

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **WORKERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES ARE MAKING THEIR MARK THROUGH VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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

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

**Sydney, 22 August 2025** – National Skills Week 2025 will be officially launched in New South Wales on Monday, August 25, at the Advanced Manufacturing Readiness Facility at First Building, Bradfield City Centre.

Steve Whan, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education of New South Wales will present the keynote address at the event, which will be a celebration of the power of vocational education and training (VET) to transform careers, communities and the NSW economy.

Minister Whan said:

*“Skills are the backbone of NSW, and we’re backing our apprentices, trainees and students this National Skills Week.”*

*“Every apprenticeship and traineeship completed is another win for our communities and economy. Skills open doors and training builds futures. We’re investing in both.”*

*“For young people exploring their future, or for anyone looking to retrain or upskill, National Skills Week is a reminder that vocational education can lead to secure, rewarding, and meaningful careers.”*

In the 2025-26 Budget, the NSW Government made its largest ever investment in skills and TAFE of $3.4 billion to ensure the state has the skilled workers required to meet its economic needs.

The funding backs apprentices and trainees by making apprenticeships and traineeships fee-free, which will help achieve priorities outlined in the NSW Skills Plan 2024-28. The Plan includes improving pathways and strengthening employer and industry partnerships and better support learners, industry, the VET workforce and system agility.

Other NSW Government initiatives underway include upgrades to TAFE facilities located across the state; providing modernised and subsidised qualifications through Free TAFE; and a comprehensive review of the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001* to ensure vocational training is easy to navigate, is flexible, and matches the real-world needs of priority industries, such as construction, care and support, technology, and clean energy.

Meanwhile, latest Jobs and Skills Australia data[[1]](#footnote-1) reveals vocational education and training qualifications have been most sought after by New South Wales employers in the past year, with 50 per cent of jobs requiring a certificate II, certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma. It compares to 39 per cent of jobs requiring a bachelor degree or higher.

**The NSW National Skills Week 2025 launch** is being held in partnership with Training Services and will include engaging discussions about skills, VET programs and initiatives with education, industry and government leaders. A panel of NSW VET Ambassadors, employers and industry will speak on the state’s skills future. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour and view First Building, which marks the beginning of an industry-led hub to develop and grow a skilled future workforce.

**Event Date:** Monday, August 25, 2025

**Event Time:** 10am to 12pm

**Event Location:** Advanced Manufacturing Readiness Facility at First Building, Bradfield City Centre,215 Badgerys Creek Rd, Bradfield

**National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham says:**

National Skills Week provides an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on how important vocational education and training (VET) is to Australia. Whether you are a school leaver or a worker reskilling later in life, vocational education qualifications can open the door to a satisfying and rewarding career and a lifetime of opportunities. The week is about highlighting the many career options available, and inspiring young Australians to explore those options to obtain the skills they need for the jobs they want.

New South Wales is in a period of unprecedented growth and investment, apprentices and traineeships are vital to the economic development of NSW, and we urge parents and students to investigate and seize these opportunities, explore ALL the options

**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 Mathew Hicks, CEO- MEGT**

“The skills crisis is impacting many sectors, from childcare to transport to clean energy. National Skills Week gives lets us turn a spotlight on what’s required to keep a strong pipeline of talent supplying the broader workforce”.

**Attribute to Kate Pemberton, National Apprentice Development Manager**

**Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd**

“Apprenticeships serve as a vital entry point for developing homegrown talent. By training individuals from the ground up, we create a reliable pipeline of skilled professionals who understand our business, culture, and values from the outset. “

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

“Australia is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers in construction. Apprentices are the pipeline to our industry’s future — without them, the homes of tomorrow simply won’t get built”.

**NSW-based VET success story available for interview:**

**Lachlan Carey, early childhood educator**

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

Lachlan did not have the confidence to return to school for Years 11 and 12, after suffering two strokes in Year 10. He left school to start an electrical apprenticeship, but after losing his job twice during Covid, gave up on that career. He was helping out at a childcare centre one day by directing traffic in the car park when he decided to pursue a career teaching inside the centre. “I absolutely loved it,” he says. “I’ve had a passion for ensuring young kids get a go, and young disadvantaged kids get a fair go – they’re my two real driving forces in my life. After having two strokes and a lot of people helping me get back on track, I really felt like it was time for me to give back.” He completed his Certificate III then Diploma of Early Childhood Education, which has provided the pathway into studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Years) at university.

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

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A panel of NSW VET Ambassadors, employers and industry will speak on the state’s skills future. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour and view First Building, which marks the beginning of an industry-led hub to develop and grow a skilled future workforce.

**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.

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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 Recruitment Snapshot NSW](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-05/Recruitment%20snapshot%20New%20South%20Wales_0.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)