

# Smart and Skilled

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**SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 178 - 180**

**September 2022**

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## 1. PROVIDER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS FOR 2022-23

In mid-2021, the Department assessed Smart and Skilled providers on their relative performance on student outcomes and gave them performance classifications for 2021-22. The Department consulted providers in May 2022 on potential changes to the assessment methodology and data sources available. This included a focus on an enhanced peer group methodology developed by Deloitte in late 2021.

The key themes identified in provider feedback from the consultations include:

- How the current peer group methodology reflects differences in provider characteristics and training delivery;
- Support for the enhanced peer group methodology proposed by Deloitte, particularly elements that characterise student disadvantage such as SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas);
- Some elements of disadvantage are overlooked by a model that may favour larger providers.

### a. Methodology

For 2022-23, the Department will use the peer group methodology employed in the first round of provider performance assessments for 2021-22 with two key changes. The changes are informed by provider feedback:

- Removal of Employment Benefit and Training Relevance response data for Entitlement Foundation Skills students, and
- Inclusion of five additional student characteristics identified by Deloitte.

The factors used to determine providers' peer groups are included in the table below.

Original methodology characteristics	Additional student-based characteristics for inclusion in 2022-23
Number of students	Age group
Program	Gender
Field of Education	Country of birth
Geographical mix of training delivery	LOTE (Language Other Than English)
Proportion of disadvantaged students	SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas)

The 2022-23 provider performance assessment will use data from the 2021 Student Outcomes Survey. The Department has used reported data and student responses to COVID-19 specific questions from the 2021 SOS to inform its decision-making process in relation to identifying providers most affected by COVID-19 to ensure fairness in determining provider performance classifications.

**b. Notification**

Smart and Skilled providers will receive a performance classification letter in the coming weeks notifying them of their score range and classification for 2022-23.

The following providers will not receive a performance classification for 2022-23:

- High Performing Providers for 2021-22
- Providers that currently have their Smart and Skilled contracts suspended
- Providers that are only approved to deliver under the Skilling for Recovery Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ) and Security Operations initiatives.

**c. Classifications**

For providers with sufficient data to be scored, the possible classifications are Low Performing, Satisfactory and High Scoring. Providers that are High Scoring will be invited to apply for a High Performing Provider contract. Providers with insufficient data to be scored will be classified as Deemed Satisfactory.

Providers are encouraged to discuss their classifications with their Strategic Relationship Manager as part of their ongoing quality journey under Smart and Skilled.

**2. NSW SKILLS LIST UPDATED – VERSION 13.2**

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

- updates to Training Packages
- updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs)
- additions to the Skills List.

Version 13.2 of the NSW Skills List is now available at:

[https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw\\_skills\\_list.html](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw_skills_list.html)

Version 13.2 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:

[https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/prices\\_fees.html](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/prices_fees.html)

Version 13.2 of the NSW Skills List and *Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule* is effective as of 2 August 2022.

**a. Updates to the NSW Skills List – incorporating Training Package revisions**

The NSW Skills List has been updated as a result of revisions to the following 10 Training Packages:

- Agricultural, Horticultural and Conservation and Land Management
- Property Services
- Public Sector
- Transport and Logistics
- Electricity Supply
- Furnishing
- Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- Financial Services
- Sport, Fitness and Recreation
- Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical.

**i. New qualifications added to the Skills List**

**Table 1** lists the qualifications that were approved for addition to the Skills List following the recent additions process.

**Table 1**

New qualifications added to the Skills List		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
MEM20413	Certificate II in Engineering Pathways	Entitlement Full Qualification
RII40320	Certificate IV in Underground Metalliferous Mining Operations	Targeted Priorities Full Qualification + Traineeship
10945NAT	Certificate IV in Concrete Structures Quality Construction Management	Targeted Priorities Full Qualification
LGA40120	Certificate IV in Local Government	Targeted Priorities Full Qualification + Traineeship
NWP50118	Diploma of Water Industry Operations	Targeted Priorities Full Qualification
AUR32721	Certificate III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology	Entitlement Full Qualification
TLI31421	Certificate III in Light Rail Driving	Entitlement Full Qualification + Traineeship

