

# Smart and Skilled

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SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 185- 187

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## Contents

1. New Skills List Review methodology: Discussion paper released for stakeholder feedback .....	1
a. Webinar recording of the new Skills List Review methodology is now available.....	2
2. New Resources Library on nsw.gov.au .....	2
3. Update on Jobtrainer/Skilling for Recovery (SfR) .....	2
4. SfR Redeployment and Youth (SfR R&Y) and SfR Construction (and related industries) (SfR-C) Programs: timeframes and priorities .....	3
a. Timeframe for TNI applications .....	3
b. Funding Priorities for the remainder of the SfR part qualifications programs .....	3
c. SfR approved part qualifications lists .....	4
d. General reminders for Skilling for Recovery as well as Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ) part qualifications .....	4
5. Care Sector Existing Worker Traineeship Pilot: Expression of Interest (EOI) – Smart and Skilled funding for the delivery of traineeship qualifications to NSW Existing Worker Trainees (EWTs) in the Care sectors .....	5
a. Eligibility to express interest.....	6
6. NSW Skills List: Low performing qualifications .....	6
a. Background .....	6
b. Implementation .....	7
c. Conditions .....	7
d. Monitoring and Compliance .....	7
7. Smart and Skilled Provider Webinar held Friday, 7 October 2022 – Recording available .....	8
8. The Smart and Skilled application portal is now open for registration .....	8
9. Update to Skilling for Recovery qualifications on the NSW Skills List: Aged Care Sector – Additional qualification.....	9

## 1. NEW SKILLS LIST REVIEW METHODOLOGY: DISCUSSION PAPER RELEASED FOR STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The Department is updating the way it adds and removes qualifications from the NSW Skills List. The new process will be more data driven to select qualifications for government subsidy that will meet the skills needs of the economy.

A discussion paper has been released for stakeholder feedback and provides further details about the new approach and how stakeholders can provide feedback. It can be accessed [here](#).

We are interested in hearing from a wide range of stakeholders, including Smart and Skilled training providers, industry peak bodies and other government agencies on how we can improve our approach and ensure the Skills List is responsive to industry and stakeholder needs.

The Department was collecting stakeholder feedback **until COB Friday, 21 October**.

**a. Webinar recording of the new Skills List Review methodology is now available**

The Department presented the new Skills List Review methodology to Smart and Skilled providers in webinars held Monday 5 September and Wednesday 7 September 2022. Participants were given an overview of the new methodology and an opportunity to ask questions.

A recording of one of the webinars is now available [here](#).

## **2. NEW RESOURCES LIBRARY ON NSW.GOV.AU**

Further to feedback we have received since we transitioned our website to nsw.gov.au, we have introduced a [Resources library](#) on the site to make it easier for providers to find the forms, documents, training guides and other resources they need quickly and efficiently.

The resource library will help you locate a resource simply by entering a few keywords or a qualification code into the search field.

You can further refine your search if you wish by using one or all four of the below search filters:

- Audience (e.g. Training providers)
- Topic (e.g. Smart and Skilled, JobTrainer)
- Publication type (e.g. Guide)
- Date range

You may wish to save the [Resources library](#) to your bookmarks so it's readily available when you need it.

Thank you for providing your feedback. We are committed to providing you with easy access to information and resources.

## **3. UPDATE ON JOBTRAINER/SKILLING FOR RECOVERY (SFR)**

Smart and Skilled Update No:180 announced further investment in fee free full qualifications beyond the end of JobTrainer/Skilling for Recovery (SfR), which finishes on 31 December 2022. Further information on the implementation of these fee free initiatives and the wind down of JobTrainer/SfR for full qualifications will be released soon.

With regards to SfR part qualifications programs – SfR Redeployment and Youth (SfR R&Y) and SfR Construction (and related industries) (SfR-C) – these programs will also end on 31 December 2022.

