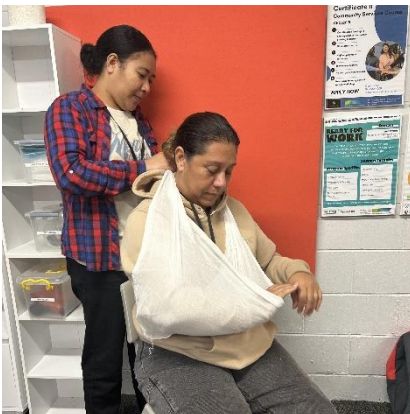




February 2025

## Community organisations: funding now available for local skills development



Skilling Queenslanders for Work is open for applications from community organisations who deliver local training and employment projects.

If your organisation is committed to helping Queenslanders gain new skills and secure meaningful jobs, this is your chance to make a real impact.

Funding is available for projects that support:

- women returning to work
- First Nations peoples
- people with disability
- culturally and linguistically diverse peoples
- mature-age job seekers.

Help create skills and employment opportunities for those who need them most and make a positive change in the community.

Applications close 5pm, Thursday 27 March 2025.

Apply now



### Free short courses to help jobseekers

Developed in partnership with [TAFE Queensland](#), six new [Back to Work](#) courses will help jobseekers and employees to enter, re-enter and stay in the workforce.

The first three are ready for enrolment:

- **Job search techniques (modern)** – developing skills to successfully search for jobs using current methods and platforms. The micro-credential provides information on navigating online job boards, targeted searches and application material.
- **Becoming an employee** - starting work in Queensland, including rights and responsibilities, tax and budgeting tips, fit for work requirements and understanding workplace ethics and professionalism.
- **Building a digital and online profile** - covers the fundamentals of a professional online profile with tips on creating an engaging profile, managing your online profile and how to build your network.

Back to Work courses are free, online, and designed to be completed over two hours or at the student's own pace.



### Building Queensland's skilled workforce

With over 40,000 apprentices and trainees starting in 2024, the Queensland Government is encouraging more people to explore apprenticeships.

Major employer Hastings Deering is one business investing in Queensland's future, recently welcoming approximately 50 new apprentices to its team (*pictured above*). These apprentices will undertake qualifications in areas such as Certificate III Engineering, Certificate III Electrotechnology Electrician, and Certificate III Mobile Plant Technology, gaining practical skills while working across nine locations, including the Far North, Central Queensland, and South-East Queensland.

A range of existing support is available to employers who take on apprentices, including payroll tax rebates, premium discounts from WorkCover Queensland and the [Back to Work](#) program, where employers recruit eligible unemployed jobseekers.

Now is the perfect time for employers to take-on apprentices, sharing their hard-earned knowledge and helping train the next generation of high-skilled tradespeople.

Learn more

Enrol now



2024 Queensland Teacher/Trainer of the Year, Rebecca Hoffensetz

## Be recognised as a training champion: nominate now!

Individuals and organisations are invited to nominate for the 2025 Queensland Training Awards, celebrating the achievements, best practice and innovation that shapes the Queensland training sector.

Be recognised for your hard work, connect with other passionate professionals and share your success story.

Applications close midnight, Tuesday 11 March 2025.

Enter now

## Skills development unlocking employment and economic empowerment

Toowoomba local Rachael Carter (*pictured*) is creating pathways to employment and economic independence for migrant and refugee women through skills development, mentorship, and entrepreneurship.

Recognised as the *2024 Diversity and Inclusion Champion* at the Multicultural Queensland Awards, Rachael's work is helping culturally and linguistically diverse communities gain the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the workforce.



Through the *Learner Driver Mentor Program*, she is equipping refugee women with essential driving skills, enabling them to obtain their licenses - a key requirement for many jobs and a step toward greater independence.

As co-founder of Mosaic Hues, a social enterprise gift store in Toowoomba, Rachael is fostering entrepreneurship by providing women with business skills, retail experience, and a platform to sell their products.

By championing practical skills training and employment pathways, Rachael's work is transforming lives and strengthening community and connection in Toowoomba's diverse economy.

If you know someone who is making a difference in Queensland's multicultural community, show your support and celebrate their achievements by nominating them for a [Multicultural Queensland Award](#).