**ii. Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List**

**Table 2** shows the superseding qualifications that are equivalent to their superseded version.

**Table 2**

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
FBP30417	Certificate III in Bread Baking	FBP30421	Certificate III in Bread Baking
FBP30517	Certificate III in Baking	FBP30521	Certificate III in Baking
FBP30317	Certificate III in Cake and Pastry	FBP30321	Certificate III in Cake and Pastry
MSF30418	Certificate III in Glass and Glazing	MSF30422	Certificate III in Glass and Glazing

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
MSF40213	Certificate IV in Furniture Design and Technology	MSF40222	Certificate IV in Furniture Design and Manufacturing
SIT20316	Certificate II in Hospitality	SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality
SIT20416	Certificate II in Kitchen Operations	SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery
SIT30316	Certificate III in Guiding	SIT30322	Certificate III in Guiding
SIT30816	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery	SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
SIT30916	Certificate III in Catering Operations	SIT30921	Certificate III in Catering
SIT31016	Certificate III in Patisserie	SIT31021	Certificate III in Patisserie
SIT31116	Certificate III in Asian Cookery	SIT31121	Certificate III in Asian Cookery
SIT40216	Certificate IV in Guiding	SIT40222	Certificate IV in Guiding
SIT40516	Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery	SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management
SIT40716	Certificate IV in Patisserie	SIT40721	Certificate IV in Patisserie
SIT60116	Advanced Diploma of Travel and Tourism Management	SIT60122	Advanced Diploma of Travel and Tourism Management
FNS30317	Certificate III in Accounts Administration	FNS30322	Certificate III in Accounts Administration
FNS40217	Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	FNS40222	Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping
FNS41420	Certificate IV in General Insurance	FNS41422	Certificate IV in General Insurance
FNS42020	Certificate IV in Banking Services	FNS42022	Certificate IV in Banking Services
ACM30121	Certificate III in Animal Care Services	ACM30122	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
ACM40221	Certificate IV in Animal Facility Management	ACM40222	Certificate IV in Animal Facility Management

### iii. Non-equivalent superseding qualification on the NSW Skills List

**Table 3** shows the superseding qualifications that are non-equivalent to their superseded version.

Please note that non-equivalent qualifications are not automatically updated on your Approved Qualifications Activity Schedule (AQAS) when the Training Package is updated, and there may be some time lag before non-equivalent qualifications are updated in your AQAS.

**Table 3**

<b>Non-equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List</b>			
<b>Previous code</b>	<b>Previous title</b>	<b>Current code</b>	<b>Replacement title</b>
AHC30216	Certificate III in Agriculture (Dairy Production)	AHC30221	Certificate III in Dairy Production
AHC30916	Certificate III in Landscape Construction	AHC30921	Certificate III in Landscape Construction
AHC21616	Certificate II in Landscaping	AHC21621	Certificate II in Landscaping
PSP30116	Certificate III in Government	PSP30122	Certificate III in Government
PSP40116	Certificate IV in Government	PSP40122	Certificate IV in Government
PSP50116	Diploma of Government	PSP50122	Diploma of Government
TLI33118	Certificate III in Rail Customer Service	TLI33121	Certificate III in Rail Customer Service
FBP30821	Certificate III in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	FBP30822	Certificate III in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
FBP40518	Certificate IV in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	FBP40522	Certificate IV in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
UEP30218	Certificate III in ESI Generation - Operations	UEP30122	Certificate III in ESI Generation
UEP40218	Certificate IV in ESI Generation - Operations	UEP40122	Certificate IV in ESI Generation
UEP40618	Certificate IV in Large Scale Wind Generation - Electrical	UEP40622	Certificate IV in Wind Power Generation
MSF50313	Diploma of Furniture Design and Technology	MSF50322	Diploma of Furniture Design and Manufacturing
SIT20116	Certificate II in Tourism	SIT20122	Certificate II in Tourism
SIT30116	Certificate III in Tourism	SIT30122	Certificate III in Tourism
SIT30216	Certificate III in Travel	SIT30222	Certificate III in Travel

