

MEDIA ALERT

SKILLS REMAIN CRITICAL TO REBUILDING AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE ECONOMY

SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 22-28 AUGUST 2022

26 April 2022 – A federal government supported initiative, **National Skills Week 2022** will be held again this year from August 22 to 28, designed to inspire Australians to explore the myriad of rewarding and worthwhile careers that can be pursued through Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Held annually, the purpose of **National Skills Week** is to raise awareness on the diversity of career pathways which can be realised through vocational education and training, as well as highlight the greatest skills shortages across industries and the jobs and skills most in demand for the future.

According to a report by the National Skills Commission – The Future of Work in Australia, found “the Covid-19 pandemic has caused large-scale disruption to Australian businesses, workplaces and jobs. Even as the Australian economy recovers, we are likely to see more workforce transitions due to increased digitisation, technological adoption and ongoing structural changes. In these times of global uncertainty and change, skills are key”.

A Universe of Skills

This year's Week will be centred around the theme of 'A Universe of Skills' encouraging people to go beyond their imagination to discover careers, pathways and opportunities in skills and Vocational Education that they may not know about, thought about or even imagined.

National Skills Week Chair, Brian Wexham says skills remain critical to rebuilding Australia's future economy. Similarly, skills shortages continue to act as a handbrake to economic growth.

“It is imperative that we educate job seekers, school leavers, parents, mums returning to work, career changers and even the underemployed, on where the most in demand jobs and the jobs of the future are,” he said.

“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.”

Now in its twelfth year, National Skills Week garners bipartisan support as educating the community about the current skills shortages and future job demand remains critical to the economy.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia's apprentices, trainees and workers building their skills were key to delivering a stronger economy.

"By backing Australian apprentices and trainees we're getting more people ready for the jobs that will set them up for life," the Prime Minister said.

"These investments will mean more skilled workers, lower unemployment, and a stronger future not just for apprentices and trainees, but for Australia."

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has said: "Skills and industry will build a stronger future. One of the biggest lessons from the Covid pandemic has been that our nation has lost some important industries that are critical in times of trouble."

So, what are the jobs for our future?

The future of jobs will include a vast range of practical and vocational occupations, including health care including aged care and disability care, digital skills and IT, artificial intelligence, aviation technologies, manufacturing.

"The government is injecting billions of dollars into these industries ahead of the forecasted job proliferation in these sectors. This will inevitably require resources and programs to provide practical training for job seekers, which initiatives like National Skills Week aim to promote," said Mr Wexham.

All you need to know about National Skills Week 2022:

When:	August 22-28 2022
Purpose:	To raise awareness of the myriad of rewarding, lucrative and prestigious career pathways available via vocational education and training
Key message:	A skilled workforce leads to an employed workforce.
Theme:	'A Universe of Skills: Go beyond your imagination. Discover careers, pathways and opportunities in skills and Vocational Education that you may not know about, thought about or even imagined.

Interview options / talent:

Capital has access to a wide range of Government leaders, CEOs of industry bodies and organisations across industries facing the biggest skills shortages (healthcare, manufacturing, construction etc) as well as more than 15 VET Alumni from all parts of the country who have completed VET courses and won awards.

National Skills Week Chairman Brian Wexham is also available for interviews upon request.

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au

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Media Contact

Libby Conway | The Capital Group | libby@capital.com.au | 0439 076 835