[Learn more](#)



### Apprentices star at National Apprenticeship Week celebration

Industry leaders, employers, and training advocates gathered to celebrate apprentices and their contributions at the [MIGAS Apprentices and Trainees Stakeholder Luncheon](#) held on 12 February. Highlights included:

- fourth year carpentry apprentice, Harry Steptoe (*pictured, left*), was named MIGAS Apprentice of the Year.
- premier luxury motor yacht builders, Riviera Australia (*training manager Keira Badke pictured, right*), was awarded the inaugural Australian Apprenticeships Leadership Medal for exceptional investment in apprentice development.
- accredited futurist Dr Ben Hamer projected forward 20, 50 and 100 years into the future of apprenticeships, where life on Mars in 3D printed homes is possible!

With a focus on tradie mental health, National Apprenticeship Week celebrates the determination and grit it takes to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship, the importance of employer support and the advocacy of industry stakeholders.



### The ultimate in skills action is coming!

The [WorldSkills 2025 National Championships and Skills Show](#) is the biggest hands-on display of skills in Australia.

Held every two years, the show provides our top trainees and apprentices a platform to demonstrate their skills and compete against the country's best skills champions.

The competition will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 12-14 June and includes:

- show-stopping skill competitions across trades and technologies
- interactive activities for all ages – try a new skill!
- career pathways, expert insights, and networking opportunities
- a celebration of excellence in skills and trades.

Held alongside the [Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo](#), students, teachers, parents, and career counsellors are invited to explore, learn, and try exciting career pathways. Tickets are free, mark your calendar and register now for the hottest skills ticket this year!

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

## International Women's Day 2025

On Saturday 8 March we celebrate International Women's Day with the theme 'Accelerate Action'. The day provides a platform for collective action towards gender parity.

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full equality, according to data from the World Economic Forum.

Focusing on the need to 'Accelerate Action' emphasises the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to address the systemic and cultural barriers that women face.

Help create an equitable world by recruiting, retaining and developing diverse talent, supporting women into leadership and forging women's economic empowerment.

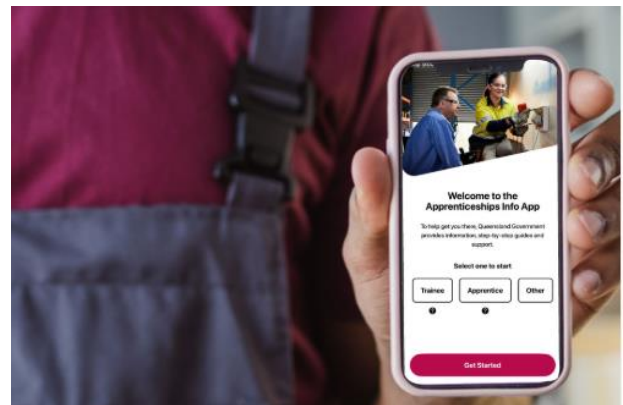
[Learn more](#)



### Upskilling from cook to chef with a cash bonus!

Casual cooks thinking of upskilling their culinary career to become qualified chefs are being offered flexible qualification pathways by the [Queensland Tourism Industry Council](#).

Through the *Registered Trade Skills Pathway* program, working cooks can gain the skills and experience they need to qualify as chefs.



### Find it all on the Apprenticeship Info app

The Apprenticeships Info app provides a one-stop resource for apprentices and trainees when setting out on their career journey.

What's inside the app?

- a digital card with apprenticeships info and contact details
- direct links to important support services

The skilling program removes many of the barriers linked with traditional qualifications and provides greater flexibility for working cooks.

Great financial incentives are on offer, with every graduate of the program receiving a cash bonus of \$1,100!

[Learn more](#)

- info on getting started, financial help, and more.

The app is designed to ensure apprentices and trainees have the tools and resources to thrive and have the relevant information to address any challenges that come their way. Available on Android and Apple.

[Learn more](#)

## Webinars



Writing a standout nomination: free webinar for the 2025 Queensland Training Awards

**Wednesday 26 February 2025**

**12 noon - 1.00 pm**

Join this exclusive webinar on how to write a standout nomination, with a step-by-step walk-through of the nomination process, including expert tips and Q&A from Queensland Training Awards experts.