Non-equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
SIT30516	Certificate III in Events	SIT30522	Certificate III in Events
SIT30616	Certificate III in Hospitality	SIT30622	Certificate III in Hospitality
SIT30716	Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)	SIT30722	Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)
SIT40116	Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism	SIT40122	Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism
SIT40416	Certificate IV in Hospitality	SIT40422	Certificate IV in Hospitality
SIT50116	Diploma of Travel and Tourism Management	SIT50122	Diploma of Travel and Tourism Management
SIT50316	Diploma of Event Management	SIT50322	Diploma of Event Management
SIT50416	Diploma of Hospitality Management	SIT50422	Diploma of Hospitality Management
SIT60216	Advanced Diploma of Event Management	SIT60222	Advanced Diploma of Event Management
SIT60316	Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management	SIT60322	Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management
FNS30120	Certificate III in Financial Services	FNS30122	Certificate III in Financial Services
FNS40120	Certificate IV in Credit Management	FNS40122	Certificate IV in Credit Management
FNS50217	Diploma of Accounting	FNS50222	Diploma of Accounting
FNS50920	Diploma of Banking Services Management	FNS50922	Diploma of Banking Services Management
FNS60217	Advanced Diploma of Accounting	FNS60222	Advanced Diploma of Diploma of Accounting
ACM40321	Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training	ACM40322	Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training
MAR30120	Certificate III in Marina Operations	MAR30122	Certificate III in Marina Operations

#### iv. Accredited courses on the Skills List

**Table 4** lists the accredited courses that replaces an expired accredited course on the Skills List.

**Table 4**

Replacement accredited courses on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
10583NAT	Certificate I in Access to Work and Training	11009NAT	Certificate I in Access to Work and Training
10584NAT	Certificate II in Career Preparation	11039NAT	Certificate II in Career Preparation
10585NAT	Certificate III in Career Advancement	11040NAT	Certificate III in Career Advancement
10591NAT	Certificate II in Further Study Skills	11041NAT	Certificate II in Further Study Skills
10593NAT	Certificate III in Advanced English for Further Study	11042NAT	Certificate III in Advanced English for Further Study
10628NAT	Certificate IV in Dance Practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	11051NAT	Certificate IV in Dance Practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

**v. Deleted qualifications on the Skills List**

**Table 5** lists those qualifications which have been deleted from their respective Training Package and removed from the Skills List as a result.

**Table 5**

Qualifications removed from the NSW Skills List	
Qualification code	Qualification title
CPP20617	Certificate II in Cleaning
SIT30416	Certificate III in Holiday Parks and Resorts
SIT40316	Certificate IV in Holiday Parks and Resorts

**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 6 below**.



Table 6

VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
FNS40821	Certificate IV in Finance and Mortgage Broking	Traineeship
CPP30321	Certificate III in Cleaning Operations	Traineeship
MSF30919	Certificate III in Blinds, Awnings, Security Screens and Grilles	Traineeship
FBP31121	Certificate III in High Volume Baking	Apprenticeship + School Based Apprenticeship
FBP20121	Certificate II in Food Processing	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
FBP30121	Certificate III in Food Processing	Traineeship
FBP40321	Certificate IV in Food Processing	Traineeship
FBP30822	Certificate III in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Traineeship
FBP40522	Certificate IV in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Traineeship
FBP20221	Certificate II in Baking	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
FBP30921	Certificate III in Wine Industry Operations	Traineeship
SIS30321	Certificate III in Fitness	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIS30421	Certificate III in Sport - Athlete	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIS30521	Certificate III in Sport Coaching	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIS40221	Certificate IV in Fitness	Traineeship
SIS40621	Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership	Traineeship
FNS30122	Certificate III in Financial Services	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
FNS30322	Certificate III in Accounts Administration	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
FNS40222	Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Traineeship
FNS42022	Certificate IV in Banking Services	Traineeship
FNS40122	Certificate IV in Credit Management	Traineeship

### c. New Skilling for Recovery qualifications

Table 7 lists those qualifications that can now be delivered under Skilling for Recovery.

Qualifications that can be delivered under Skilling for Recovery	
Qualification code	Qualification title
SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality
SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery
SIT30622	Certificate III in Hospitality
SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
SIT40422	Certificate IV in Hospitality
SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management
SIT50422	Diploma of Hospitality Management

### 3. COMMISSIONER'S INFORMATION BULLETINS (CIBS)

Information for the administration of apprenticeships and traineeships in New South Wales: the CIB specifies the training framework, industrial arrangements, job descriptions, licensing and regulatory requirements to support the delivery of training.

