



MEDIA RELEASE

Severe shortage of skilled construction workers – National Skills Week

Construction sector forecast to have more than 100,000 unfilled roles by 2023

16 August 2022 . National Skills Week's Chairman Brian Wexham notes that a severe shortage of skilled construction workers is slowing delivery and increasing the cost of home builds, major infrastructure projects and everything in-between.

New South Wales and Victoria are most affected as they are the most populous, and both State Governments continue to ramp up major road, rail and other projects.

Mr Wexham said: "The shortage of skilled construction workers is hampering the delivery of many projects in this country. COVID-19 has disrupted building material supply chains over the last two years, increasing the lead-times and costs of materials. On top of this, workers have been able to command higher wages and be more selective than ever about their chosen employer.

Industry consultancy Arcadis has reported construction job vacancies have risen by a massive 80 per cent since late 2019. They forecast that by 2023 there will be over 100,000 unfilled roles in the sector. More serious still, Arcadis also forecast this will be almost 50 per cent greater than the number of people who are expected to be qualified to fulfill the roles.+(Source: Arcadis Construction Costs Index Report, 2022).

Michael Morrissey, CEO of Brick and Block Careers says Brick and Blocklaying is increasingly being seen as a "Trade of Choice" with greater understanding around the career potential it can lead to and the ongoing demand.

A qualified Bricklayer can get an early entry into running a subcontracting business, managing their own team, control over their profits and leading the way.

Brick and Block Careers continues to support the awareness and career pathways Brick and Blocklaying has to offer. We aim to fulfil career aspirations of young Australians and job seekers, by providing employment opportunities in Brick and Blocklaying.+

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.

National Skills Week is supported by the Australian Government & National Careers Institute.

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au

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