

Smart and Skilled

SMART AND SKILLED UPDATE – NO. 200 - 203

April 2023

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1. AGSKILLED 2.0 PROGRAM: EXPANDED INDUSTRY SECTOR COVERAGE TO INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL LIVESTOCK AND UPDATED WEBPAGE ON NSW.GOV.AU

a. Expanded industry sector coverage to include agricultural livestock

The industry sector coverage of AgSkilled 2.0 has expanded to include agricultural livestock in addition to the existing plant-growing agricultural sectors from 28 February 2023.

Agricultural livestock includes the raising/husbandry of beef cattle, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, honey-bees, other livestock, animal management services used for commercial agricultural (food and fibre) production and/or pest/disease management for these livestock animals.

Training Services NSW seeks recommendations for additional courses and units of competency (UoCs) relevant to the agricultural plant-growing and livestock 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 or your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM).

b. Additional funding available for expanded industry sector coverage

An additional \$3 million has been allocated to expand the industry scope coverage of AgSkilled 2.0, bringing the total budget allocated over the three (3) year life of the program to \$18 million.

c. Representation of agricultural livestock training, skills and workforce development needs by NSW Farmers

NSW Farmers is representing the workforce development, skills and training needs of the agricultural livestock sector on the AgSkilled 2.0 Steering Committee.

d. Additional training providers endorsed to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training – EOIs for training delivery sought, particularly for agricultural livestock skillsets

The current list of 18 training providers endorsed to deliver AgSkilled 2.0 training is listed on the [NSW Government 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, particularly those related to agricultural livestock skillsets.

To submit an EOI, please contact the AgSkilled Project Officer, Claudia Vicary at enquiries@agskilled.org.au or your Training Services NSW Strategic Relationship Manager (SRM).

e. Updated AgSkilled 2.0 webpage on nsw.gov.au

The AgSkilled 2.0 program information webpage has been updated on nsw.gov.au to reflect the expanded industry sector coverage to include agricultural livestock.

This webpage can be accessed via the following URL: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/vet-programs/agskilled>.

f. Updated AgSkilled 2.0 website

The AgSkilled 2.0 program website listing course availability and scheduling has also been updated to reflect the expanded industry sector coverage to include agricultural livestock.

This webpage can be accessed via the following URL: <https://www.agskilled.org.au/>.

g. Further information

For further information, please visit/contact the:

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

2. SKILLING FOR RECOVERY PART QUALIFICATIONS TRAINING ACTIVITY DATA – REVIEW AND SUBMIT UPDATED DATA

A review of the Skilling for Recovery Redeployment and Youth and Construction Programs training activity data has highlighted that some providers have not been reporting and keeping the data up to date, as per the [Smart and Skilled Contract Terms and Conditions](#) which requires data to be reported every 28 days.

For some Skilling for Recovery (SfR) part qualification activity, despite the training completion dates on the PAS still being in the future, according to the start end dates reported for units of competency, the training has completed.

Providers are asked to review all SfR part qualifications activity where this may be the case, and update and report data that reflects either:

- that the training has been finalised (completion or withdrawn outcomes), or
- new unit of competency completion end dates that reflect that training is still occurring (these dates should still be within the completion date periods on the PASs).

It is recommended that all SfR part qualifications training activity data be reviewed if not already reported as completed.

Providers must undertake the review and report data **no later than 12 pm, 27 March 2023**.

Failure to do so may be deemed to be an event of default and lead to further action by the Department, and may impact future requests for part qualifications funding.

3. PRICE INCREASE FOR ALL CURRENT CERTIFICATE III IN ELECTROTECHNOLOGY ELECTRICIAN (UEE30820) STUDENTS

As advised in Smart and Skilled Update No. 167 (10 May 2022), the price for Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician (UEE30820) has increased to \$19,330. This price increase will be applied to any **future milestone payments for all current UEE30820 students**. The price increase will not apply to students who have already completed or withdrawn from training.

