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1. CHANGES TO THE SMART AND SKILLED ENTITLEMENT FOUNDATION SKILLS PROGRAM

From 1 July 2023, Smart and Skilled foundation skills full qualification training will be funded under the Entitlement Full Qualification (EFQ) program – instead of the Entitlement Foundation Skills (EFS) program – for all new commencements from the 2023-2024 Activity Period onwards. There is no change to the EFS program arrangements for the 2022-23 Activity Period.

The change is intended to improve ease-of-access to foundation skills training for NSW students and result in simplified and more flexible funding and administration arrangements for providers.

a. What is changing?

- Qualifications in the EFS Program are currently available for funding to TAFE NSW and Department-approved ACE providers. Smart and Skilled-eligible Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), excluding non-government Enterprise-based RTOs but including the current EFS-approved providers, will be eligible to apply through the Smart and Skilled

Provider Application 2023-24 for funding under the EFQ program to commence students in foundation skills full qualifications from 1 July 2023.

- Funding for foundation skills full qualifications will be allocated through the Smart and Skilled Provider Application 2023-24 which commenced on 1 November 2022. Providers will be able to apply for foundation skills full qualifications as per the rules of the application process. The foundation skills qualifications and funding allocations for the 2023-24 Activity Period will be incorporated into the Entitlement Full Qualifications program.
- Foundation skills students who commence by 30 June 2023 will continue to be funded under the current EFS program in 2023-24 from a Financial Cap for Continuing Students only. For TAFE NSW and DOE-approved ACE providers currently allocated an EFS program Financial Cap, their EFQ Financial Cap allocation for 2023-24 will include the current EFS Financial Cap amounts less an amount retained in the EFS program to fund the teach out of continuing students.
- EFS Financial Cap allocations will shift from a program financial cap to (a) regional financial cap(s). Where a Provider is approved to deliver EFS across multiple regions, the EFS commencing students allocation will be split across the regional EFQ Financial Caps.
- For 2024-25, the EFQ Financial Caps will cover continuing students that commenced foundation skills qualifications in the EFQ program in 2023-24.
- The changes are reflected in version 13.3 of the NSW Skills List. The 22 qualifications currently delivered as EFS will have an expiry date of 30 June 2023. These same qualifications will see an EFQ program type identified as taking effect 1 July 2023.

b. When will this change occur?

- This change will be implemented for the start of the 2023-24 Activity Period, and be incorporated into the upcoming Smart and Skilled Provider Application round.

c. Who can apply to deliver foundation skills training? How do we apply?

- All providers (except non-government Enterprise-based RTOs) will be eligible to apply to deliver foundation skills full qualifications through the Smart and Skilled Provider Application, provided they have the relevant qualifications on their scope of registration.
- Providers interested in delivering foundation skills full qualifications training should select the relevant foundation skills qualifications from the EFQ program when completing their application for students commencing from 1 July 2023.

d. How will allocations be determined?

- Allocations will be determined using the NSW Market Assessment, the results of the assessment of RTO applications, and consideration of the previous EFS Financial Caps allocated and utilised by current Smart and Skilled Providers (where applicable).

e. Will training remain fee-free for eligible Smart and Skilled students?

- Foundation skills full qualification training will remain fee-free for all eligible Smart and Skilled students.

2. NSW SKILLS LIST UPDATED – VERSION 13.3

The NSW Skills List has been updated. This update covers changes as a result of:

- updates to Training Packages; and
- updates to Vocational Training Orders (VTOs).

Version 13.3 of the NSW Skills List is now available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/nsw-skills-list>

Version 13.3 of the Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule has also been updated to cover changes to the Skills List and is now available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/funding/smart-skilled-fees>

Versions 13.3 of the NSW Skills List and Smart and Skilled Prices and Fees Schedule are effective as of 1 November 2022.

a. Updates to the NSW Skills List – incorporating Training Package revisions

The NSW Skills List has been updated as a result of revisions to the following seven (7) Training Packages:

- Agricultural, Horticultural and Conservation and Land Management
- Hairdressing and Beauty Services
- Tourism, Travel and Hospitality
- Property Services
- Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical
- Transport and Logistics Training Package
- Public Sector.

i. New qualifications added to the Skills List

Table 1 lists the qualification that was approved for addition to the Skills List.

Table 1

New qualification approved for addition to the NSW Skills List		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
FBP40621	Certificate IV in Artisan Fermented Products	Targeted Priorities Full Qualification

ii. New qualifications pending Ministerial approval

Table 2 lists the qualifications that will be added to the NSW Skills List following approval from the Minister for Skills and Training.

