



August 2024

Introducing Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect — your monthly update!

Welcome to the first edition of Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect.

As a valued stakeholder of the [Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032](#), this monthly newsletter brings you insights and updates on workforce and skills development initiatives happening across the state. We hope you find this month's edition valuable and informative.

To continue receiving this newsletter please [subscribe below](#).

Count me in!

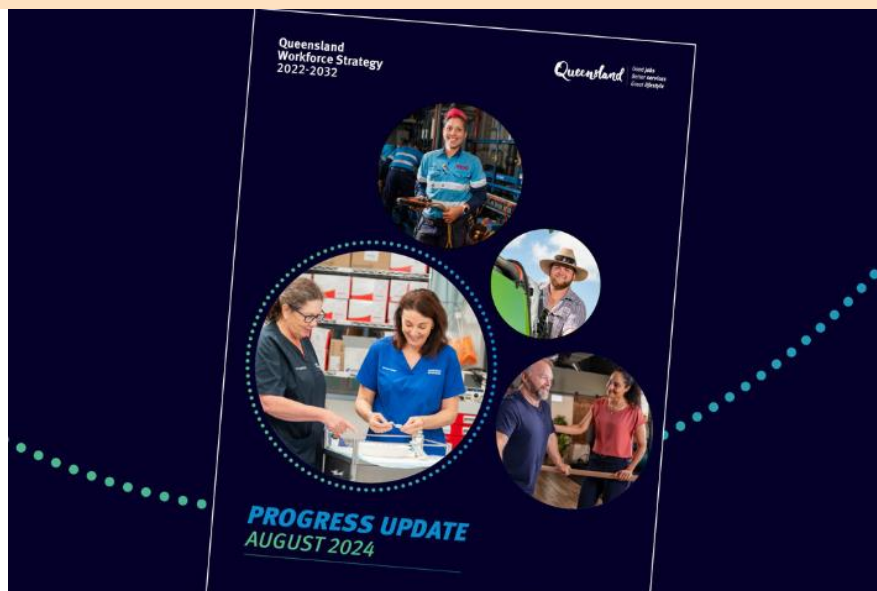


Image: Queensland Workforce Strategy's Progress Update August 2024

Celebrating two years of the Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032

It's been two years since the launch of the [Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032](#), and together, we're making incredible strides in building a skilled and resilient workforce for Queensland.

Key achievements to date include:

- **\$70+ million** invested in new workforce initiatives, building on a **\$1.2 billion** commitment in 2023-24 for skills and training.
- **50,000+ job seekers and workers** and **17,000+ employers** set to receive support.
- **140+ community and industry partners** collaborating with the Queensland Government to drive workforce innovation and growth.

The Queensland Workforce Strategy continues to drive growth, support communities, and provide secure jobs across the state. Together, we're building a skilled and future-ready workforce.

Download the full [Progress Update August 2024](#).



Image: Alexandra Evers accepts her Diploma of Nursing from Mater Education.

Free TAFE provides a flying career start

50-year-old Bardon mum Alexandra Ever was a flight attendant for 12 years before swapping wings for wards – accessing first-class training, to support a new career in nursing.

Alexandra is one of Queensland's latest Diploma of Nursing graduates, having received free training with Mater Education thanks to the Queensland Government's life-changing [Free TAFE program](#).

One of 80 graduates, Alexandra has been offered a graduate program in orthopaedics at Mater Private in Brisbane before continuing her studies at university.

The Diploma of Nursing is fully funded by the Queensland Government through an investment of up to \$87.5 million to support 3,500 training places in 2024.

In addition to Mater Education, the [Free Diploma of Nursing](#) is delivered by TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity at locations across the state.

To learn more about free and subsidised training, visit qld.gov.au/skillspower.



Image: Queensland Jobs and Skills on show at the Logan-based Multicultural Career and Job Expo.