This price increase was the result of a strategic price review of select qualifications. Originally, the price increase for the Certificate III Electrotechnology Electrician (UEE30820) only applied to new enrolments that commenced on or after 1 July 2022 (see Smart and Skilled Update No. 167). The Department has removed this requirement and will apply the price increase to all current UEE30820 students. However, this is a unique case and all other qualification price changes will continue to apply for new enrolments from a specified date.

No additional action is required from providers: the price increase will be applied for current students as soon as possible and will be factored into future milestone payments as providers submit training activity data as normal. Providers might receive a notification of price and fee recalculation for students granted Credit Transfer / Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) when the prices go live in STS Online.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S PROCESSES FOR THE RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS

As advised in Smart and Skilled Update No. 179), the Department has identified instances of overpayments to providers.

To address this, the Department is introducing processes for earlier identification and recovery of overpayments made to providers under Smart and Skilled contracts on and from the date of this update.

a. Incorrect Training Activity Data resulting in overpayments

Inaccuracies in Training Activity Data submitted by providers to the Department have resulted in overpayments being made by the Department to providers.

The way the overpayments have occurred is described in section 2 of Smart and Skilled Update No. 179:

1. providers submit Training Activity Data (Initial Data) to the Department in accordance with the Smart and Skilled contracts, notifying particular UoC Outcome Achievement Stages have been reached for specified students and indicating the relevant provider was entitled to receive a payment of Subsidies and Loadings (if applicable) for those students;
2. based on the Initial Data, the Department pays Subsidies and Loadings (if applicable) for students to the relevant provider in accordance with the relevant contract; and
3. providers subsequently submit updated Training Activity Data to the Department that indicates the payments of Subsidies and Loadings (if applicable) for the relevant students was not payable. In other words, the new Training Activity Data submitted demonstrates the Initial Data for the relevant students was incorrect and the relevant provider was not entitled to the payments made by the Department referred to in paragraph 2 above.

In Smart and Skilled Update No. 179, issued 23 August 2022, providers were reminded of their obligations under the contracts to ensure that all information provided to the Department, including Training Activity Data, is true, accurate, complete, and not misleading.

b. New processes for early detection of overpayments and requirements for repayments

The Department has put in place new processes to ensure any overpayments made by the Department under the Smart and Skilled contracts due to incorrect reporting of Training Activity Data are promptly identified, and the overpayments are promptly repaid by the relevant providers.

These processes will take effect immediately in relation to future overpayments:

1. If the Department determines that an overpayment of Subsidies and Loadings (if applicable) in respect of any student has been made to a provider because of the incorrect reporting of Training Activity Data, the Department will notify that provider. The provider will be given **14 days** from the date of that notice to dispute whether the relevant payment of Subsidies and Loadings was an overpayment.
2. Following the expiry of the **14-day** notice period, if the Department determines that an overpayment of Subsidies and Loadings (if applicable) was made, the Department will require the provider to repay the overpayment – see paragraph 3 below. The Department is entitled to require such repayment in accordance with clause 22 of the Terms and Conditions.

