

MEDIA RELEASE

Skills and Vocational Education and Training provides the keys to a new exciting career for job seekers and school leavers

- **Skills Transfer, Upskilling, Reskilling can lead to re-employment post-Covid**
- **National Skills Week: 24 – 30 August 2020**

Sydney, 10 August 2020 – With almost one million Australians currently unemployed, never has there been a more important time to educate job seekers and school leavers on the best way to find a new career and the training required to get into that career or be employed in that job, says National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham.

Held annually, **National Skills Week** seeks to raise awareness of the diverse range of careers which can be kick-started through vocational education and training, as well as jobs in demand, skills gaps over the next five years, and information and resources on the training required to obtain them.

Mr Wexham said National Skills Week plays a pivotal role in strengthening and communicating the key messages of industry and government in an environment characterised by changing skills requirements, advances in technology and a sector plagued by a history of negative publicity.

Last year saw almost 90 per cent of apprentices or trainees employed following the completion of their training. These are great results. Australians of all ages who may be seeking new employment or may be finishing school this year, should consider the myriad of opportunities that can be obtained through vocational education and training, he said.

What jobs are in demand? Where are the jobs of the future?

A Labour Market Research report on employment projections found there will be an increase in 16 of the 19 broad industries over the next five years in Australia (source: lmp.gov.au)

There is and will continue to be a strong demand for people with practical and industry-ready skills that VET delivers, Mr Wexham said.

Pre-Covid 19, industries with the **largest job growth** predicted in the next five years included Healthcare and Social Assistance (increasing by 252,600), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (172,400), Education and Training (129,300) and Construction (113,700).

Together, these four industries are forecast to provide more than three-fifths (or 62.1 per cent) of total employment growth over the five years to May 2024.

There is also huge growth predicted in Cyber Security with 100,000 jobs to be created by 2025, while the space industry is set to need 20,000 jobs in the next five years.



Manufacturing is predicted to see a huge gap in demand with 845,300 jobs needed to be filled by 2024.

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Looking at what skills are transferable from one industry to another is also important, particularly for those facing unemployment in industries hardest hit such as tourism, aviation, hospitality, creative arts and entertainment and sports and recreation, Mr Wexham said.

Focusing on skilling and reskilling workers, we can better connect job seekers with ways to help get them back into employment.

Identifying the jobs in demand and training jobseekers to fill those jobs but also with a view to the long-term . education and training are key to helping Australia's labour market and economy recover.

National Skills Week plays a central role in assisting parents, students and jobseekers as to the many and varied careers out there for young people and asking them to think about matching their passions and skill strengths with career outcomes. A great place to start is the Federal Government's www.joboutlook.gov.au website, which does just that.

National Skills Week this year runs from **24 – 30 August**.

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au.

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Media Contact: Libby Conway, The Capital Group, 0439 076 835