

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN QUEENSLAND GROW TO NEW HEIGHTS**

**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 in Queensland on Monday, August 25, at TAFE QLD South Bank in South Brisbane.

Ros Bates, Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, 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 QLD economy.

The QLD Government is overhauling skills and training for Queenslanders through the first funding round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2025-26. It includes $47.7 million invested in 171 training and skills projects across Queensland. Up to 5881 Queenslanders will gain training in high-demand industries, including health, construction and community services, as well as emerging industries. Meanwhile, the QLD Government has extended the Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s program, which offers fully subsidised training for more than 130 priority apprenticeship and traineeships qualifications, through $10 million over the next two years. Other initiatives include $2.4 million in grant funding to support applied research projects that improve training delivery and workforce outcomes in aged care and advanced manufacturing - two sectors critical to Queensland’s future; and the development of several new TAFE and marine training precincts located from Moreton Bay to Cairns.

Meanwhile, latest Jobs and Skills Australia data[[1]](#footnote-1) reveals vocational education and training qualifications have been most sought after by Queensland employers in the past year, with 55 per cent of jobs requiring a certificate II, certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma. It compares to 33 per cent of jobs requiring a bachelor degree or higher.

**The QLD National Skills Week 2025 launch** will include engaging discussions about skills, VET programs and initiatives with education, industry and government leaders as well as training providers and VET ambassadors. The panel discussion will include stories from Queenslanders who represent the best in the state in skills excellence, from across local industry as well as the Queensland Training Awards. The cocktail-style event and forum will provide a valuable opportunity for industry leaders and professionals to network and share ideas.

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

**Event Time:** 6pm to 8pm

**Event Location:** TAFE QLD South Bank, Building H Auditorium, Level 1, 60 Tribune St, South Brisbane

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

National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham said "Tourism is the lifeblood of many communities throughout Queensland. The new Tourism Australia campaign G’DAY is expected to increase overseas visitor numbers to Australia from 7.7 million to 11.8 million in 2029 . Queensland is a premium destination with expanding career opportunities. The Tourism and Hospitality industry is incredibly diverse; it offers exciting and rewarding careers. 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 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 for jobs of today and for jobs of the future.

**Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training The Hon Ros Bates said** “National Skills Week is an opportunity to celebrate Queensland’s skills success while planning for the state’s skilled future. National Skills Week’s theme, encouraging people to Explore All The Options is a reminder there are diverse and flexible avenues to training and employment,” said Minister Bates.

“Whether you’re a current high school student or a recent school leaver, a person returning to work or someone looking to update their skills or change careers, there are training options available to you.

“From building our homes and highways, to caring for our most vulnerable Queenslanders and delivering outstanding tourism experiences on the road to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games - the right skills make it all possible”.

**QUT[[2]](#footnote-2) Provost Professor** [**Robina Xavier**](https://www.qut.edu.au/about/our-people/academic-profiles/r.xavier) **said** “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 values in increasing access and opportunity for students”.

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

**Quotes from Industry Providers:**

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

“With skills reform gaining momentum, it’s never been more important to spotlight the

value of the VET sector. National Skills Week brings the conversation to the national

stage – and we’re proud to play our part.”

**Attributed to Dane Ivicevic, The University of Queensland, UQ Skills**

**“**At UQ Skills, we believe VET can be the spark, not just the step. Our VET in high school programs introduces school-aged learners, particularly from regional and underrepresented backgrounds to immersive vocational experiences delivered within a university ecosystem. These experiences blend hands-on skill development with exposure to university culture, helping students build confidence, explore career interests, and begin to see themselves as future university learners and concurrent industry workers. This is about more than pathways or formal articulation, it’s about identity transformation and when done well within a university ecosystem, VET can ignite aspiration and belonging in ways that traditional models often overlook. “

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

 “Whether you're in a capital city or a remote town, the need for skilled construction workers is only growing. We want to see more Australians from all walks of life taking up the tools and building our future”.

**Attributed to Kate Pemberton, National Apprentice Development Manager
Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd**

“Apprenticeships allow us to proactively shape the capabilities we’ll need in the future.  Apprenticeships lay the foundation for long-term career growth and workforce stability. They promote a culture of continuous learning and progression, which benefits both the individual and the organization. Investing in people early in their careers also fosters loyalty and reduces long-term recruitment costs.  In short, apprentices are not just trainees—they are tomorrow’s leaders, experts, and innovators. Their presence is a key part of our commitment to ambition, perseverance, collaboration, and authenticity.”

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

**Harry Roberts, arborist**

**2024 Apprentice of the Year, Queensland Training Awards**

Harry applied to university on finishing high school but did not receive the OP that was required for his preferred degree. He did some construction work then headed overseas and worked in the tourism industry, but on returning to Australia through Covid, he regretted he had not obtained a skill or qualification he could use to get work. He wrote a list of the things he wanted to get out of a job – work outside, work at heights, and work in a team – then searched the job ads and found his arboriculture apprenticeship. “I thought, I’m not sure if I really want to be a mature-age apprentice, but I've got nothing to lose, I’ll give it a crack,” he says. “It's my dream job. I love it every day.”

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**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 Recruitment Snapshot QLD](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-05/Recruitment%20snapshot%20Queensland.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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-2)