

Skills Facts is Skills Tasmania's regular e-newsletter, with all the latest information on Tasmanian and National VET news and events.



SKILLS FACTS

Issue 247 - March 2020

COVID-19 Information and Business Support

The Australian Government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment has set up a page to help students, parents and education providers, as well as job seekers and employers find the information they need to make informed decisions about managing the risk associated with COVID-19. Specific information and fact sheets are available for vocational education and training providers. For more information, visit: <https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19>.

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments are providing a range of measures to support businesses impacted by COVID-19.

For information on the Australian Government's assistance measures, visit: <https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business>.

For information on the Tasmanian Government's assistance measures, visit: https://www.business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus_information or phone the Business Tasmania hotline on 1800 440 026.

COVID-19 Apprenticeship and Traineeship Contracts

Information for Tasmanian apprentices and trainees, and their employers

Skills Tasmania understands that businesses, vocational education and training providers, apprentices and trainees are currently facing unprecedented challenges in light of the unfolding COVID-19 situation locally, nationally and around the world.

It is important to note that as an apprentice, trainee, or employer, it is not necessary for your employment contract to be immediately cancelled.

Skills Tasmania has the authority under the Tasmanian Traineeships and Apprenticeships Committee to suspend your training contract for up to three months so it is still in place once conditions improve.

The Tasmanian Traineeships and Apprenticeships Committee, through Skills Tasmania, also has the capacity to vary the employment requirements of your training contract, for example, varying the minimum number of hours of employment.

We strongly encourage you to consider these options and the continuation of your apprenticeship or traineeship in Tasmania.

We are committed to supporting Tasmanian apprentices and trainees, and their employers during this challenging time.

For full information of the flexibility of your contract please see the [TTAC Policies and Guidelines](#), in particular:

Guideline 3: Suspension of Training Contract, and

Guideline 6: Employment Requirements for Training Contracts.

To discuss your specific circumstances please **contact your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) in the first instance.**

[MAS National](#) - 1300 627 628

[MEGT](#) – 136 348

For general information about COVID-19, call the national 24-hour coronavirus information line on 1800 020 080 or visit the Australian Government [Department of Health website](#).

COVID-19 Organisations with current funding deeds and agreements

Skills Tasmania appreciates the potential impact COVID-19 may have on the services you are contracted to provide to Tasmanians.

The nature and extent of the impact is difficult to measure at this stage, however Skills Tasmania would encourage you to enact your risk plan and to note that Skills Tasmania can offer the following if COVID-19 impacts your ability to meet the requirements of your grant deed or funding agreement:

- For the Growing Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Industry and Regionally-led Solutions Program (GATIRS), Workforce Development Program, North West Jobs Ready Generation Package, Jobs Action Package Grants and the Training and Work Pathways Program - grantees will be able to apply for variations to grant deeds through the Program or Grant Managers once the full impact is known. This may include variations to project completion dates and to the number of participants or new apprentice or trainee jobs.
- For the Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund (User Choice) – registered training organisations (RTOs) are able to seek approval to modify the training model and

period.

- For the Adult Learning Fund – RTOs will be able to seek approval for amendments to the services they are contracted to provide through the Program Manager.
- For the Skills Fund - RTOs will be able to seek approval for amendments to their services they are contracted to provide through the Program Manager.

Those organisations recently contracted to provide services who are now unable to commence services should contact their Program Manager to discuss how this should be managed.

If you have any other specific issues or concerns, please contact your relevant program manager in the first instance.

Skills Fund and Adult Learning Fund Grant and Schedules

Current Grant

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, and based on feedback from a number of stakeholders, the closing date for the Skills Fund (ST051) and Adult Learning Fund (ST052) has been extended. The revised closing date is 2pm, Wednesday, 6 May 2020.

Schedule Agreements

If RTOs have any concerns regarding current Skills Fund or Adult Learning Fund contracts and completion time frames, please contact the Program Manager.

Any queries regarding the extended opening period or the grant requirements, please contact the Program Manager on 03 6165 6012 or email debra.doherty@skills.tas.gov.au.

The New Apprenticeship Scholarship Program (NASP) is now open.

Scholarships of up to \$2 000 each will be available to support apprentices in the north west of Tasmania through the New Apprenticeship Scholarships Program.

These scholarships will help local apprentices and trainees with student fees or for associated costs such as books and materials, transport or child care to help them complete their apprenticeship or traineeship.

Apprentices and trainees in the north west that commence in an apprenticeship or traineeship can apply for a one-off payment of \$2000 if full time or \$1000 if part time to support them undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship in a targeted sector.

All up, the pilot will support an estimated 200 north western Tasmanians to learn the skills that will lead to a rewarding career and help add to the pipeline of skilled workers that local

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The Scholarships will be targeted in the following sectors: Disability, Aged Care, and Child Care; Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Transport and Logistics.

The funding is intended to support individuals and the payment would go to the eligible individual to use at their discretion.

With the support of the Apprenticeship Network Providers, applications will be completed at the time the training contract is completed.

For more information please contact your Apprenticeship Network Provider

https://www.skills.tas.gov.au/employers/employing_an_apprentice_or_trainee/the_role_of_anps
or email: nasp@skills.tas.gov.au.

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