#### 4. SFR REDEPLOYMENT AND YOUTH (SfR R&Y) AND SFR CONSTRUCTION (AND RELATED INDUSTRIES) (SfR-C) PROGRAMS: TIMEFRAMES AND PRIORITIES

##### a. Timeframe for TNI applications

Any enrolments and commencements under the SfR R&Y and SfR -C Programs must occur by the end of December 2022. To achieve this, TNIs for these programs must be submitted by 30 November 2022.

Normally the training enrolment period (i.e. the period in which students can enrol and commence training) can be up to six weeks. However, for TNIs submitted on or within six weeks of 30 November 2022, which go on to be approved, the training enrolment period may be less than six weeks: the end date will always be 31 December 2022.

No extensions will be given on PASs for training enrolment periods beyond 31 December 2022.

No extensions will be given for training enrolment periods for PASs with no enrolments.

##### b. Funding Priorities for the remainder of the SfR part qualifications programs

As we move towards the end of the SfR R&Y and SfR-C Programs, the Department will be targeting funding to training that is most needed for high priority student cohorts and industries.

The priorities for the remaining period of these programs are below:

##### i. SfR Redeployment and Youth:

1. Funding for part qualifications on the SfR R&Y approved part qualifications list that *support jobseekers in high priority industries. Each region will focus jobseeker part qualification funding to the highest priority industries for its region.*
2. Funding for part qualifications that support the care sector for all JobTrainer eligible groups will continue to be a priority across NSW.

##### Please note that:

- TNI applications that provide evidence of strong links with employers and real employment opportunities for students will receive highest priority.
- Mandatory units will **not** be funded unless the following circumstance applies:
  - Where the mandatory unit is included in a part qualification that includes three (3) or more units which lead to a real job outcome for jobseekers. Such TNI applications will be considered under exceptional circumstances and on a case by case basis. Evidence of identified job outcomes for students is required to accompany the TNI. Applications without this evidence will be rejected.
- RSA and RCG units as single unit part qualifications or together will not be funded.

## ii. SfR Construction (and related industries)

1. Jobseekers (including other workers reskilling into construction) and pre-employment programs remain a priority for SfR-C part qualifications.
  - a. Where relevant, providers are reminded of the Department's Step Safely into Construction program. We encourage providers to advise eligible jobseeker students (undertaking construction training) of this program, which provides PPE at no cost to assist students with onsite training and assessment.
2. Existing workers in construction (part qualifications from the current SfR-C approved lists) must now align with the following priority areas:
  - NSW Government and Infrastructure Skills Legacy projects
  - Commonwealth Government projects
  - Flood recovery - Rebuilding Skills North Coast.
3. Built for Women will remain a priority. SfR Construction part qualifications for both jobseekers and existing workers in construction (depending on employment status of student) will continue to support women in construction (Built for Women).

### Please note that:

- TNIs for priority areas must be supported by evidence of employer need for this training. Validation of contractor engagement with various project leads may be undertaken by the Department.
- Current arrangements for the funding of high-risk work licence units will continue to be supported for priority areas.
- TNIs seeking funding for part qualifications on the jobseeker approved list flagged by exception will continue to be approved with supporting evidence.
- First aid and CPR mandatory units will **not** be funded for the remainder of the program in line with SfR R&Y direction above.
- TNI applications seeking funding for part qualifications that are not already on the SfR-C approved part qualifications lists will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. Applications must include a strong explanation as to why there is not already an approved part qualification that meets the industry need and must also include evidence of industry need for the part qualification and employment outcome.

## c. SfR approved part qualifications lists

The approved part qualifications lists will be updated to reflect these changes.

## d. General reminders for Skilling for Recovery as well as Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ) part qualifications

Please also note the following reminders regarding funding and the TNI application process for both Skilling for Recovery and TPPPQ:

- Funding priorities can change, so previous funding of a part qualification does not guarantee further funding. Funding is at the sole discretion of the Department; the Department is under no obligation to provide further/ongoing funding.
- Funding priorities are likely to differ between regions so providers should not expect funding for a particular part qualification in other regions.
- It may take up to 21 days to consider a TNI, so providers should submit TNIs within reasonable timeframes ahead of the proposed training enrolment/commencement start dates:
  - TNIs submitted within the 21 days may not be considered.
  - TNIs that are incomplete or inaccurate may be automatically rejected.
- Training enrolments as well as training delivery cannot commence before funding has been secured. This means that these activities cannot commence until at least one day after the PAS has been accepted. The dates should line up with the start date on the PAS (which may differ from the dates on the TNI).
- It is essential that commencement data is reported within 28 days of the student commencing.

