

**MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release**

 **NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2025: SOUTH AUSTRALIA’S SKILLS RESURGENCE STARTS IN SCHOOL**

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

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

**19 August 2025** – National Skills Week 2025 will be officially launched in South Australia on Thursday, August 21, in partnership with the South Australian Skills Commission at TAFE SA College of the Arts in Adelaide.

TheHon. Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, and Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy 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 SA economy.

The SA Government continues to make record investments in skills funding, including more than $200 million to establish five technical colleges, which will support students in years 10 to 12 to complete their SACE while undertaking vocational education and training in specialist state-of-the-art facilities. Port Augusta Technical College opened this semester, following from Findon Technical College in 2024.

Meanwhile, more than 16,000 students have enrolled in fee-free TAFE courses funded by the state government, with data showing those living in low-socioeconomic areas particularly benefiting[[1]](#footnote-2).

Other new initiatives the SA Government is supporting include the Industry Accelerated Apprenticeship Pilot (IAAP), an Australian-first to fast-track up to 1000 new apprenticeships across seven critical trade pathways; and the Defence Industry Pathways Program and the Shipbuilding Employment Pathways pilot initiative, which will enable trainees and apprentices to get the skills they need for the state’s vibrant defence industry.

Meanwhile, latest Jobs and Skills Australia data[[2]](#footnote-3) reveals vocational education and training qualifications have been most sought after by South Australian employers in the past year, with 53 per cent of jobs requiring a certificate II, certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma. It compares to 36 per cent of jobs requiring a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**The SA 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 be facilitated by Commissioner Cameron Baker, Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission and include storytelling from an amazing group of people representing the best in skills excellence drawn from WorldSkills Team SA and the South Australian Training Awards.

**Event Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025

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

**Event Location:** TAFE SA (Adelaide City Campus) College of the Arts, Main Theatre, 39 Light Square, Adelaide

***Quotes attributable to the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Susan Close:***

*National Skills Week is an important reminder of the incredible opportunities that Vocational Education and Training provides for South Australians.*

*It showcases the rich variety of career pathways that meet the needs of today’s workforce and tomorrow’s industries.*

*Our government is proud to be investing in skills education, including the delivery of new technical colleges, to ensure young people and adults alike can access real, hands-on training that leads to meaningful, in-demand careers.*

***Quotes attributable to Commissioner Cameron Baker, Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission:***

*National Skills Week highlights the vital role skills training plays in building South Australia’s future workforce. The South Australian Skills Commission is committed to ensuring our skills system is agile, responsive, and aligned with industry needs. We’re making it easier for employers to take on apprentices and trainees, and for learners to complete their qualifications—strengthening the pipeline of skilled South Australians ready to succeed in both traditional and emerging industries.*

*The South Australian Skills Commission is proud to be a supporting partner for National Skills Week.*

**University of Adelaide Professor Susan James Relly Head of School, School of Education, Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Economics comments:**

 “Skills and knowledge are imperative for economic productivity. A tertiary education landscape where providers – universities, TAFE’s, RTO’s, employers – work together underpins this success.”

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

“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**

*“As the technology partner to over 1,200 training organisations, we see the impact that digital innovation can have on learner outcomes. National Skills Week is a reminder of the importance of keeping skills delivery relevant, connected and future-ready”.*

**Attributed to Holly Willcox, CEO CITB (Construction Industry Training Board)**

*“We’re very proud to partner with the National Skills Week team to shine a spotlight on the incredible career pathways and opportunities within South Australia’s booming building and construction industry.*

*We’re seeing every day how infrastructure and housing projects are fuelling our state’s growth, and there’s never been a better time for young South Australians to get involved with a career that is hands-on, exciting and geared towards success.*

*Building and construction is more than just a job, it’s a career for life, and at CITB we’re delighted to be helping people trade up and kickstart their tradie ambitions, with funding, support and training pathways available through our doorways2construction program.”*

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

*“National Skills Week is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact Vocational Education and Training (VET) has on individuals, communities, and industries across Australia. This year’s theme, ‘Explore ALL the Options’, captures the breadth of opportunities available through apprenticeships and traineeships. At a time when skills shortages are reshaping our workforce, VET is not just relevant - it’s essential. As a proud supporter of this initiative, we encourage Australian to explore the diverse and rewarding careers that begin with VET”.*

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

**Lara Wilson, Certificate III in School Based Education Support**

**2024 School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, South Australian Training Awards**

Lara was a ‘straight A’ student at school with an interest in pursuing a career in which she could work with children when her school’s VET coordinator suggested she apply for a school-based traineeship at Hospital School SA. She was paid for her time on the job while the certificate III she studied as part of the traineeship contributed towards her achieving her SACE, including one of the highest ATAR’s for anyone in her year level. Lara remains working at Hospital School SA as a student support officer while studying at university to be a primary school teacher. “I'm already working in the field and career that I want to be in, without having to wait until after I finish school to apply for a job,” she says. “I’ve been able to do it all at the same time and earn while I'm learning.”

**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
* 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.

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

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Media Contact:

Libby Conway | The Capital Group | libby@capital.com.au | 0439 076 835

**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. [SA Government, TAFE SA’s popular Fee-Free courses](https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/media-releases/news-archive/tafe-sas-popular-fee-free-courses-delivering-vital-employment-skills) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Jobs and Skills Australia Recruitment Snapshot SA](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-05/Recruitment%20snapshot%20South%20Australia.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)