

Queensland **JOBS AND SKILLS CONNECT**

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March 2025

Find your community's
local skills solutions

Local Skills
Solutions Grants



\$3 million for projects to build local skills

The Queensland Government's [Local Skills Solutions](#) program is now open for applications!

The program addresses local skills and training gaps that can be unique to the regional, rural and remote communities of Queensland.

The program encourages collaboration among local employers, community organisations, and industry stakeholders to support locals to gain skills for local jobs—particularly those from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. Target groups include First Nations peoples, young people, women, and people with disability.

All projects will require a partnering [Skills Assure Supplier](#) to deliver accredited training, and at least one industry partner where training and/or employment/career opportunities being offered.

[Learn more](#)



Empowering First Nations students through career pathways

More than 145 First Nations students participated in the recent *Pathways for Mob* events in Moreton Bay and Maryborough, engaging with employment, training, and cultural opportunities designed to support their future success.

With over 70 stallholders across both days, including local businesses, industry leaders, training providers, and cultural mentors, the events provided students with direct access to key networks, career pathways, and the resources needed to transition successfully into the workforce.

By connecting students with industry and training opportunities in a culturally supportive environment, *Pathways for Mob* continues to play a vital role in strengthening career pathways and workforce participation for First Nations young people.

[Learn more](#)



Program links industry to skills and jobs priorities

The [Industry Skills and Jobs Advisor program](#) helps shape the Queensland Government's future priorities and investment in vocational education, skills development, and workforce growth while advocating for industries.

The program is a vital link between business and government, providing evidence-based advice on workforce trends, skills gaps, and training needs to ensure vocational education and training programs align with the real needs of industry. Connecting with an advisor allows you to:

- gain insights into current industry trends and regional workforce challenges
- align your training offerings with skills gaps and demands identified by businesses
- collaborate with employers to ensure your programs deliver relevant, in-demand skills for the future workforce.
- advocate for your sector by contributing to national reforms and workforce development initiatives.

[Learn more](#)

North Queensland Cowboys engineering new futures for locals



Townsville locals are on the path to new careers thanks to the Cowboys 'Dream, Believe, Achieve – Engineering Pathways' project.

Funded by the [Skilling Queenslanders for Work](#) initiative, the Cowboys Community Team will deliver the project in partnership with TAFE Queensland's Trade Training Centre (Bohle), assisting participants to complete a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways and learn job-ready skills.

Tiahn Dorrick (*pictured*), one of 12 participants in the project, is grateful for the support of her project mentors and TAFE teachers. She believes her goal to work on aircrafts, and remain in her much-loved hometown, is now within reach.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is extended for applications until 5pm, Thursday 3 April.

[Learn more](#)



Strengthening the workforce pipeline

The first Community Services Gateway to Industry Schools Project - Connect Event for 2025 was recently held in Bundaberg as a key milestone in fostering collaboration between industry and educators to support Queensland's future workforce.

Strong partnerships between schools and industry professionals are critical in equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue careers in the Community Services sector. The event provided a platform for



Central Queensland to benefit from TAFE Centre for Building Excellence

The CQUniversity Rockhampton North TAFE Centre for Excellence was officially opened this month, doubling the training capacity for construction and trades in the region to more than 350 students per year.

The \$10.2m project houses state-of-the-art training facilities for construction related trades including bricklaying, cabinetmaking, carpentry, and plumbing.

meaningful discussions, best practice sharing, and strategic workforce planning.

Industry partners engaged with school representatives to share updates, explore collaboration opportunities, and highlight pathways for students considering careers in community services. This ensures students have access to the insights, training, and resources necessary to transition smoothly into the sector.

The Gateway to Industry Schools Program enables young Queenslanders to engage in industry-based activities across twelve sectors.

[Learn more](#)

The 2,330m square facility includes a large outdoor practical construction space, along with an open plan indoor workshop, classrooms, staff spaces and meeting rooms, general amenities and student breakout spaces.

New tools and learning resources will assist in delivering high quality, industry relevant training that will benefit apprentices and students, and their current and future employers.

With a growing workforce in Central Queensland, the construction sector is set to be the region's fourth largest employer by 2027-28.