Be recognised for your skills and training achievements, join the webinar and [prepare your application](#) before nominations close at midnight, Tuesday 11 March 2025.

[Register here](#)



Plan for success: free webinar on workforce planning and procurement from Industry Workforce Advisors

**Wednesday 19 March 2025**

**9.00 am - 10.30 am**

Is one of your business goals supplying to government, now or in the future? Are you prepared for future growth and maximising this opportunity?

Learn how strategic workforce planning can help address workforce challenges, support business goals, and prepare you for sustainable growth. Get expert insights and actionable strategies from our [Industry Workforce Advisors](#).

[Register here](#)

## Events and Programs



## VET in Schools forum

**Time: 9.30am to 11:30am**

**Date: Tuesday 25 February 2025**

**Venue: Townsville Sport Precinct,  
3 - 9 Redpath Street, North Ward**

This dynamic event unites VET in Schools stakeholders to explore emerging trends, share innovative strategies, and strengthen industry connections.

With four guest speakers, join the conversation, help shape the future of vocational education and training, and drive partnerships that forge real impact.

[Register here](#)



## Queensland Women's Week

**Sunday 2 to 9 March 2025**

Join a [Queensland Women's Week](#) event!

This year's theme of *March Forward* is a celebration of women and girls who have stood up to be heard. It acknowledges the fundamental right of every woman and girl to equally participate and be safe in all areas of our society including education, the economy and workforce, politics, and importantly, at home.

With events throughout Queensland, join in and celebrate the women in your communities.

[Learn more](#)



## The Upskilling Edge: unlocking workforce potential with Simon Tufrey

**Time: 7.30 am to 9:30 am**

**Date: Tuesday 18 March 2025**

**Venue: Ocean International Hotel,  
1 Bridge Rd, Mackay and ONLINE**



## Cairns #GoHealth Careers Expo

**Time: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm**

**Date: Wednesday 26 March 2025**

**Venue: Cairns Convention Centre,  
Sheridan and Wharf St, Cairns**

The ability to identify, develop, and leverage workforce skills is key to staying competitive. Keynote speaker and HR expert Simon Tufrey will provide actionable insights to help build more skilled, adaptable, and high-performing teams.

This event is a must if you're looking to assess your team's current capabilities, address critical skills gaps, or future-proof your business.

[Register here](#)

This industry immersive event connects students in years 9, 10, 11 and 12 with industry leaders, focused on jobs and careers in acute healthcare, wellness health, allied health and social services.

Featuring live demonstrations, mock health facilities, and information booths offering insights into school-based traineeships and work experience opportunities.

[Register here](#)

## Awards



[Nominate](#)

### Top Tourism Town Awards

Do you know a hidden gem, a hyped hotspot, or a local treasure? Nominate your favourite holiday destinations and tour guides in the [2025 Queensland Top Tourism Awards!](#)

The Top Tourism Town and Top Tour Guide Awards celebrate our state's best tour guides and coach captains, and the regional communities that work together to make their destinations a go-to for visitors.

**Nominations close Monday, 10 March 2025.**

### Queensland Reconciliation Awards 2025



[Nominate](#)

### Queensland Reconciliation Awards

The Queensland Reconciliation Awards recognises initiatives going above and beyond their core business to foster reconciliation and pave the way for a better future for our state.

From businesses to schools, local sporting clubs, councils and government agencies, the awards recognise reconciliation programs that improve social relations, enhance health outcomes and support employment for Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous people.



**Nominations close Monday, 10 March 2025.**



[Nominate](#)

## Multicultural Queensland Awards

These awards provide an important opportunity to share the extraordinary and innovative ways people and organisations are making Queensland communities stronger and more cohesive by ensuring everyone is supported to connect, contribute, and belong.

Now is the time to nominate those who are making a difference - and give them the recognition they deserve for working towards building a prosperous, fair and harmonious Queensland.

**Nominations close Sunday, 16 March 2025.**

**Stay connected and informed!**

Share with your network and [subscribe](#) for regular updates.



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 Trade, Employment and Training  
Level 14 | 150 Mary Street | Brisbane | Queensland

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**Queensland  
Government**