#### Latest CIBs

No.	CIB	Date
<a href="#">706</a>	Financial Services - traineeships	22 July 2022
<a href="#">730</a>	Food Processing - Apprenticeships and Traineeships and Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Traineeships	15 July 2022
<a href="#">683</a>	Furnishing - apprenticeships and traineeships	1 July 2022

### 4. SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER WEBINAR HELD FRIDAY, 15 JULY 2022

#### a. Q&A responses

The Department is sharing the responses to questions that were not addressed during the webinar, as below:

1. **The Diploma of Beauty Therapy was superseded in December 2021 and the new qualification is superseded not equivalent. We have had a number of students who hold the old qualification and want to do RPL. The system has not been updated with the new unit prices so we are unable to provide the student with a quote prior**

to enrolment that is not the full student fee and which reflects their likely RPL application. Most students who hold the old qualification will be asking for between 22 and 27 units as RPL.

RTOs will be able to determine the student fees for the qualification through STS Online.

2. **We have Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management students who want to sign up as a trainee but it has not been included in the NSW Skills List as this program stream. It makes it very difficult for students who started employment with the intention of signing up and they are nearing the three month mark.**

AHC31420 is currently on the NSW Skills List for delivery as a traineeship. The current qualification has a teach out period until February 2023 and the new Vocational Training Order (VTO) is currently being updated and should be released shortly.

3. **There have been updates on the non-apprenticeship pathways for trade related qualifications. The way they are displaying on the NSW Skills List has changed and courses added. Specifically looking at details regarding Certificate III in Patisserie and Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery that was just added.**

Please refer to Smart and Skilled Update No. 172 (7 June 2022) for an explanation of the changes to the *Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications* (Trade Related Policy) and NSW Skills List. **We have a qualification on scope that has been superseded for about seven months (CPP30316) and the updated qualification (CPP30321) is still not appearing on the traineeship list. Just wondering when the traineeship list will next be updated.**

This VTO has been updated and the traineeship for CPP30321 Certificate III in Cleaning Operations is included in the latest version of the NSW Skills List (Version 13.2).

4. **What do we do for a traineeship in Certificate III in Cleaning Operations when there is only the 2016 qualification which is about to expire, and therefore, can we really commence students now?**

Certificate III in Cleaning Operations (CPP30316) has been updated by CPP30321. This VTO has been updated and the traineeship for CPP30321 Certificate III in Cleaning Operations is included in the latest version of the NSW Skills List (Version 13.2).

5. **There are changes in the SHB30416 Certificate III in Hairdressing and SHB30516 Certificate III in Barbering for the full qualification - non apprenticeship. The "T" is removed on the Skills List however previously was there** These two qualifications are covered by the *Smart and Skilled Policy on Non-Apprenticeship Pathways for Trade-Related Qualifications* (Trade Related Policy) and are flagged with a "T" on Version 13.2 of the NSW Skills List.

Where a qualification is covered by Version 4.0 of the Trade Related Policy – including qualifications that are also available under the JobTrainer Initiative – students and providers must adhere to the rules and requirements in the Trade Related Policy. TSNSW is continuing to liaise with the relevant ITABs regarding the non-equivalence of this training package and the implications for the new Vocational Training Order.

6. **We currently deliver Certificate III in Meat Processing General, which is currently undergoing major changes which will make the new Certificate III in Meat**

### **Processing not equivalent. Will Training Services NSW assist with having the new qualification approved by ASQA for RTOs who deliver the current one?**

Qualifications superseding existing qualifications on the NSW Skills List will be added to the NSW Skills List. RTOs would need to approach ASQA directly to apply and get approval to add the new qualification to their scope of registration.

## **5. SKILLS COMPARE DATA REFRESH**

The Skills Compare website currently reflects data from the 2019 VET Student Data Outcomes Snapshots and this is due to be updated to reflect the Student Outcome Survey (SOS) 2020 data.

Consultation sessions were held recently in May 2022 which provided the opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns.

Three (3) of the seven (7) indicators (employee benefit, satisfaction and non-drop-out rate) from the 2020 Snapshots will appear publicly in the Skills Compare tool on the Skills NSW website at [education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw](https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw).

