



Queensland  
**JOBS AND SKILLS  
CONNECT**

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## September 2024

### Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect — your monthly update!

Welcome to the second edition of Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect. This monthly newsletter brings you insights and updates on workforce and skills development initiatives happening across the state. Please **share with your network** and **subscribe** below.

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## Regional Jobs Committees - delivering local skilling and workforce solutions

Regional Jobs Committees deliver localised workforce solutions

As Australia's most decentralised state, Queensland faces distinct workforce challenges across its regions. To address these, twelve Regional Jobs Committees (RJC) have been established, empowering each region to develop tailored solutions that meet their specific workforce needs.

The Regional Jobs Committees play a critical role in:

- identifying local workforce challenges and connecting stakeholders with government programs, resources, and events
- addressing barriers to training, workforce participation, and business growth
- developing strategies to resolve skills gaps and workforce shortages
- supporting regional jobs growth and planning for future employment needs
- fostering collaboration among businesses, industry leaders, government, training providers, and schools to align local skills with economic opportunities

Led by local leaders, the Regional Jobs Committees are committed to delivering workforce solutions that align with each region's unique needs and economic priorities. To contact your local Regional Jobs Committee or learn more, visit [qld.gov.au/regional-jobs-committees](http://qld.gov.au/regional-jobs-committees).



### Industry-led solutions to boost Queensland's priority workforces

Queensland is putting industry in the driver's seat with its new [Industry Skills Solutions](#) initiative.

Backed by \$8 million in 2024-25, this initiative will start by targeting critical industries in:

- aged care
- construction
- early childhood education and care
- non-traditional industries for women.

Through Industry Skills Solutions, employers and industry experts will take the lead in co-designing and delivering tailored training solutions to meet specific skills needs.

This collaborative approach will ensure that innovative training responses directly address



### Skilling into the future with micro credentials

The Queensland Government's [Micro-credentialing Program](#) is helping businesses upskill through targeted, industry-led training. Now in its third round, the program has already supported 32 Queensland organisations in developing micro-credentials tailored to industry needs.

One success story is Master Builders, who created a Home Warranty Insurance Workshop with the grant. Nikki Mason, co-owner of Adam Mason Homes, completed the workshop to gain valuable insights into premium payments, risk management, and home warranty insurance.

This micro-credential empowered Nikki to streamline administrative processes, providing better support to her husband, Adam, in managing

current workforce gaps, helps attract new talent, and creates career pathways in key industries.

From developing micro-credentials to crafting new training programs, Queensland's industry-led focus will fast-track the workforce development needed to keep pace with evolving demands.

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their bespoke building company. With new skills, businesses like Adam Mason Homes are staying competitive, embracing new technologies, and boosting productivity.

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**Applications for Round 3 of the program close 5pm, Thursday 31 October 2024.**

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## ***Wulgurukaba Buwari*: Townsville TAFE's renewable energy training hub**

The \$13.2 million Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Training Centre at Bohle TAFE in Townsville has been renamed *Wulgurukaba Buwari*, meaning "industrious place of learning" on Wulgurukaba Country during a traditional ceremony. The name was chosen by the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba Elders and reflects the site's role in supporting Queensland's renewable energy future.



In addition to the training hub, the campus recently opened a \$5.09 million Advanced Manufacturing Skills Lab, enhancing training in high-end manufacturing technologies like augmented reality and robotics.

The naming or renaming of TAFE facilities is considered part of TAFE Queensland's broader Reconciliation Action Plan, following extensive consultation with First Nations communities across the state.

These developments are part of the Queensland Government's \$100 million *Equipping TAFE for Our Future* program, aimed at advancing skills in priority sectors.

Learn more about the campus on [Townsville Trade Training Centre \(Bohle\) | TAFE Queensland](#).

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### **Nine organisations awarded \$6m+ for innovative workforce projects**

Recipients from Round 2 of the [Workforce Connect Fund](#) will develop and implement large



### **\$3m traineeship fund to boost housing and construction workforce**

The [Housing Construction Traineeship Fund](#) will support over 100 construction trainees with full-

scale projects that build stronger, more diverse, and inclusive workforces in key sectors such as health, manufacturing, agriculture, recycling and more.

The [successful projects](#) include:

- aged care nursing attraction and retention
- aquaculture training
- advanced technologies for interpreters
- attracting workers with a disability to manufacturing
- cultural diversity training programs.

The initiatives will support 1,000 employers, 2,750 employees and 1,700+ jobs across Queensland.

