies. Providers should make sure that their provider type on training.gov.au reflects their organisational objectives and company structure.

3. UPDATE TO SKILLING FOR RECOVERY QUALIFICATIONS ON THE NSW SKILLS LIST

The following four (4) qualifications were flagged in error as Skilling for Recovery priority qualifications in Version 12.3 of the NSW Skills List. The flag has now been removed.

Qualification code	Qualification Name
ACM40321	Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training

BSB41618	Certificate IV in Business (Procurement)
NWP40515	Certificate IV in Water Industry Operations
TLI20119	Certificate II in Logistics

4. SKILLING FOR RECOVERY – AGED CARE AND DISABILITY CARE STRATEGY – INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

The Department is inviting Smart and Skilled Providers to register their intent to participate in delivering part qualifications for the Aged Care and Disability Care Strategy under Skilling for Recovery (SfR).

a. About the Strategy

Under this Strategy, funding for 4,000 training places will be available to Smart and Skilled Providers to deliver specific part qualifications which support the aged care and disability care sectors from the Skilling for Recovery Priority Part Qualifications List. Three thousand (3,000) aged care training places and 1,000 disability care training places are available.

i. Eligible part qualifications

The part qualifications eligible for funding under this Strategy have been identified in consultation with industry and are listed on the Intent to Participate form.

Please note that some part qualifications under this strategy are not specifically flagged as supporting the aged care and disability care industries on the Skilling for Recovery Priority Part Qualifications List. Industry consultations have however identified the need for this training to support the sectors (i.e., Training and Assessment (TAE) and Leadership and Management part qualifications).

For these part qualifications, Providers will need to submit evidence of how the training will target the aged care and/or disability sector when negotiating related Training Needs Identifications (TNIs). Providers who are not able to provide this evidence will not be invited to submit a TNI. Please see the Evaluation process section below for more information on the assessment process.

ii. Promotion

Part qualifications funded under this Strategy will be included on Departmental websites promoting training in these sectors. Promotional material will also be made available to Providers.

b. Evaluation process

Intent to participate requests will be assessed based on the demand for training in each region, so priorities will vary by region.

Requests will be initially assessed against:

- the Provider's past performance under Smart and Skilled;
- the Provider's performance in delivering Skilling for Recovery part qualifications (including funding usage, i.e., enrolment and commencement rates).

Requests will then be assessed by Training Services NSW regional offices against the demand for training in a region(s) to determine successful Providers and funding levels. Successful Providers will be contacted by regional offices to negotiate TNIs.

Once agreed by the regional office, TNIs must be submitted under the SfR Redeployment & Youth program and one of the following target groups selected:

- **SfR ACDC Strategy - Aged Care Strategy** or
- **SfR ACDC Strategy - Disability Care**

c. Enrolment and training delivery dates

TNIs submitted under this Strategy will not be accepted without consultation with a Training Services NSW regional office.

Successful Providers can enrol students as of 6 April 2022, after consultation with the regional office, and all enrolments must occur no later than 30 June 2022.

Training commencement periods of up to eight weeks can be negotiated with the relevant regional office.

All training must be completed by 31 October 2022.

d. Key dates

- **31 March 2022** – Closing date for submissions of Intent to Participate form
- **6 April 2022** – Training Services NSW regional offices will start contacting Providers who lodged an Intent to Participate form to discuss TNIs to be lodged.
- **30 June 2022** – Students must be enrolled by this date
- **31 October 2022** – All training must be completed by this date

Note: Where Providers need more time to enrol students and/or complete training because of COVID-19 impacts, extensions can be sought from the relevant Training Services NSW regional office.

e. Further information

If you have any questions regarding the Skilling for Recovery Aged Care and Disability Care Strategy, please contact one of our Skills Brokers in [your local Training Services NSW regional office](#).

5. FINANCIAL CAP REVIEW – VARIATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 ACTIVITY PERIOD

Further to Smart and Skilled Updates No. 156 (20 December 2021) and No. 160 (2 March 2022), the Department has finalised the outcomes of the Financial Cap Review for Skilling for Recovery extension full qualifications (including Aged Care and Digital Skills full qualifications) and general Smart and Skilled activity for the 2021-22 Activity Period.