This update is due to occur on 30 August 2022. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [MarketDesign.Implementation@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:MarketDesign.Implementation@det.nsw.edu.au).

## **6. SMART AND SKILLED APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2023-24**

The Department will run an open application process for Smart and Skilled contracts for the 2023-24 Activity Period from 1 November 2022.

The application process intends to align Smart and Skilled funding and awarding of contracts to quality and labour market needs and improve the diversity of training that is available through the program.

All current Smart and Skilled providers that are **not** High Performing Providers will need to be successful in the application process in order to be issued a Smart and Skilled contract for 2023-24 onwards. Registered training organisations (RTOs) seeking to enter the government-subsidised vocational education and training market in NSW will also be invited to apply.

As part of the process, applicants will be required to supply the programs, regions and qualifications they wish to deliver and the number of students they expect to commence in 2023-24 to determine future funding allocations.

High Performing Providers will be included in the assessment of future funding allocations, however their status and contract will remain unchanged.

More information will be provided progressively on the application approach and how to apply in the coming months. Training Services NSW aims for the outcome and awarding of contracts to be advised by April 2023.

## **7. FINANCIAL CAP REVIEW – VARIATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 ACTIVITY PERIOD**

Further to Smart and Skilled Update No. 172 (7 June 2022), the Department has finalised the outcomes of the Financial Cap Review for the 2022-23 Activity Period.

The Review covers:

- Additional Financial Caps for New Commencements in Skilling for Recovery full qualifications (including Aged Care and Digital Skills full qualifications)
- Adjustments to Financial Caps for Continuing Students enrolled as Skilling for Recovery or under general Smart and Skilled activity.

Contract Variation Offers will be released in stages from Thursday, 25 August 2022, onwards. Providers whose requests were unsuccessful will be advised by email.

**a. Skilling for Recovery (including Aged Care and Digital Skills) full qualifications – new commencements funding requests**

When assessing these requests from Providers, the factors the Department considered included:

- Financial Cap utilisation and SFR performance
- Student outcomes and indicators
- The additional information and qualitative responses (including relationships to facilitate Aged Care work placements) submitted with each request.

**Please note:** Some Providers requested funding for part qualifications or general Smart and Skilled training through this process. These requests were not considered as this process related to Skilling for Recovery full qualifications only.

**i. Approved qualifications associated with new Financial Caps for Skilling for Recovery**

If a Provider receives an allocation for a new Financial Cap, 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

**b. Adjustments to Continuing Student Financial Caps for 2022-23 general Smart and Skilled activity and Skilling for Recovery**

The Department has determined the Financial Cap(s) that are to be increased for 2022-23 Continuing Students based on an analysis of Financial Cap commitments related to Continuing Students relative to the Financial Cap amount allocated.

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 the Financial Cap Review from Thursday, 25 August 2022, onwards.

**c. Providers not receiving a Contract Variation Offer**

Providers who were unsuccessful in their request for additional or new Financial Caps will receive an email notifying them of this outcome. 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.

**d. Enrolment period associated with Skilling for Recovery Financial Cap allocations for New Commencements**

The Skilling for Recovery enrolment period ends on 31 December 2022. However, with the extension of fee free training (see below), Providers will be able to use Skilling for Recovery caps under Smart and Skilled until 30 June 2023. Caps will need to be used to support students eligible under the Skilling for Recovery requirements.

(Please note information below regarding the extension of fee free arrangements beyond 31 December 2022.)

**e. Further information**

RTOs should contact their organisation's Strategic Relationship Manager for more information.

**Note:**

Providers delivering qualifications which are listed for Skilling for Recovery and who enrol students who are eligible for Skilling for Recovery **must** apply the relevant Skilling for Recovery fee waiver during the Notification of Enrolment process, **regardless** of whether the Provider received a specific Financial Cap allocation for Skilling for Recovery or not.

This ensures that all students who are eligible for Skilling for Recovery receive fee free training.

To be clear, Providers can use general Smart and Skilled Financial Caps to enrol Skilling for Recovery students in Skilling for Recovery qualifications and apply a Skilling for Recovery Fee Waiver.

A valid Commitment ID is needed to report training activity data.