The Department will also seek to establish a traineeship for 10983NAT following industry consultation and Commissioner approval.

Table 2

New qualifications pending Ministerial approval		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway (pending approval)
AVI30519	Certificate III in Aviation (Rescue Crew Officer)	Entitlement Full Qualification + Traineeship
10983NAT	Certificate III in Outside School Hours Care	Entitlement Full Qualification

iii. Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List

Table 3 Error! Reference source not found. shows the superseding qualifications that are equivalent to their superseded version.

Please note that equivalent qualifications are updated automatically in your Approved Qualification Activity Schedules (AQAS) when the Training Package is updated and can be delivered under Smart and Skilled when this automatic update occurs.

Table 3

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
TLI31221	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	TLI31222	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
TLI37121	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure	TLI37122	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure
TLI42621	Certificate IV in Train Driving	TLI42622	Certificate IV in Train Driving
AHC32419	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology	AHC32422	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology
AHC51419	Diploma of Agribusiness Management	AHC51422	Diploma of Agribusiness Management

b. VTO changes affecting the NSW Skills List

Following updates to NSW VTOs, a number of superseding qualifications detailed in previous Smart and Skilled Updates can now be delivered under apprenticeship and traineeship pathways under Smart and Skilled. These qualifications are shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4

VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
SHB40121	Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy	Apprenticeship + School Based Apprenticeship
SHB30221	Certificate III in Make-Up	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SHB30321	Certificate III in Nail Technology	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SHB20121	Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT31121	Certificate III in Asian Cookery	Apprenticeship
SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery	Apprenticeship + School Based Apprenticeship
SIT31021	Certificate III in Patisserie	Apprenticeship
SIT30722	Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)	Apprenticeship
SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT30622	Certificate III in Hospitality	Traineeship
SIT40422	Certificate IV in Hospitality	Traineeship
SIT30921	Certificate III in Catering	Traineeship
SIT40721	Certificate IV in Patisserie	Traineeship
SIT20122	Certificate II in Tourism	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT30122	Certificate III in Tourism	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT30522	Certificate III in Events	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT30322	Certificate III in Guiding	Traineeship
SIT40222	Certificate IV in Guiding	Traineeship
SIT30222	Certificate III in Travel	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
SIT40122	Certificate IV in Travel and Tourism	Traineeship
CPP40421	Certificate IV in Cleaning	Traineeship

VTO changes affecting superseding qualifications from previous Smart and Skilled Updates		
Qualification code	Qualification name	Available pathway
TLI30121	Certificate III in Mobile Crane Operations	Traineeship
TLI27121	Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
TLI37121	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure	Traineeship
TLI40921	Certificate IV in Rail Network Control	Traineeship
TLI32721	Certificate III in Track Protection	Traineeship
TLI22421	Certificate II in Furniture Removal	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship
PSP30122	Certificate III in Government	Traineeship
PSP40122	Certificate IV in Government	Traineeship
PSP50122	Diploma of Government	Traineeship
SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery	Traineeship + School Based Traineeship

c. Changes to Entitlement Foundation Skills Program

From **1 July 2023**, all Smart and Skilled qualifications funded under the Entitlement Foundation Skills (EFS) program will be funded under the Entitlement Full Qualification (EFQ) program. **Table 5** below details all foundation skills qualifications that will be impacted.

Table 5

Entitlement Foundation Skills qualifications changing to Entitlement Full Qualification program	
Code	Title
10592NAT	Certificate III in English for Further Study
10769NAT	Certificate III in Pathways to Further Study
10982NAT	Certificate I in Fundamental English for Speakers of Other Languages
10984NAT	Certificate II in Basic English for Speakers of Other Languages
10985NAT	Certificate II in Routine English for Speakers of Other Languages
11005NAT	Certificate I in Preparation for Work and Training
11009NAT	Certificate I in Access to Work and Training

Entitlement Foundation Skills qualifications changing to Entitlement Full Qualification program	
Code	Title
11022NAT	Certificate III in English for Further Study
11036NAT	Certificate III in Vocational and Study Pathways for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People
11039NAT	Certificate II in Career Preparation
11040NAT	Certificate III in Career Advancement
11041NAT	Certificate II in Further Study Skills
11042NAT	Certificate III in Advanced English for Further Study
22472VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults
22473VIC	Certificate II in General Education for Adults
22476VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults (Introductory)
22566VIC	Certificate I in Work Education
FSK10119	Certificate I in Access to Vocational Pathways
FSK10219	Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways
FSK20119	Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
PSP20218	Certificate II in Auslan
PSP30218	Certificate III in Auslan

d. Qualifications with conditions to improve student outcomes

The Department has updated the NSW Skills List following consultation on 16 qualifications that were identified as having poor student outcomes.

