

NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK



AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 28

2022

real skills for
real careers

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Australia needs 250,000 new digital jobs by 2025

24th August 2022 – National Skills Week’s Chairman Brian Wexham has emphasised the importance of young people and job seekers 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.”

The federal government estimates 87 percent of today’s jobs across every sector and industry in Australia now require digital literacy (*source: McKinsey Global Survey, February 2020*).

Adding to this prediction, in the government’s Digital Economy Strategy 2030, that by 2025, 250,000 new jobs will be created due to digitalisation. The Government is investing in the settings, infrastructure and incentives to grow Australia’s digital economy.

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.

According to Patrick Kidd, CEO Digital Skills Organisation (DSO) digital skills are as important as reading and writing.

“Australia has an annual requirement of 60,000 new digital workers over the next five year. Further, in that time span, almost 90 per cent of Australian workers will need digital skills.

Released recently in a discussion paper, titled ‘Towards a new model for the development of digital skills’, DSO’s proposed skills-based model includes three components: digital pathways, digital skills standards and digital centres of excellence.

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

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

Over 250,000 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 from retail to agriculture. All of us will have to learn new digital skills and keep on learning them to keep pace with 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.

Now moving into its twelfth year, National Skills Week 2022 is being held this year, August 22 to 28, inviting Australians to explore the Universe of Skills on offer through Vocational Education and Training.

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 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.

"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.

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 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 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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