



NATIONAL 2021
SKILLS WEEK August 23rd - August 29th

MEDIA RELEASE

87 per cent of all jobs needed by businesses today require digital skills, says National Skills Week

Australia needs 156,000 new technology workers by 2025

25 AUGUST 2021 – Speaking at the start of National Skills Week, Chair of the Week Brian Wexham emphasised the importance of young people to acquire digital skills to lay the groundwork for a satisfying and successful career.

Mr Wexham said: “Digital is everywhere. It shouldn’t be seen as just IT. As technology continues a rapid ascent, digital skills needs are inserting itself into all aspects of our lives.”

87 percent of all jobs needed by businesses today require digital skills (McKinsey Global Survey February 2020).

Technology and digital careers offer higher paying jobs with greater flexibility to work almost anywhere in the world.

Over 150,000 digital professionals will be required over the next five years, 65,000 new technology jobs have been created during covid to date. Technology is now the seventh largest employer – there are more software engineers and application programmers than plumbers, hairdressers or secondary school teachers (Source: Accenture Report, August 2021).

We should also recognise the importance of digital skills for every person in every job across all industries. All of us will have to learn new digital skills, and keep on learning them to keep pace with the pace of change. According to, Alpha Beta Report 2020, by 2025 the average worker will need to acquire seven new skills to keep pace with tech change.

Given the wide range and transferability of digital skills the VET (Vocational Education Training) has an important role to play, Mr Wexham added. Our VET sector is open and accessible to all irrespective of background.

As demand for digital professionals continues to rise, the right digital skills will not only open an exciting career trajectory but skills that will be needed across all aspects of life.

While many digital jobs are still evolving, opportunities already exist for data analysis, web analytics, creator directors, UX specialists, mobile app developers among others.

According to Patrick Kidd, CEO Digital Skills Organisation (DSO) Australian employers need workers with digital skills that are relevant and adaptable to keep pace and change.

The Digital Skills Organisation is working in collaboration with employers, trainers and learners to create more open and consistent skill-based digital pathways to create a better digital future.

One of DSO's initiative includes launching a Digi-Academy to assist young people discover the wide range of digital skills through interactives activities to see what digital career pathways may interest them.

Now moving into its eleventh year, National Skills Week 2021 is being held this week, 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.

Mr 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.

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 was launched yesterday (Tuesday 24 August) by zoom link by Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business, The Hon Stuart Robert

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au

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