Updates include adding targeted conditions to eight qualifications to improve their outcomes, removing one qualification and keeping the remaining seven with no conditions.

All qualifications with conditions can be identified on Version 13.3 of the NSW Skills List using the Strategy column.

e. Skilling for Recovery

Smart and Skilled Updates No. 180 and No. 186 (signalled that JobTrainer/Skilling for Recovery (SfR) will end on **31 December 2022**).

Smart and Skilled Update No. 180 also advised of further investments in fee free full qualifications beyond JobTrainer under Smart and Skilled. This will include all cohorts who are eligible for JobTrainer/SfR continuing to be eligible to access full qualifications on the current SfR approved list fee free for a further six months, i.e. for enrolments between 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

For this reason, the Skills List will continue to reflect these qualifications under the Skilling for Recovery branding until 30 June 2023.

3. APPLY NOW FOR THE SMART AND SKILLED 2023-24 PROGRAM

Applications for the Smart and Skilled 2023-24 program are now being accepted. Any registered training organisation (RTO) that wants to be considered for the Smart and Skilled 2023-24 program needs to apply. The application process will be open from 1 November 2022 until 5pm 30 November 2022. Please note that no late applications will be accepted. Please be advised all Aboriginal controlled RTOs will be considered to be Established NSW RTOs.

More information about the Smart and Skilled application process for the 2023-24 program, and resources including the Market Management Policy Part B, NSW RTO Classification List and portal user guides can be found on our [Smart and Skilled webpage](#) and [Frequently asked questions – Smart and Skilled program 2023-24](#).

RTOs are encouraged to regularly check the Smart and Skilled webpages for updates.

For an RTO's application to be considered, the following must be completed:

- All financial viability assessment documentation must have been sent to Equifax and payment submitted.
- All of the required application documentation included when an application is submitted via the Smart and Skilled application portal.

Please allow time to complete the application well before the closing date. RTOs are strongly encouraged to begin the application as soon as possible.

User guides and other information can be found at the [Smart and Skilled webpage](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

Apply now via the [Smart and Skilled application portal](#).

4. CORRECTION: EQUIVALENT SUPERSEDING QUALIFICATIONS ON THE NSW SKILLS LIST

Table 3 in Smart and Skilled Update No. 188 (31 October 2022) incorrectly showed the **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC30121)** had been superseded. It also labelled the qualification with the wrong code.

The corrected Table 3, showing equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List (Version 13.3), is as below:

Equivalent superseding qualifications on the NSW Skills List			
Previous code	Previous title	Current code	Replacement title
TLI37121	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure	TLI37122	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure
TLI42621	Certificate IV in Train Driving	TLI42622	Certificate IV in Train Driving
AHC32419	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology	AHC32422	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology
AHC51419	Diploma of Agribusiness Management	AHC51422	Diploma of Agribusiness Management

We apologise for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please email marketdesign.implementation@det.nsw.edu.au.

5. CONSULTATIONS ON DRAFT STANDARDS FOR RTOS

As part of the national VET Quality Reforms, the Commonwealth Government is seeking feedback on the draft revised RTO Standards.

The Commonwealth is interested in hearing from stakeholders, including trainers and assessors, and RTO staff and managers, about the proposed changes to the Standards.

A consultation paper that contains the draft Standards and explains the changes is available online via the link below.

Registrations for the last online forum are now open:

- Virtual session – Wednesday 7 December, 5pm—7pm

Read the consultation paper and register to attend a session at the [Commonwealth's Skills Reform website](#).

For more information about the consultations, please contact the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations at vet-reforms-engagement@dewr.gov.au.

6. SMART AND SKILLED PROVIDER WEBINAR HELD FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2022 – RECORDING AVAILABLE

Thank you to everyone who attended our most recent Smart and Skilled Provider webinar on Friday, 4 November 2022. The recording is available for viewing [here](#).

For support with issues such as system/information access and functionality, reporting, and other technical matters, please contact Training Market Customer Support at Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au. Unless otherwise indicated, please refer enquiries regarding specific operational matters such as Financial Caps,

and programs/initiatives such as Skilling for Recovery to your Strategic Relationship Manager, as advised in the relevant Smart and Skilled Update.

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled Providers only. If Providers require further information for students or employers, please contact Training Market Customer Support, as above, unless otherwise instructed.