To learn more about the grants available, visit [qld.gov.au/wcf](http://qld.gov.au/wcf).

time, paid work on residential and social housing projects. Participants will earn a Certificate I in Construction and a General Construction Induction Training Card (White Card).

The fund is designed to increase the participation of underrepresented cohorts from diverse backgrounds to gain vital skills, with funded organisations providing wrap around support, including mentoring and job preparation.

This initiative, part of the [Homes for Queenslanders Plan](#), aims to boost Queensland's construction workforce to meet the target of one million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 social homes.

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## October is National Safe Work Month

The safety of employers and workers across Australia is everybody's responsibility. This October, commit to creating a safe and healthy workplace by raising awareness to the physical, psychological and social hazards that may occur at work.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Queensland leads the way in clean energy skills, fuelling future jobs

Queensland has announced its second TAFE Centre of Excellence, establishing the state as a frontrunner in clean energy batteries and technology training for future jobs.

The centre - part of a proposed national network of up to 20 specialised TAFE centres of excellence - is an initiative of the [Queensland Skills Strategy](#) supported by a \$20 million investment from both state and Commonwealth governments through the [National Skills Agreement](#).



TAFE Centre of Excellence — Clean Energy (Batteries)

The centre, which will be coordinated from TAFE Queensland's SkillsTech campuses, will not only supply the skills for the clean energy industry, but also positions Queenslanders for employment in the rapidly evolving energy landscape.

The growing need for skilled workers in the fields of energy storage, home energy efficiency, and electric vehicles is outlined in the [Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan](#), which projects that 100,000 jobs by 2040, predominantly in regional areas, can be supported by the energy transition.

The Centre of Excellence will support a wide range of qualifications, including promoting and implementing higher apprenticeship pathways into the clean energy sector.

The centre's announcement on 17 September 2024 complements initiatives like [Free TAFE](#) and [Free Apprenticeships for under 25s](#), aiming to train more Queenslanders for clean energy roles.

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### Film program to fast track a job-ready industry crew

Screen Queensland's Film Intensive Script to Screen (FISS) program offers emerging film professionals, writers, and storytellers with the skills and hands on experience needed to succeed in the rapidly growing Queensland film industry.

Supported by the [Workforce Connect Fund](#) under the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#), this initiative aims to empower the local workforce with the expertise needed to thrive in booming sectors like film and screen production.

The industry development program provides new and emerging crew with essential job-ready skills and industry credits in roles and departments including camera, costume, lighting, production and locations. With mentoring from highly-



### Help at hand for businesses facing workforce challenges

[Industry Workforce Advisors](#) are helping small and medium sized businesses across the state to implement new workforce strategies and access more grants, subsidies and employer incentives.

The 11 advisors cover a range of industries and are just an email or phone call away.

Industry Workforce Advisors can help employers with recruitment strategies to access larger applicant pools, including people from underrepresented cohorts.

The advisors work directly with employers to address individual needs and can refer small businesses to the [Workforce Connect Fund](#) –

experienced industry professionals, the program culminates in the production of new short films through a series of workshops and intensives.

Now open for applications, the program will be conducted face-to-face in Cairns and Brisbane in 2025. Learn more at [screenqueensland.com.au/fiss](https://screenqueensland.com.au/fiss).

**Applications close 29 November 2024.**

[Human Resources Support Grants](#) to help fund innovative solutions.

The program, established under the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#), is designed to ensure all Queenslanders have employment opportunities, as we build a stronger, more capable workforce.

Connect with an [Industry Workforce Advisor](#) today.

## Connecting students with clean energy careers

Check out the new STEM Futures: Clean Energy and Careers education program for students in Years 7 – 12.

Designed for secondary school teachers, the program is a suite of lessons bringing together Science, Technology, Design and Maths to explore renewable energy and profile the exciting clean energy careers that await students!

The program has been developed by Cool.Org with support from the Clean Energy Council, for the Queensland Government as a key action of [Queensland's Clean Energy Workforce Roadmap](#).

Access the program on [STEM Futures: Clean Energy and Careers | Cool.org](#)



### Doors open for First Nations theatre enthusiasts

Six newly launched short courses will provide First Nations students with unique pathways into the theatre industry in Far North Queensland.