3. Where a provider is required to repay an overpayment, the repayment will be made in the manner required by the Department, as follows:
 - a. by the Department setting-off the overpayment against payments due by the Department to the provider under the Smart and Skilled contract. This means the Department will exercise its rights under clause 22(b) of the Terms and Conditions to set-off the overpayment against future amounts that the Department may owe to the provider under the contract when the provider submits Training Activity Data in future. Until the overpayment is fully repaid by that set-off occurring, the provider will not be entitled to receive any payments under the contract; or
 - b. if, at the time the provider is required to repay an overpayment, no further payments are required to be made by the Department to the provider, then the Department will issue a notice to the provider to pay the full amount of the overpayment within **30 days** of the date of the notice. If the Department has exercised its rights of set-off as referred to in paragraph 3(a) but, at the time the last payment would have been made to the provider under the contract, there is still part of the overpayment that has not been repaid by means of set-off to the Department, the Department will at that time issue a notice to the provider to pay the remaining amount of the overpayment within **30 days** of the date of the notice.
4. A provider could also elect to repay an overpayment to the Department in full immediately after it is notified that the overpayment has occurred. A provider may do this by providing notice to the Department.
5. An example of the set-off process in paragraph 3(a) is as follows:
 - a. the Department determines that, as a result of incorrect Training Activity Data submitted to it by “Provider A”, the Department has overpaid \$2,000 in Subsidies to Provider A;
 - b. the Department notifies Provider A of the overpayment of \$2,000. Provider A disputes the amount but, following discussions with the Department, agrees that it was overpaid \$2,000; and
 - c. following resolution of the dispute raised by Provider A, additional Training Activity Data is submitted by Provider A under the Smart and Skilled contract. Provider A is owed \$1,000 in Subsidies under the contract as a result of the submission of that Training Activity Data. The Department sets-off that amount against the \$2,000 owing by Provider A to the Department. Provider A does not receive a payment and the amount owing by Provider A to the Department is reduced to \$1,000. The remaining amount of \$1,000 owing to the Department will be set-off against payments due to Provider A in following periods.
6. An example of the repayment process in paragraph 3(b) is \$2,000 in Subsidies has been overpaid to Provider A as a result of the submission of incorrect Training Activity Data. Provider A’s Smart and Skilled contract has expired, and no further amounts are payable to it by the Department under the contract. The Department issues a notice for payment to Provider A for \$2,000, which Provider A is required to pay to the Department within 30 days of the date of the notice.

5. 2023 TARGETED PRICE REVIEW PROCESS – PROGRESS UPDATE

Smart and Skilled Update No.194 advised that Training Services NSW would conduct a targeted price review in 2023. A similar targeted price review process was conducted in mid to late 2021, with KPMG supporting Training Services NSW.

Eighteen (18) qualifications were selected for the review (see Table 1 at end), based on Department priorities and requests received from training providers.

Approximately 56 providers deliver the review qualifications. These providers were contacted directly via email to engage with the review process and were invited to two webinars in January giving details about the process.

The review process covers four broad stages:

Stage	Indicative Timing	Status
1. Data collection	31 January-10 February	Complete
2. Data analysis	February-March	In Progress
3. Qualification-specific consultations	Late March-Early May	Not Started
4. Lessons learned and process improvements	May	Not Started

The data collection stage is now complete. Thank you to all the providers that submitted data. Your input is critical to the success of this project.

Initial data analysis is now underway, and this will be supplemented by qualification-specific consultations with providers to better understand the drivers of cost differentials. A plan for the consultations is being developed and will be communicated with providers that submitted data.

Please send any questions about the 2023 targeted price review process to marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au

Table 1: Qualifications selected for the 2023 Targeted Price Review

#	Qualification Code	Qualification Name
1	10584NAT	Certificate II in Career Preparation
2	AUR30320	Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology
3	AUR30620	Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology
4	AUR31120	Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology
5	AUR31220	Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology
6	CPC30220	Certificate III in Carpentry
7	CPC32420	Certificate III in Plumbing
8	MAR50120	Diploma of Marine Engineering
9	MEM30219	Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade
10	MEM30319	Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade

#	Qualification Code	Qualification Name
11	PSP20218	Certificate II in Auslan
12	PSP30218	Certificate III in Auslan
13	PSP40818	Certificate IV in Auslan
14	PSP51018	Diploma of Auslan
15	SFL30115	Certificate III in Floristry
15	SHB30416	Certificate III in Hairdressing
17	SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
18	UEE32220	Certificate III in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration

For support with issues such as system/information access and functionality, reporting, and other technical matters, please contact Training Services NSW - Customer Service & Operations at TSNSWCust.Service@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 Services NSW, as above, unless otherwise instructed.