



MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

National Skills Week 2025 Urges Australians to ‘Explore ALL the Options’ Amid Widening Skills Shortages

National Skills Week: 25–31 August 2025

Sydney, 14 July 2025 – As Australia faces critical workforce shortages across key industries, **National Skills Week 2025 (25–31 August)** will shine a spotlight on the power of vocational education and training (VET) to transform careers, communities, and the economy.

With this year’s theme, **“Explore ALL the Options!”**, National Skills Week calls on school leavers, career changers, job seekers, and parents to consider VET as a first-choice pathway into high-growth, high-demand industries—from health and construction to digital tech and aviation.

“We want to challenge outdated perceptions of vocational education and show that VET is a launchpad to real, meaningful, and prosperous careers,” said National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham.

“VET can be the ultimate game-changer, providing skills for jobs that exist now and into the future—across sectors like AI, healthcare, climate response, infrastructure, and cyber security.”

The State of the Nation: Current Skills Shortages (2025)

Australia is facing an urgent need for skilled workers across a range of sectors. Key shortages include:

- **Trades & Technical Roles** – Over 50% of occupations in trades are in national shortage, especially construction and food trades.
- **Healthcare Professionals** – Major shortages persist in regional and urban areas, impacting essential service delivery.
- **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Specialists** – Nearly 70% of roles in the ICT sector are in short supply, particularly digital transformation and cybersecurity roles.
- **Tourism & Hospitality Workers** – Severe shortages across hotels, events, food services, and travel operations are impacting Australia’s visitor economy, with

demand for skilled chefs, event managers, and front-line staff at a high.

- **Engineering Experts** – Engineers are in high demand across mining, infrastructure, and renewable energy.
- **Forensic Psychiatrists** – South Australia faces a critical shortage, affecting mental health and justice systems.

Future Jobs & Skills: What's Ahead

Looking to the future, the skills Australia needs are rapidly evolving:

- **AI & Digital Transformation** – Investment in AI and emerging technologies is essential to lift national productivity.
- **VET-Based Degrees** – New qualifications in fields like mining and metallurgy are being introduced to address shortages and offer practical alternatives to traditional university pathways.
- **Aviation Industry Growth** – The opening of Western Sydney International Airport is projected to create 10,000 new jobs by 2031, driving demand for local training and upskilling.

National Skills Week 2025: What to Expect

Throughout the week, Australians can expect:

- Inspirational stories from VET graduates who have forged successful, high-impact careers.
- Events and workshops highlighting job-ready training and apprenticeship opportunities.
- A focus on inclusive education, from women in trades and Indigenous workforce participation to regional and remote access.
- Media coverage featuring success stories, data insights, and expert interviews.

A Proven Track Record of Impact

With more than three decades of history, VET in Australia continues to provide high-impact pathways for people of all ages and backgrounds. National Skills Week will celebrate:

- The elevation of vocational degrees to AQF7 status
- Government and industry collaboration on regional job creation
- Stronger alignment between training and workforce needs across sectors

Who's Behind National Skills Week?

Supported by the Federal Government (DEWR), State Governments (QLD and NSW), and leading VET organisations, this year's partners include:

- MEGT
- Apprenticeship Support Australia
- Brick & Block Careers
- Komatsu
- South Australian Skills Commission (SASC)
- Construction Industry Training Board
- TAFE NSW
- Queensland University of Technology
- ReadyTech
- University of Queensland
- Victoria University
- BAE Australia
- Wine Australia
- Adelaide University
- UQSkills.

Talent Available for Interview:

Media outlets can access interviews with:

- Brian Wexham, Chair, National Skills Week
- VET Alumni & Apprentices of the Year from across Australia
- Industry Leaders & CEOs in healthcare, tech, construction, mining, and more
- Members of the 2025 National Skills Week Advisory Committee

National Skills Week offers facilitated media connections to suit specific sector coverage.

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Notes to editors:

About National Skills Week 2025

National Skills Week is an annual initiative in Australia, scheduled for 25–31 August 2025, aimed at promoting the value and diversity of Vocational Education and Training (VET). Organised by SkillsOne Television and supported by Australian, State, and Territory Governments, it serves as a platform to highlight career pathways through apprenticeships, traineeships, and other VET programs.

National Skills Week is designed to:

- **Raise Awareness:** Enhance public understanding of the benefits and opportunities within the VET sector.
- **Challenge Perceptions:** Dispel outdated myths about VET and showcase its relevance in today's economy.
- **Highlight Career Pathways:** Demonstrate the diverse career options available through VET, including apprenticeships, full qualifications, micro-credentials, and pathways to higher education.
- **Address Skills Shortages:** Focus on emerging skills needs and industry trends to support workforce development.

The 2025 theme, “Explore ALL the Options,” encourages individuals to consider a wide range of educational and career pathways, emphasizing opportunities in regional and remote areas, as well as various training formats.

Through over 500 events nationwide, National Skills Week aims to inspire participation in VET, contributing to a skilled and adaptable workforce that meets Australia's evolving economic needs.

For more information or to get involved, visit the official website: nationalskillsweek.com.au.