Developed by CQUniversity Australia in collaboration with JUTE Theatre Company, these programs will offer micro-credentials in both technical and acting skills, aimed at addressing the industry's skills shortage with First Nations



### Aussie skills and vocational talent showcased at WorldSkills Lyon 2024

Over four incredible days, 32 young Australian Skillaroos showcased their exceptional talent and dedication at the 47th WorldSkills International Championships in Lyon, France, solidifying the future of trades and vocational training on the world stage.

The team earned 14 Medallions of Excellence, with Ross Colquhoun taking home the prestigious

talent.

CQUniversity's Associate Lecturer in Theatre and Music, Patty Preece, emphasises the transformative potential of the program, which seeks to create new opportunities for a community historically underrepresented in the Queensland performing arts industry.

Funded by the Queensland Government, these courses will not only enhance access to training but also help build a vibrant local creative workforce to support the region's growing arts sector.

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Best of Nation award for automobile technology. Harrison Field (pictured) also made a remarkable achievement, securing third place globally in welding.

WorldSkills Australia continues to champion excellence in vocational, technological, and service-oriented careers, providing young Australians with the opportunity to excel.

Do you know a trainee or apprentice interested in becoming the next Skillaroo champion?

Visit [WorldSkills Australia](#) to learn more.

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## Indigenous business named small employer of the year

Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation has been recognised as the Small Employer of the Year at the 2024 Queensland Training Awards.

Based in Yarrabah, this not-for-profit has grown from one part-time employee in 2016 to 15 staff members, thanks to their incredible Indigenous ranger program. Through this program, participants receive hands-on training, mentoring, and qualifications that empower individuals and strengthen community skills.



By partnering with TAFE Queensland and other organisations, rangers are completing essential training, such as qualifications in land and sea care, as well as diver certifications.

"Winning this award is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our rangers, many of whom have overcome challenges in literacy and numeracy. We're all about empowering them to achieve their goals" said Executive Director Helen Tait.

*Image: Small Employer of the Year winners: Stirling King, Executive Director Helen Tait and Brody Gray.*

The state final of the Queensland Training Awards held on September 7 brought together sponsors, training stakeholders and many vocational education and training supporters to recognise the achievements and positive stories from this year's fourteen [winners](#).

To find out more about this year's winners, go to [QTA winners and finalists](#) or [complete an expression of interest](#) if you would like to nominate for the 2025 awards.

Queensland's Indigenous owned and operated businesses will be celebrated during Indigenous Business Month in October with a range of events and activities happening across the country. [LEARN MORE.](#)

## Upcoming events



### Bridge to Business Expo

**Thursday, 10 October 2024**  
**10.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Beenleigh State High School,**  
**40 Alamein Street, Beenleigh**

Free event for school leavers looking for employment and paid training opportunities in the Logan area. The events connect local employers and training organisations with youth, schools, students and interested community members.

[Read more](#)



### Work Well Conference 2024

**Tuesday, 22 October 2024**  
**7.30am to 6.30pm**  
**RNA Showgrounds,**  
**600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills**

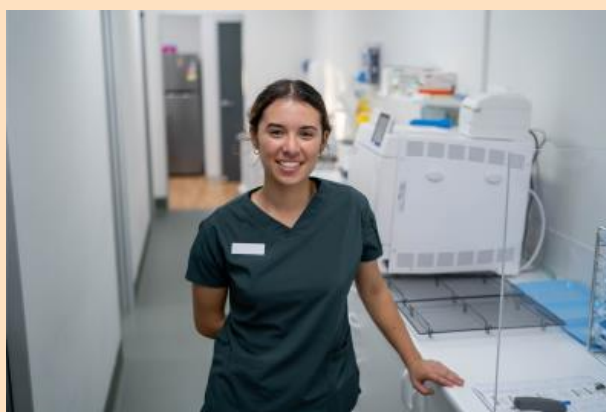
This full day event includes an impressive line-up of keynote speakers focusing on evidence-based strategies and rehabilitative solutions to ensure safe workplaces. Concluding with a networking event, secure your space today.

[Read more](#)



### North Burnett Community & Careers Expo

**Wednesday, 2 October 2024**  
**9.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Monto Community Hall,**  
**51 Newton Street, Monto**



### Redlands Coast Career and Course Expo

**Wednesday, 9 October 2024**  
**1.30pm to 4.30pm**  
**Paul Bancroft Centre,**  
**Cleveland District State High School**



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[Read more](#)



## Mackay Jobs Fair 2024

Wednesday, 9 October 2024

10.00am to 1.00pm

CQUniversity Mackay City,  
94 Sydney Street, Mackay

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### 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!

Share with your network and [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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