## 5. CARE SECTOR EXISTING WORKER TRAINEESHIP PILOT: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SMART AND SKILLED FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF TRAINEESHIP QUALIFICATIONS TO NSW EXISTING WORKER TRAINEES (EWTs) IN THE CARE SECTORS

Smart and Skilled providers are invited to express their interest to participate in a pilot that funds the delivery of care sector (early childhood, disability care and aged care) traineeship qualifications for NSW Existing Worker Trainees (EWTs).

A total of 5,000 fee-free places will be funded under the Pilot across the three sectors.

Enrolments under the pilot are expected to occur from late November 2022 to June 2023. These dates will be confirmed after the EOI process has been completed.

The traineeship qualifications that will be funded under the Pilot are listed below. Their qualification prices are published on the [Smart and Skilled Prices, fees and subsidies list](#).

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
CHC30121	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
CHC33015	Certificate III in Individual Support
HLT33015	Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
CHC43015	Certificate IV in Ageing Support
HLT43015	Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance
CHC43115	Certificate IV in Disability
CHC43315	Certificate IV in Mental Health

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
CHC50121	Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care
CHC53315	Diploma of Mental Health
HLT30113	Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

Under this pilot, only traineeship qualifications for EWTs working in care institutions will be funded. EWTs working in a home care environment are excluded and providers must declare in the application that they will not train homecare EWTs under this pilot. By accepting the funding offer (Provider Activity Schedule), successful providers will also be accepting this condition.

**Note:**

- When delivering any of the above qualifications to EWTs, providers are reminded that they must meet training package requirements, including but not limited to pre-requisites.
- Please remind employers of EWTs under this pilot that:
  - under the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001*, the employment conditions of the individual remain the same;
  - ALL obligations for a trainee still need to be met, in particular that learners are employed full time or part time, are working minimum hours, and the learner is released for a minimum of 3 hours per week (with pay) to undertake formal training.

**a. Eligibility to express interest**

To be eligible to express interest, an organisation must be a current Smart and Skilled provider and have the qualification(s) they are applying for on their ASQA scope of registration for delivery in NSW.

**6. NSW SKILLS LIST: LOW PERFORMING QUALIFICATIONS**

The Department is updating the NSW Skills List following consultation on 16 low performing qualifications.

Updates include adding targeted conditions to eight qualifications to improve their outcomes, removing one qualification and keeping the remaining seven with no conditions.

**Table 1** details all updates which come into effect on **1 July 2023**.

**a. Background**

The Department regularly reviews qualifications on the NSW Skills List to ensure that it is targeted towards the needs of the economy and good student outcomes.

In 2021, the Department identified 16 qualifications that were underperforming across three key areas: employment outcomes; further study; and social inclusion. Stakeholder feedback was collected across two rounds of consultation to understand the reasons why certain qualifications were not performing as well as others and to inform our final recommendations.

The Department received a lot of great feedback which improved our understanding of why these qualifications appeared to be underperforming. Stakeholders' feedback was combined with training activity data, industry and occupation projections and students' outcomes data to develop final recommendations.

## b. Implementation

Implementation of all recommendations will take effect from 1 July 2023 to give training providers time to adjust to the conditions and will be reflected on all relevant training providers' activity schedules.

## c. Conditions

### Improve connection to industry

The NSW Quality Framework describes best practice for training providers to improve their connection to industry. The Department expects that providers adhere to this best practice, particularly for the specific qualifications below to improve outcomes for students.