**8. EXTENSION OF FEE FREE TRAINING UNDER SMART AND SKILLED BEYOND JOBTRAINER/SKILLING FOR RECOVERY**

A number of announcements have been made recently about additional investment by the NSW Government in fee free full qualifications training. These latest investments will see Smart and Skilled offer fee free full qualifications beyond the end of JobTrainer/Skilling for Recovery (SfR).

Further information on how the initiatives will be implemented will be provided in the coming updates. ***Fee free full qualifications from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 for JobTrainer eligibility groups and qualifications previously funded under Skilling for Recovery (SfR)***

[\(Media release - More opportunities to get skilled for free, released 22 August 2022\)](#)

Minister for Skills and Training, Alister Henskens, this week announced an extension of fee free training funding beyond JobTrainer/SfR to support people looking for work in high demand or skill shortage occupations.

This means that under Smart and Skilled, all existing cohorts who are eligible for JobTrainer/SfR will continue to be eligible to access the full qualifications on the current SfR approved list fee free for a further six months, i.e. for enrolments between 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

Eligible students, regardless of their employment status, will continue to access fee free training in care sector, digital skills and TAE full qualifications as well.

**Please note: The Department will extend the enrolment period for Financial Cap allocations specific to Skilling for Recovery until 30 June 2023.**

This initiative also includes fee free training for young people announced in the 2022-23 Budget for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. Under the Budget initiative, young people will continue to have access to fee free training for a further year, beyond this six-month extension, until 30 June 2024. The qualifications they can access fee free in 2023-24 will be assessed and announced in the first quarter of next year.

**1. Fee free full qualifications for people seeking a job in the early childhood education and care sector**

[\(Media release - Fee-free training to supercharge NSW's early learning workforce, released 16 August 2022\)](#)

Ongoing demand for workers in the early childhood education and care sector is predicted in the coming years. To support a pipeline of job ready workers, Smart and Skilled will continue to provide fee free training to support this sector beyond the end of JobTrainer /SfR.

Eligible Smart and Skilled students who are seeking employment in this sector will continue to be eligible for fee free early childhood education and care sector full qualifications regardless of their employment status for enrolments from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024.

**2. Fee Free Apprenticeship and Fee Free Traineeship extension to 30 June 2024**

In Smart and Skilled Update No. 167 (10 May 2022), Providers were advised that the Fee Free Apprenticeship (FFA) Initiative had been extended for an additional year for all eligible enrolments until 30 June 2023. FFAs have been extended again and will now be available until 30 June 2024.

Fee Free Traineeships were due to end on 31 December 2023 but will now be available for a further six months until 30 June 2024.

As there is overlap of eligibility groups between the initiatives, please see the summary matrix for these initiatives at **Table 1** below.

**Table 1**

<b>Fee Free Full Qualifications Categories- Overview</b>			
	<b>Fee free full qualifications for JobTrainer eligibility groups and SfR approved full qualifications</b>	<b>Fee free full qualifications for people seeking a job in the early childhood education and care sector</b>	<b>Fee free apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications</b>
Extended Commencement period	1/1/2023 to 30/6/2023 Note: 16 to 24 year old's until 30/6/2024	1/1/2023 to 30/6/2024	to 30/6/2024

Eligible Smart and Skilled Student Cohorts				
	JobTrainer – care sectors, digital skills and TAE qualifications	JobTrainer – All other sectors	Early Childhood Education and Care	Apprenticeships and Traineeships
16 to 24 year olds (regardless of employment status)		✓		
Job Seekers (Centrelink recipients and their dependents and other unemployed people)		✓		
All Smart and Skilled eligible students	✓ Including 16 to 24 year olds, job seekers, existing workers in these sectors and people currently employed seeking to reskill into these sectors, veterans		✓ Including 16 to 24 year olds, job seekers, existing workers in ECE and people currently employed seeking to reskill into ECE sector, veterans	
NSW Apprentices and New Entrant Trainees in traineeship qualifications on the NSW Skills List				✓

**Note: Training Services NSW is currently working on how to streamline these initiatives to make the Notification of Enrolment process as easy as possible. Further details on how these initiatives will be rolled out within the Smart and Skilled fee free framework will be available in the next month.**

*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.*