



NATIONAL 2021
SKILLS WEEK August 23rd - August 29th

MEDIA RELEASE

National Skills Week reveals most in-demand jobs of the future

Skills critical to Australia's economic recovery out of Covid

*Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business
The Hon Stuart Robert MP launches National Skills Week 2021 on
August 24*

9 AUGUST 2021 – Now moving into its eleventh year, National Skills Week 2021 will be held August 23 to 29, inviting Australians to '**RE-THINK**' their ideas of what Vocational Education and Training is all about and the role it can have in preparing people for work for the future, especially in a post-pandemic economy.

A key objective of National Skills Week is to identify and highlight industries with the most in-demand jobs of the future as well as sectors forecast to see the biggest growth in coming years, to ensure Australians can gain the training and education they need to secure those jobs and maintain stable long-term employment.

Key job growth areas include:

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE

The Human Services Skills Organisation (HSSO) estimates Australia needs **1 million Health and Community Care workers by 2050** and highlights that human services is Australia's fastest growing sector, requiring a vast amount of specialist skills training and education.

DISABILITY CARE

An **additional 83,000 NDIS workers** are expected to be required by 2024, bringing the total NDIS workforce to over 350,000.

CYBER SECURITY

18,000 additional cybersecurity professionals required to ensure Australia's digital security by 2026 (source: RMIT Online)

HOSPITALITY

Over **35,000 vacancies currently** available nationally (Source: Restaurant and Catering Association)

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS):

An additional **271,300 jobs in STEM** needed by 2023, representing a 10.8% growth in jobs (Source: Department of Jobs and Small Business)

MINING

An extra **40,000 resources workers** over the next two years needed in WA. (Source: Pit Crew Consulting Services report).

A Resources Sector Workforce Report (RSWR) found the resources sector's skills **shortage could reach 33,000** people by the 2023 September quarter. Key factors influencing the shortage were external competition from eastern states and internal competition between WA projects.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

113,700 more workers needed by 2024, an increase of 9.7 per cent, with growth being strongest in capital cities than regional areas. (Source: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business).

In bricklaying, carpentry, painting, plastering, plumbing and electrical trades:

- all trades are experiencing skills shortages in NSW, Tasmania and the ACT
- Victoria and SA have shortages in most trades (excluding painting in Victoria and plumbing in SA)
- QLD has a shortage of plumbers in the regions and bricklayers in all areas
- WA has no identified shortages and the NT only has a shortage of plumbers

At a national level, stonemasonry, tiling and glazing are all experiencing skills shortages.

AGRICULTURE – MAJOR NEED TO RESKILL / UPSKILL

At a national level, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry has the oldest age profile of any of the industry groups, with a median age of 49 compared with 40 across all industries (Department of Employment). The need for succession planning strategies to mitigate against skills and labour shortages is a clear priority for agriculture.

The [Agriculture Workforce Digital Capability Framework](#) project investigated the digital capabilities required by agricultural workers in order to address any gaps in the ability to meet future demand. The project also provided a framework to develop education pathways for upskilling the agricultural workforce to better adopt technology.

National Skills Week Founder and Chair Brian Wexham said it is absolutely critical that school leavers, job seekers, parents and career changers are informed of what the jobs of the future are, and what Australia's most critical skills shortages and jobs needs are.

“This will ensure our young people, yet to start careers, can gain training and skills in education which is going to secure them a job at the end of that training. There's no point being educated if there's no job at the end of it

“Further, it will assist in funnelling Australia’s labour market into the training opportunities which are most likely going to lead to their employment ie the most in-demand jobs of the future.

“The scope of STEM, for example is huge, meaning you don’t necessarily have to become a traditional scientist working in a lab. You could work in anything from Astronomy to Earth Science, Medicinal Research or Veterinary Science. You’ll gain skills to solve large scale problems, preparing you for a career in a wide range of specialisations. When you work in STEM, you have the ability to cover a diverse knowledge base that’s an invaluable commodity in the current economy,” Mr Wexham noted.

Held annually, the vision of **National Skills Week** is to raise awareness on the diversity of careers which can be realised through vocational education and training, the skills for an economically viable future, and the incredible range of new jobs and skills in demand for the future.

National Skills Week 2021 will be centred around asking people to ‘**Re-think**’ their ideas of VET – and to discover, challenge, and explore what is on offer. The focus will be on challenging perceptions of vocational education and training, reimagining bold and innovative ideas for young Australians to take on their careers and to reassess the value of the VET sector, especially in the country-wide pursuit of economic recovery.

“National Skills Week plays a pivotal role in strengthening and communicating the key messages of industry and government in an environment shaped by the fluid nature of skills requirements and ever-evolving technologies,” said Mr Wexham.

“This initiative is designed to achieve real, transformative outcomes for Australian people – to inspire people to undertake active, participative education and training that VET provides resulting in skills that can realise immediate rewards in jobs, success and contribute to building our economy.”

All you need to know about National Skills Week 2021:

When:	August 23-29 2021
Purpose:	To put a national spotlight on the jobs of the future as well as raise awareness of the myriad of rewarding, lucrative and prestigious career pathways available via vocational education and training.
Key message:	Rethink what you know and your ideas on where skills can take you. A skilled workforce leads to an employed workforce.
Theme:	‘RE-THINK’: encouraging all Australians to challenge what they know about vocational education and skills and reassess their value.

Ambassadors: 15 success stories of VET Alumni

Launch: National Skills Week will be launched (virtually) by Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business, The Hon Stuart Robert on **Tuesday 24 August, from 8-9am.**

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au

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