[Learn more](#)

Building meaningful careers to support children in need

In early 2024, former foster carer and youth mentor Marina (*pictured*) arrived in Australia, seeking meaningful work. She discovered the [Five Bridges Employment Centre](#) in Beenleigh, which connected her to PeakCare Talent Centre's free training-to-employment program.



This 10-day training, orientation, and induction program equips participants with sector-specific skills and links them directly to jobs in the care sector. It also provides pathways to the Certificate IV in Child, Youth, and Family Intervention, a mandatory qualification for residential youth workers in Queensland.

Now employed as a Mental Health and Disability Support Worker, Marina applies her training daily. She credits PeakCare's 'Hope and Healing Framework' for her confidence and success.

Through the [Workforce Connect Fund](#), the PeakCare Talent Centres have been able to initiate a critical intervention to resolve the long-standing issues of attraction and engagement in the child protection industry in Queensland.

Since launch, the program has helped 40 employers and over 100 jobseekers secure employment.

[Learn more](#)



Grants for growing your workforce

The [Growing Workforce Participation Fund](#) is offering between \$20,000 to \$200,000 for projects that will provide industry-led solutions to employment shortages and retention challenges in regional and select areas of South East Queensland.

The Fund develops partnerships with industry to build longevity and sustainability in the workforce by empowering industry and employers to support jobseekers from identified groups who experience greater disadvantage in the labour market.

Eligible activities include:

- projects that aim to increase labour market participation from the targeted groups (young people (aged 15-24 years), First Nations peoples, long-term unemployed people, culturally and linguistically diverse peoples and people with disability)
- pre-employment support projects
- workforce planning and/or development and associated resource development
- projects that address industry identified employment shortages.

Applications close Wednesday, 30 April 2025

[Learn more](#)



Business efficiencies boosted by supported employee

Miller's Tooling Pty Ltd is a vibrant small business operating for 20+ years in Loganholme, servicing and supplying specialised engineering and machine shop tools.

With the support of the [Back to Work Program](#), Director and owner Paul Miller was able to hire Joel (*pictured*) as a Warehouse Storeman through Back to Work's Employer Incentive Payments.

Joel identifies as having Autism and was previously unemployed before finding his employment pathway with Miller's Tooling.

Paul said, "*Joel is fantastic and is a great asset to the team. He is punctual and has an incredible attention to detail that has seen our return policy improve to become not even 1%.*"

Joel is included in the whole team environment and has career development opportunities in sales.

Paul says the Back to Work funding was extremely beneficial for his business and would encourage other small businesses to apply.

[Learn more](#)

WorldSkills 2025: the ultimate skills showdown!



This June, over 600 of Australia's top apprentices, trainees, and skilled professionals will battle it out at the [WorldSkills 2025 National Championship and Skills Show](#) - a high-energy spectacle of talent and precision.

Held alongside the Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo, this free event is a must for students, job seekers, current apprentices and trainees and skills enthusiasts. Witness elite competitors across 60+ skill categories, from baking to cyber security, as they test their expertise under intense competition.

Get hands-on! Visitors can try new trades at *Try'a Skill* stands, connect with industry leaders, and explore exciting career pathways in vocational education. Don't miss Australia's biggest showcase of skills and training!

[Register now](#)

Events



[Learn more](#)

Screen Queensland: Gaming Developer's Community Program

Date: Through March to May 2025

Venue: Across the Sunshine Coast

It's game on for the Sunshine Coast! From March to May, budding game developers to seasoned pros are invited to attend one of the many workshops that connect and grow the gaming community in Southeast Queensland. Includes informative workshops, networking events, and a community day.

Grants and programs



[Learn more](#)

Seniors Month grants are now open

Eligible organisations can apply for grants of up to \$2,000 to host inclusive events and activities during Queensland Seniors Month in October. Seniors Month is all about promoting positive community attitudes towards older people and ageing while providing opportunities for older people to connect with each other and their communities.

Events and activities during Seniors Month help older Queenslanders feel connected to their community, cared for and celebrated.

Applications close on Friday 28 March 2025.



[Learn more](#)

Disaster helpline for Queenslanders

Any Queenslanders affected by a disaster – like the NQ floods or ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred – can call us on 1300 527 700 for help with legal problems stemming from the disaster. This might include:

- insurance claim issues or refusals
- temporary housing issues
- financial hardship
- family law issues
- other legal problems caused by a disaster.

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
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