Queensland jobs and skills on show — four expos, two days, one big goal

The [Queensland Skills Strategy](#) is not just a plan; it's a commitment to action, which came to life in a spectacular way this month.

Over two days (15 and 16 August), thousands of school students, jobs seekers, and workers — along with their supporters — were reached through four separate Queensland Jobs and Skills expos in Brisbane, Logan, Mackay and Mount Isa.

Our mission? To help one million Queenslanders access [Free TAFE and subsidised training](#) programs that open doors to good, local jobs. Our team connected with attendees, sharing valuable information about in-demand jobs and training pathways.

The Logan expo, held during Multicultural Queensland Month, was a standout, welcoming more than 1,000 people from diverse cultural backgrounds in just four hours at the Multicultural Career and Job Expo. [Read more](#).

Next up, our team will be in Cairns on 29 August 2024. [Find an expo near you](#).



Trade to Teach Internship Program — applications now open

Are you an experienced tradesperson ready for a new and rewarding career? [Trade to Teach \(T2T\) Internship Program](#) can help you make the transition into teaching.

The T2T Program provides assistance for those passionate about sharing their skills with future generations. Successful applicants receive a \$20,000 scholarship during the first year of study and a paid 3-year teaching internship with in-classroom support.

On completion, you'll secure a permanent teaching position in one of Queensland's state schools.

Join us for a Live Chat at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 11 September to find out more. [Register here.](#)

[Submit your application](#) by Sunday, 22 September 2024 to be considered.

The T2T Program is powered by the Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032 to support skilled professionals to share their expertise with future generations.



New micro-credentials to skill more Queenslanders

More than 4500 workers and jobseekers and approximately 1500 enterprises will be supported in the latest round of the [Micro-credentialing Program](#) with \$3.26 million being shared across 15 projects.

The program supports industries to develop short, just-in-time, non-accredited courses that can help address current and emerging skills needs. Highlights from the second round of funding for the Micro-credentialing Program include:

- Manufacturing of Precast Concrete by National Precast Concrete Association
- Better Builders Skills Program by Master Builders Queensland
- Fundamentals of Cobotic Welding by Weld Australia
- Home Now by QShelter; and
- Neighbourhood Centre Foundations.

Read about the successful recipients [here](#).

This program is powered by the Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032.

Program expanded: Free tools for first year apprentices

The Free Tools for First Years program has been expanded to include relevant engineering qualifications and back-dated eligibility from 1 January 2024 to 22 May 2023.

The program launched with a rebate of up to \$1,000 to cover the costs of tools for eligible apprentices in the construction, plumbing, engineering or electrical trades.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Image: Manufacturing Skills Queensland CEO, Rebecca Andrews, launching their WITMP.

Key funding supporting women in trades

The new \$1.35 million [Women in Trades Mentoring Program](#) (WITMP) being delivered by Manufacturing Skills Queensland (MSQ) is set to benefit the manufacturing industry. The initiative, developed in partnership with the Queensland Government, will provide intensive support to 100 female apprentices in their first or second year of their manufacturing apprenticeship.

The program offers a support network to female apprentices, connecting them with experienced women mentors in the industry, supporting them as they complete training and navigate their transition into the workforce.

It will also support small businesses to elevate their workplace gender equality plans, offering mental health inductions, and mentoring skill development.

Additional industry stakeholders participating in the WITMP include [Motor Trades Association of Queensland](#), [Energy Skills Queensland](#), [Housing Industry Association](#), and [Master Builders Queensland](#).

Funded by the Queensland Government, the WITMP aims to attract and engage new, underrepresented cohorts, and develop a diverse and sustainably skilled workforce to future-proof Queensland industry.

[Read more here.](#)



Image: Special guests and panelists at the recent Queensland Launch of National Skills Week.

Game-changing skills strategy showcased at Queensland National Skills Week launch

More than 100 guests attended the Queensland launch of [National Skills Week 2024](#) on 22 August at Queensland's Parliament House to hear from our speakers.

