

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **A UNITED FRONT: VET AND UNIVERSITY COLLABORATE TO MEET AUSTRALIA’S TERTIARY SKILL NEEDS**

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

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

**Sydney, 14 August 2025** – Uniting the power of vocational education and training (VET) and university qualifications will give Australian workers the skills they need to live satisfying careers as well as help the nation meet current and emerging social, economic and environmental challenges.

National Skills Week promotes VET as a first-choice pathway alongside a traditional university education.

In fact, VET can be a pathway into a university qualification. Also, it can provide university graduates with practical skills they can use to get a job. Vocational training also can be used by students to obtain their high school certificate, as well as an ATAR into higher education.

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)[[1]](#footnote-1) anticipates more than 90 per cent of new jobs created in the next decade will require post-school qualifications. About half of those, or 44 per cent, will require VET qualifications, while 50 per cent will require a bachelor degree or higher qualification.

In the past year alone, more than two-thirds of new jobs created were in occupations linked to vocational education and training pathways[[2]](#footnote-2), which JSA states is “highlighting the growing value of practical, skills-based training”.

The Australian Universities Accord Final Report, released in 2024, has already identified significant changes are needed in higher education is Australia is to produce the skills, knowledge and intellectual ambition needed to meet current and emerging social, economic and environmental challenges.

It encourages seamless navigation between VET and higher education and recognises the inclusivity of VET as helping more people become skilled.

The Accord lists early childhood educators, teachers, aged care workers and nurses as some of the roles in chronic shortage. VET qualifications, that can be pathways to higher education, can give workers the skills to overcome these shortages.

The increased numbers of workers to transform our energy grid, advance manufacturing, make agriculture more sustainable and build housing and other infrastructure all can be skilled via VET pathways.

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

“The University Accord has highlighted the importance and need of universities and the vocational education sector to work more closely together to provide more options for students and industry.

“Collaboration is key in providing a unique blend of talent and ensures the Australian economy benefits from a highly skilled and productive workforce for the jobs now, and importantly, the jobs of the future.”

**UQ Skills at The University of Queensland, Dane Ivicevic CEO says:** “Universities and high schools often focus on what VET can articulate into. But the real power lies in what VET can awaken. It’s not just a pathway, it’s a spark and when delivered with empathy and strategic intent, it can transform communities and lives.”

**QUT Provost Professor** [**Robina Xavier**](https://www.qut.edu.au/about/our-people/academic-profiles/r.xavier) **says:** “Supporting closer ties between VET and Higher Education not only supports the development of the future workforce in emerging industries in Queensland, but aligns to QUT’s[[3]](#footnote-3) values in increasing access and opportunity for students,”

**Quotes from Industry Providers:**

**Attribute to Trevor Fairweather, Executive General Manager of Education at ReadyTech**

*“At ReadyTech, we’re deeply aligned with the mission to lift training outcomes and enable lifelong learning. Supporting National Skills Week is one way we help champion that mission in action.”*

**Attribute to** **Mathew Hicks, CEO- MEGT**

*“Skills are like a passport to accessing the best, most sustainable employment pathways no matter what your field of interest”.*

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

**VET success stories available for interview:**

**Paramedicine student Lawson Connor** may not have been accepted into his dream university course if not for vocational education and training.

Lawson, the 2024 ACT Australian School-based Apprentice of the year, suffers from health issues and spending time in hospital led to an interest in pursuing a career in health.

He was encouraged to complete an Australian School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship in Year 10, through which he completed a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance. It included more than 100 hours of practical placement in various healthcare sectors.

‘It was from this experience that I knew I definitely want to do paramedicine, given my personal experience with the ambulance service,” he says.

“It was always at the back of my mind that paramedicine was an option but having the proper work experience in the healthcare system, I knew paramedicine is definitely what I wanted to do.

“I wasn’t able to get an ATAR because I hadn’t fulfilled the requirements, because I’d missed so much of school (through his health issues). But with the Certificate III, I realised I could use this as a pathway.

“A lot of stress is put on to students to get an ATAR and I'm very lucky I didn't have that pressure.”

A certificate III or higher vocational qualification is recognised by many universities for admission into undergraduate courses.

Lawson is also currently working as a Triple 0 call taker and is enrolled to study a paramedicine degree.

**Early childhood educator Lachlan Carey** was helping out at a childcare centre when he felt driven to ensure young, disadvantaged people get a fair go and decided to pursue a career in the industry.

The 2024 NSW Trainee of the Year completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care while working as an early childhood educator.

He has just started a Bachelor of Education (Early Years) to become an early childhood teacher, and because of his prior VET qualifications, will be able to complete it in two years instead of the usual four years.

Working as a teacher will enable him to take a more curriculum-focused role and assess children’s development.

He is one of two males who work at his childcare centre and says he believes his role in an industry that traditionally employs more women carries extra importance.

“I find it a massive positive and an advantage for the children because many may not have a father figure or a male role model in their life,” he says.

“For me and the other male educator (at the centre), that is something we don't take lightly.

“We're always making sure we're putting our best foot forward to role model for these younger kids that there are positive male role models in this world.”



**Volunteering ACT senior sector development coordinator Ariah Holmes** was studying nursing and midwifery when her life took an unexpected turn. She then turned to VET to give her the practical skills she needs for her career.

“I loved academics but unfortunately, partway through my studies, I got sick and became wheelchair-bound and was unable to finish my last placements because I was too immunocompromised,” she says.

“I was really wanting to take my career to the next level and get a qualification that was transferable across any career decision I might have.

“By that time, I was working full time, and I felt academic options were limited until I found that there were lots of great options for me that were flexible and really accessible to me.”

The 2024 ACT Trainee of the Year studied a Diploma in Leadership and Management through a traineeship.

She says VET provides a welcoming and safe learning environment, does not have the same financial burden as university study, and is flexible to enable online learning outside of her full-time working hours.

“I found the vocational education and training pathway really person-centred and flexible in those ways,” she says.

“I (previously) thought of VET as being trades, like electricians and carpenters, but VET holds a lot of opportunities.

“The traineeship was able to bring a mentoring and supervision aspect to it as well as learning on-the-job, which I found particularly useful.”

**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
* 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/).

1. [Jobs and Skills Australia, 2024 Jobs and Skills Report](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/news/90-future-jobs-will-need-post-secondary-qualifications-doesnt-always-mean-uni) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Jobs and Skills Australia, Labour Market Update](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/news/vet-pathways-leading-employment-growth) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The QUT and TAFE Queensland partnership established in 2024, formalised the promotion of articulation and dual study pathways between TQ and QUT made possible through a range of existing connections across the university. More than 46 articulation pathways are available to TQ students across courses from each of the five QUT faculties, with further opportunities to be made available including additional dual award programs commencing from 2026 onwards. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)