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**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING POWERS AUSTRALIA’S WORKFORCE NEEDS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE**

**Explore All The Options and consider Vocational Education and Training (VET)**

***National Skills Week: 25–31 August 2025***

**Sydney, 21 August 2025** – National Skills Week 2025 will be officially launched on Wednesday, August 27, at Hotel Realm in Canberra.

National Skills Week 2025, now in its 15th year, aims to raise the status of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector by raising awareness and educating parents, school leavers, upskillers, career changers and job seekers of the myriad rewarding, lucrative and prestigious career pathways available through VET. It also celebrates the power of vocational education and training to unlock a world of career opportunities, and the importance of VET to Australia’s economy.

The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Federal Minister for Skills and Training, will present opening remarks and participate in a panel discussion at the event, highlighting the national vision for skills development and workforce innovation.

According to Jobs and Skills Australia, 33 per cent of all occupations were experiencing a national skills shortage in 2024, with 46 per cent of those requiring a certificate III qualification with two years on-the-job training, such as an apprenticeship, or a certificate IV qualification[[1]](#footnote-1). Jobs and Skills Australia’s report *Opportunity and Productivity: Towards a Tertiary Harmonisation Roadmap*, released in February[[2]](#footnote-2), reveals better connections between VET and higher education will help more people gain the skills and qualifications they need, while potentially lifting workforce productivity and skill levels and helping build the workforce Australia needs in the future. Better connections will also improve access to tertiary education and improve the impact of TAFE and the wider VET system.

The Federal Government is already making a significant investment in vocational education and training, such as its five-year, $30 billion national partnership agreement with state and territory governments to fund VET. The Albanese Government is also investing more than $410 million to help more Australians study for free under its Free TAFE program, that was expanded to include more courses in 2025. The funding will enable TAFE and industry-registered training organisations to offer an extra 20,000 free training places throughout 2025 and 2026, including 5000 pre-apprenticeship places, on top of the 300,000 Fee-Free TAFE places already offered between 2024 and 2026.

**The National Skills Week 2025 national launch** brings together government representatives, industry leaders, education providers and VET student ambassadors to celebrate achievements and explore future opportunities in vocational education and training. It will include engaging discussions about skills, VET programs and initiatives and networking opportunities.

**Event Date:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025

**Event Time:** 7am to 9am

**Event Location:** Federation Ballroom, Hotel Realm,18 National Circuit, Barton, ACT

**National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham says:** "National Skills Week plays a pivotal role in raising awareness on the diversity of careers that can be realised through Vocational Education and Training , highlighting the skills needs of industry , the jobs now and the jobs of the future" Whether you are a high school student or a parent looking to provide guidance to your child ,we invite you to use National Skills Week to explore ALL the options available through Vocational Education and Training (VET) . Check out Free TAFE courses, investigate Apprenticeship Degree Courses, examine courses and careers that connect to a passion. Delve into the diversity offered through VET, get inspired and discover the many rewarding career pathways and options available that will help ensure young Australians are job-ready.

**Quotes from Industry Providers:**

**Attributed to Trevor Fairweather, Executive General Manager of Education, ReadyTech**

“Supporting National Skills Week aligns with our belief that great technology enables great teaching and learning. We are here to help providers modernise, personalise and deliver skills education at scale.”

**Attributed to Lee Xavier Chief Executive Officer | Apprenticeship Support Australia (ASA)**

“At Apprenticeship Support Australia, we’re proud to stand alongside National Skills Week in championing the value of apprenticeships and traineeships. These pathways are vital for empowering individuals to build meaningful careers while enabling businesses to grow with confidence. By raising awareness and promoting vocational education, we’re helping shape a skilled, resilient workforce that meets the evolving needs of Australia’s economy”.

**Attributed to Jocelyn Martin, Managing Director, Housing Industry Association**

“For school leavers and mature-age workers alike, a trade career offers real-world skills, job security and a direct path to owning your own business. It’s never too late or too early to start building a career in this industry”.

**National Skills Week 2025 acknowledges the support provided by the Australian Government, and its major partner, ReadyTech.**

**ACT-based VET success stories available for interviews:**

**Lawson Connor, Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance**

**A person in a white shirt

AI-generated content may be incorrect.2024 Australian School-Based Apprentice of the Year, ACT Training Awards**

Lawson holds a lot of personal experience in the health sector, suffering from epilepsy which led to many ambulance rides to hospital. It drove a desire to help other people and pursue a career in healthcare. To experience the industry from the other side, a career advisor at his school suggested he complete the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance as an Australian School-Based Apprentice, which included work placements as well as the vocational qualification. It confirmed emergency care and paramedicine was what he wanted to pursue, and through vocational pathways, was able to use his certificate III qualification to enrol in a paramedicine degree, rather than his high school results. “I loved vocational education so much because I really thrive in that practical kind of environment,” he says. Lawson has also studied a Certificate III in Ambulance Communications and works as a Triple 0 call taker as he begins his university paramedicine degree

A person smiling in front of a pink background

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**Ariah Holmes, Diploma of Leadership and Management**

**2024 Trainee of the Year, ACT Training Awards**

Ariah had been studying nursing and midwifery at university when a life-changing illness prevented her from being able to finish her degree. While working full time at Volunteering ACT, she turned to the accessible, flexible and supportive learning that vocational education and training provides to obtain a qualification to gain the skills she needs, no matter where life or her career took her next. On advice and support from her manager, she chose to take part in YWCA’s She Leads program and complete a Diploma of Leadership and Management. “VET holds a lot of opportunities within trades but also beyond trades, including for people like me who are already in their chosen profession and are looking to take that next step in their career,” she says. “Adult education can often carry barriers for marginalised cohorts, for example, people like me with lived experience of disability but also newly arrived migrants – vocational education and training really has the power to break down barriers for marginalised cohorts.”

**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 and 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
* Housing Industry Association (HIA)
* Wine Australia
* Adelaide University
* UQ Skills.

**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.

ENDS

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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](https://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au/).

**About ReadyTech – Major sponsor of National Skills Week 2025**

ReadyTech (ASX:RDY) is Australia’s leading provider of SaaS for the education, workforce, government, and justice sectors. Focused on enabling outcomes that matter, ReadyTech supports educators with student management, learning management and skills assessment tools tailored to the unique needs of the TAFE, RTO, and tertiary sectors.

More info: readytech.io/education

1. [Jobs and Skills Australia, 2024 Occupation Shortage List](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/2024_osl_key_findings_and_insights_report_0.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*New report highlights need to break down barriers between vocational education and university* media release](https://ministers.dewr.gov.au/clare/new-report-highlights-need-break-down-barriers-between-vocational-education-and-university) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)