### Limit number of Smart and Skilled commencements

Smart and Skilled training activity is being limited in selected qualifications to align with occupational projections to improve employment outcomes for Smart and Skilled students. The Department will manage activity levels through the market assessment process. Details on delivery expectations will be described in activity schedules.

### Restrict Smart and Skilled eligibility to those with work experience

Eligibility is being restricted for some qualifications to ensure they are being targeted towards cohorts best suited to undertaking the qualification. Restricted eligibility will be detailed in activity schedules.

## d. Monitoring and Compliance

The Department expects training providers will take steps to comply as fully as possible with each condition. The Department will monitor these qualifications and may contact providers where there is evidence of non-compliance or where outcomes for students are not improving.

**Table 1 Final recommendations**

ID	Title	Recommendations/Conditions
ICT60120	Advanced Diploma of Information Technology	Keep
CPP30316	Certificate III in Cleaning Operations	Keep
HLT37215	Certificate III in Pathology Collection	Keep
HLT37315	Certificate III in Health Administration	Keep
MSL50118	Diploma of Laboratory Technology	Keep
SIT40116	Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism	Keep
PSP50916	Diploma of Interpreting (LOTE-English)	Keep



ID	Title	Recommendations/Conditions
<b>SFL30115</b>	Certificate III in Floristry	Keep – training providers to improve connection to industry
<b>SHB50115</b>	Diploma of Beauty Therapy	Keep – training providers to improve connection to industry
<b>CPP41419</b>	Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice	Keep – training providers to improve connection to industry
<b>CUA60515</b>	Advanced Diploma of Music Industry	Keep – training providers to improve connection to industry
<b>SIR40316</b>	Certificate IV in Retail Management	Keep - restrict Smart and Skilled eligibility to people with work experience
<b>FNS42020</b>	Certificate IV in Banking Services	Keep - restrict Smart and Skilled eligibility to people with work experience
<b>TLI40619</b>	Certificate IV in Warehousing Operations	Keep - limit number of Smart and Skilled commencements for the full qualification, while leaving traineeships uncapped.
<b>TLI30319</b>	Certificate III in Supply Chain Operations	Keep - limit number of Smart and Skilled commencements for the full qualification while leaving traineeships uncapped.
<b>CUA50915</b>	Diploma of Photography and Photo Imaging	Remove

## 7. SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER WEBINAR HELD FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022 – RECORDING AVAILABLE

Thank you to everyone who attended our most recent Smart and Skilled Provider webinar on Friday, 7 October 2022. The recording is available for viewing [here](#).

## 8. THE SMART AND SKILLED APPLICATION PORTAL IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Training Services NSW is pleased to advise that registered training organisations (RTOs) are now able to register in the Smart and Skilled application portal.

RTOs will need to register in order to complete an application for the Smart and Skilled 2023-24 program when the portal opens for applications on 1 November 2022.

A myGovID with at least a Standard identity strength will be required to register.

To support RTOs in preparing their Smart and Skilled application, Training Services NSW has made available the application terms and conditions, contract operating guidelines and user guides as well as the NSW Market Assessment and classification of RTOs as NSW-based or interstate on the [Smart and Skilled webpage](#).

More details about the Smart and Skilled application process can be found on the [Smart and Skilled webpage](#).



## 9. UPDATE TO SKILLING FOR RECOVERY QUALIFICATIONS ON THE NSW SKILLS LIST: AGED CARE SECTOR – ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION

The following qualification has been added to the Skilling for Recovery Aged Care Sector list (for expanded student eligibility) as displayed on the NSW Skills List. This has the effect of making training fee-free for all Smart and Skilled-eligible students who commence in this qualification between 30 September 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Qualification code	Qualification Name
HLT43015	Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance

For eligible students who commenced between 30 September 2022 and the date of this advice, the Department will retrospectively apply the fee waiver. Providers delivering to affected students must refund any fees already paid by the students.

The Department will offer a contract variation to add the qualification to relevant program(s) where a Provider has uncommitted Financial Cap(s) which may be used for new commencements.

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.*