

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **THE POWER OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IS CHANGING THE LIVES OF EVERYDAY TASMANIANS**

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

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

**Sydney, 26 August 2025** – National Skills Week 2025 will be officially launched in Tasmania on Thursday, August 28, at TasTAFE’s Drysdale Restaurant in Hobart.

Minister Felix Ellis, Minister for Skills and Job, Minister for Business, Industry and Resources, Minister for police, Fire and Emergency Management will present the keynote address at the event while Will McShane CEO of TasTAFE, will also address attendees. The event serves as a celebration of the power of vocational education and training (VET) to transform careers, communities and the Tasmanian economy.

Among the initiatives governments have supported this year in Tasmania are 410 Fee-Free TAFE and VET places, provided by the Federal Government in partnership with the Tasmanian Government, specifically for workers to get the skills required to work in the housing construction sector. It includes 100 pre-apprenticeship places for Tasmanians to get early experience and basic skills before moving into higher skill pathways. More than 6200 Tasmanian students enrolled in Fee-Free TAFE courses in the 18 months to June, 2024, with the most popular courses giving workers the skills required to work in critical shortage areas such as community services, early childhood education and care, and the construction industry. Fee-Free TAFE and VET removes the cost barriers for eligible students to incentivise them to work in areas key for the economy. The Tasmanian Skills Plan also was launched late last year and will ensure responsive, innovative training is tailored to the needs of learners, industry and business to shape Tasmania’s future workforce.

Meanwhile, latest Jobs and Skills Australia data[[1]](#footnote-1) reveals vocational education and training qualifications have been most sought after by Tasmanian 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 37 per cent of jobs requiring a bachelor degree or higher.

**The Tasmanian National Skills Week 2025 launch** will include engaging discussions about skills, VET programs and initiatives with education, industry and government leaders. The event also provides networking opportunities and the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the power of VET from Tasmanian Training Awards and VET ambassadors. The cocktail-style event will also feature food and beverages served by the state’s future chef and hospitality workers, as Drysdale Restaurant Hobart is one of three TasTAFE training restaurants.

**Event Date:** Thursday, August 28, 2025

**Event Time:** 5.30pm to 7.30pm

**Event Location:** Drysdale Restaurant Hobart, TasTAFE,59 Collins St, Hobart

**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.

Importantly we see the University and the VET sector working more closely together providing a unique blend of talent to ensure that Australia benefits from a highly skilled and productive workforce for jobs now and jobs of the future in an increasing globalised economy.

**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**

“Without the right skills, people have a much narrower pathway towards the type of employment which is most likely to fulfill and sustain them”.

**Attributed to Luke Radford, CEO brick and Block Careers**

“National Skills Week is the perfect time to explore the incredible opportunities that vocational education and training offer. At Brick and Block Careers, we're passionate about helping individuals discover fulfilling careers in our sector”.

**Attributed to Geordan Murray, Future Workforce & Industry Research, HIA**

National Skills Week is a vital platform to spark interest in trades and show young Australians just how bright their future can be in building and construction. The demand is real, the work is meaningful, and the opportunities are endless.

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

**Andrew Bartlett, Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability)**

**2024 Vocational Student of the Year, Tasmanian Training Awards**

Andrew was about to become a fully qualified chef when Covid hit, so he took on a job as a grocery delivery driver. Friends then suggested he consider a more permanent career working in the disability sector. He was able to remain working while completing his Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) study on one day of the week, and was hired by disability services provider Possibility. In his work, he has been able to draw on some of his skills from his former career, developing a cooking program for a group of six participants. “I was told to give disability a try and you won’t look back, and they were dead right, I have not looked back once,” he says. Andy plans to continue his vocational education by studying a Diploma of Community Services.

**Benjamin Barker, diesel mechanic**

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

Benjamin always had an interest in motors and machinery from tinkering with old cars and motorbikes with his grandfather. He opted to study a Certificate II in Automotive during his high school, which gave him the basic skills to get an apprenticeship with Veolia. By working and studying hard, he was able to complete his four-year Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology apprenticeship in two years, then within another year, was appointed leading hand in his workshop. “I went through school struggling with dyslexia, thinking I'm not going to make it anywhere, but once I was able to start my certificate II and pick up my apprenticeship, that's where my life changed,” he says. “My training and what I do gave me the confidence and passion in my career.”

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

**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.

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