Contract Variation Offers will be released overnight from 18 March 2022, onwards. Providers whose requests were unsuccessful will be advised by email.

a. Criteria for allocations

i. Skilling for Recovery (including Aged Care and Digital Skills full qualifications) funding requests

The Department considered Providers':

- past Financial Cap utilisation and outcomes and indicators (pre-COVID-19)
- current Financial Cap utilisation, but with lower benchmarks due to COVID-19 disruption
- the additional information and other qualitative responses (including relationships to facilitate Aged Care work placements) submitted with each request.

Please note: Some Providers requested funding for part qualifications through this process. These requests were not considered as this process related to full qualifications only.

The Department intends to monitor take up of funding this financial year (2021-22 Activity Period) and may offer further Skilling for Recovery allocations for next financial year depending on performance against targets.

ii. General Smart and Skilled funding requests

The Department considered Providers':

- past Financial Cap utilisation and outcomes and indicators (pre-COVID-19)
- current Financial Cap utilisation, but with lower benchmarks due to COVID-19 disruption
- the additional information and other qualitative responses (including relationships to facilitate Aged Care work placements) submitted with each request. Funding for thin markets, skills shortages and continuing students were prioritised.

b. Approved qualifications associated with new Financial Caps for Skilling for Recovery

If a Provider receives an allocation for a new Financial Cap for Skilling for Recovery, the Department will offer the qualifications from the Provider's scope of registration that match the relevant list of Skilling for Recovery qualifications:

- Skilling for Recovery Priority Qualifications Program – Aged Care
- Skilling for Recovery Priority Qualifications Program – Digital Skills
- New Financial Caps – for Skilling for Recovery Commencements

c. Approved qualifications associated with new Financial Caps for Smart and Skilled

If a Provider receives an allocation for a new Financial Cap for Smart and Skilled, the Department will offer the qualifications which already appear on the relevant program's Approved Qualification Activity Schedule (AQAS) and/or the Form.

If the Provider is not already approved for the program, the Department will take the qualifications from the Form which align with the Department's priorities.

d. Offers of additional Financial Caps will be made via Contract Variation Offers in STS Online

The Department expects to advise Providers of the outcome of Financial Cap Review from ~~today~~, 18 March 2022, onwards.

Providers receiving additional Financial Caps will receive a Contract Variation Offer via STS Online and **will have seven (7) days to accept or decline the offer**.

In cases where a Provider is receiving Financial Caps for both Skilling for Recovery and general Smart and Skilled activity for the same Smart and Skilled program, the Department will issue the Skilling for Recovery offer first. After the Skilling for Recovery offer is accepted or declined by the Provider, the Department will release the Smart and Skilled Financial Cap offer for these Providers.

e. Providers not receiving a Contract Variation Offer

Providers who were unsuccessful in their request for additional or new Financial Caps will receive an email. This email will be sent to the CEO and Provider Representative.

Providers with an Event(s) of Default or quality assurance matter(s) requiring remediation may not receive an allocation.

Note:

Providers that are currently allocated Financial Caps which are not fully committed to existing students will be able to use these existing allocations to train additional eligible Skilling for Recovery students. Providers will be able to do so by enrolling eligible Skilling for Recovery students under a Skilling for Recovery Fee Waiver in an identified Skilling for Recovery Priority Qualification that is linked to a Financial Cap.

6. TRAINING ACTIVITY DATA REPORTING FOR TRAINING DISRUPTED BY COVID-19 OR FLOODS

As the progress of students in their training has been disrupted by COVID-19 and recent floods, payments expected to be achieved in this Activity Period may now occur in 2022-23.

It is important that Providers' Training Activity Data is updated to accurately reflect the new schedule of training for each student, so that your Financial Cap Usage Estimate more accurately reflects what is now expected to occur.

Updating enrolment and Training Activity Data includes:

- creating Commitment IDs for all Enrolled Students
- submitting all Training Activity Data for Enrolled Students who have commenced training
- updating the planned start and end dates for Units of Competency to reflect expected progress and/or delays
- reporting all Units of Competency outcomes achieved by students
- cancelling any Commitment IDs for Enrolled Students who will not commence
- finalising records for students that have exited training and will not successfully complete training.

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. 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.