DESBT's Alexandra Winter, Executive Director of the Queensland Skills Strategy Office, was among our six panelists who shared the sector's accomplishments and challenges.

With thanks to our inspiring guest speakers Brian Wexham, SkillsOne CEO and Chair of National Skills Wee; Trevor Schwenke, CEO WorldSkills Australia; David Barron, Executive Manager Stakeholder Engagement, Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance; Paul Kahlert, CEO All Purpose Transport; Elliana McRae, 2024 Skillaroo Restaurant Service; and Andrew Hosking, WorldSkills Team Australia Expert Bricklaying.

Representing the broad spectrum of training and skills stakeholders, they delved into pressing topics in the vocational education and training sector. Conversations ranged from skills for rapidly evolving industries, to promoting and valuing training, skills for every stage of life, and ensuring that all Queenslanders have access to quality training in regional communities.

[Read more here.](#)

Wide Bay forest and timber industry plans their future workforce

The Wide Bay region is set to benefit from a new workforce development plan aimed at supporting the future skills needs of the forest and timber industry.

Jobs Queensland, Timber Queensland and local industry stakeholders developed the plan to help address local workforce challenges and support those in the industry to live and work locally.

The workforce development plan is powered by the Queensland Workforce Strategy to support industry-led, community-centred and government-enabled workforce initiatives.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Countdown to the Queensland Training Awards state final — 7 September 2024

Nine outstanding finalists have been selected to compete in the 2024 [Queensland Training Awards'](#) state-only categories, joining the 75 regional winners announced in July.

These finalists, nominated for Small Training Provider of the Year, Large Training Provider of the Year, and the Premier's Industry Collaboration Award, are demonstrating how training in Queensland empowers people to achieve their goals.

Among the Large Training Provider finalists are Australian Paramedical College, TAFE Queensland, and Enterprise & Training Company (ETC), a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing inclusive training programs. ETC supports people with a disability and brings together students from various backgrounds to learn and thrive with tailored support.



Finalists for the Premier's Industry Collaboration Award include innovative projects such as:

- a specialised facility for training luxury yacht builders
- a revamped program preparing volunteer foster and kinship carers to support young, vulnerable people and enter community services roles
- a partnership that's developing digital skills on Palm Island, connecting the community to new employment opportunities through the Palm Island Digital Service Centre (*pictured*).

The Queensland Training Awards state final will be held on **Saturday, 7 September 2024 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**. [Secure your ticket](#) or stay updated via facebook.com/skillsforqld for live coverage of the 14 award categories.

Upcoming events



Cairns Careers Expo

Thursday, 29 August 2024

8.30am to 4.00pm

Cairns Showgrounds, Fred Moule Pavillion
109-127 Mulgrave Road, Parramatta Park

Free event, open to the public featuring more than 100 exhibitors on site including universities, training organisations, and employers.

[Explore now](#)



North Burnett Community and Careers Expo

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

9.00am to 1.00pm

Monto Community Hall, 51 Newton Street

Free event showcasing current vacancies, future opportunities, skilled and unskilled career pathways for students, job seekers, employers and businesses.

[Read more](#)



Toowoomba Jobs, Skills and Careers Expo

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

9.00am to 3.00pm

The Good Shed, 3 Victoria Street, Toowoomba

Free event, open to the public hosted by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. More event details coming soon.

[Find out more](#)

Strategies powering Queensland

Queensland's workforce, skills and small business strategies work together – creating a strong framework that supports Queenslanders into good jobs and helps businesses to start, grow and thrive.

Learn more about the people-powering strategies led by the [Department of Employment, Small Business and Training](#) here:

- [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#)
- [Queensland Skills Strategy](#)
- [Queensland Small Business Strategy](#).

Stay connected and informed!

Thank you for reading. If you enjoyed this update and don't want to miss out on future insights, be sure to [subscribe](#) for regular updates straight to your inbox.



The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas from across Queensland.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state.

This email was sent by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
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