



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- STATE PRIORITY OCCUPATION LIST UNDER REVIEW
- SKILLS SERVICE ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCED
- IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT IN VET
- TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

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Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

Industry News

2016 STATE PRIORITY OCCUPATIONS LIST (SPOL)

The State Priority Occupation List (SPOL) is a list of occupations in Western Australia where skill shortages or unmet demand have been identified. Each year in March, the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) reviews the list by requesting updated information on relevant occupations. RAPS is therefore asking its industry stakeholders to provide information based on the **attached questionnaire** which should be completed before **1st March 2016**. Please contact Jane on 9446 8177 if you need further information.

SKILLS SERVICE ORGANISATIONS (SSOs)

Responsibility for training package development is currently being transferred from the Industry Skills Councils' model to the newly created Skills Service Organisation (SSO)/Industry Reference Committee (IRC) model. The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, the Hon. Luke Hartsuyker MP, recently announced the successful Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) who will support Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) in their work to develop and review training packages. SkillsIQ will be covering the Beauty, Community Pharmacy, Floristry, Funeral, Hairdressing, and Retail training packages. Click **here** for a full list of SSOs, IRCs and training package coverage.

*Provide
feedback on
Quality of
Assessment in
VET*

*New brochures
now available!*

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT IN VET

At the November 2015 meeting of the COAG Industry and Skills Council it was agreed that the Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP, consult with VET stakeholders and all jurisdictions on reform options to improve assessment in VET.

Priority areas for investigation are approaches to strengthening the skills of VET trainers and assessors, consideration of improved validation of assessment, including potential for greater industry involvement, and options for tougher regulatory interventions.

To support this consultation process, the **Quality of assessment in vocational education and training – Discussion Paper** has been released to seek stakeholder views on reforms to improve the conduct of assessment in VET.

How to provide feedback

Stakeholder consultations commence with the release of the discussion paper in January 2016 and continue through to the 11 March 2016. To assist with the compilation and analysis of the views of all stakeholders, respondents are encouraged to provide feedback via the **discussion paper submission template**.

Submissions in alternative formats will also be accepted. All written responses to the discussion paper and queries on the consultation process may be directed to the department via **trainingpackages&VETquality@education.gov.au**.

WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS WEBSITE

The Workplace Essentials website provides small to medium businesses with a 'one-stop' gateway to find useful information, templates, links and resources that can help them to better plan, attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) and their project partners have published a series of workforce planning and development brochures tailored towards small to medium businesses. All brochures are available on the Workplace Essentials **website**.

TRAINING PACKAGE UPDATES

SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services Training Package

Beauty Update

The following beauty qualifications and units of competency were included in the first submission of the *SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Services Training Package* which was endorsed on 22 September 2015:

- Certificate III in Beauty
- Certificate III in Make-Up
- Certificate III in Nail Technology
- Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy
- Diploma of Beauty Therapy

These training package components are now available for download on training.gov.au. The mandatory **Companion Volume Implementation Guide** is also available for download. This document provides advice, guidance and mapping documents on the implementation of the training package.

The following qualifications have been submitted in the submission two of the *SHB Hairdressing and Beauty Training Package*:

- Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics
- Diploma of Salon Management

Note: The SIB70110 Vocational Graduate Certificate in Intense Pulsed Light and Laser Hair Reduction has not been transitioned to the *Standards for Training Packages*. The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Regulation Impact Statement on Intense Pulsed Light Sources and Lasers for Cosmetic or Beauty Therapy, directly examines the role of qualifications in regulating this part of the industry and therefore Service Skills Australia are unable to commence work until this report is released.

SIR Retail Services Training Package

Retail Services Update

DRAFT 2

The validation period for Draft 2 of the *SIR Retail Services Training Package* is now closed. Feedback received during this period will be considered in the development of Final Draft.

It is anticipated that the *SIR Retail Services Training Package V2.0* will be submitted to the Department for consideration in February 2016.

Community Pharmacy Update

The Community Pharmacy components of the *SIR Retail Services Training Package* have been submitted to the Department of Education and Training for endorsement. The Training Package has been developed adhering to The Training Package Development and Endorsement Policy and to meet the requirements of the Standards for Training Packages. It has undergone extensive industry consultation and validation and a full external quality review which deemed the proposed training package compliant with these standards.

The **Case for Endorsement and the submitted components** are available to both inform and assist in the planning activities of stakeholders.

SFL Floristry Training Package

The SFL Floristry Training Package was endorsed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) on 22 September 2015. The training package is now available for download on training.gov.au. The mandatory **Companion Volume Implementation Guide** is also available for download. This document provides advice, guidance and mapping documents on the implementation of the training package.

SIF Funeral Services Training Package

The revised training package is available on training.gov.au. The mandatory *Companion Volume Implementation Guide* has also been updated to reflect the minor changes.

VET FEE HELP

VET FEE HELP

The Australian Government is making important reforms to the VET FEE HELP scheme to improve the quality and effectiveness of the scheme and to better protect students taking out a VET FEE HELP loan.

Click [here](#) to access the new measures which came into effect on 1 January 2016 which will further strengthen the scheme. These changes aim to control growth and lift the performance of training providers ahead of a more fundamental redesign of the scheme to a new model from 2017 that better reflects the unique nature and practice of the VET sector.

INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND—YOUTH STREAM

The Industry Skills Fund—Youth Stream includes the following two pilot programs which assist business by supporting job specific training for new young employees and community organisations to help young people to return to school, start vocational training, or move into work.

Training for Employment Scholarships supports training that meets the needs of your business and assists young people who are newly employed, but require further training. If your business has less than 200 employees and you have hired an unemployed person aged 18 to 24 years within the last three months, you may be eligible for funding of up to \$7,500 for the cost of up to 26 weeks job specific training.

Youth Employment Pathways supports community organisations to assist disengaged young people, aged 15 to 18 years, to get back into school, start vocational training, or move into work. Community Service organisations may be eligible for up to \$2,000 in financial support to purchase or provide services to meet Individuals' needs such as intensive case management, job search, mentoring and other services relevant to young people.

Both programs are available nationally until 30 June 2016. For more information and to complete the online application, go to: www.business.gov.au/youth.

FLU VAC

COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SAY GOODBYE TO THE FLU IN YOUR WORKPLACE!

Friendlies Pharmacies are offering a corporate rate of \$20 per flu vaccination (which is a 20% discount on their normal pharmacy cost.) With cases of the flu rising, you can help minimise the impact in your workplace. By offering your employees a flu vaccination, you can reduce the risk of the virus spreading through your workplace and help your employees to stay healthy. To find out more about this opportunity, please contact the Friendlies team on 9265 6478 or email fluvac@friendliespharmacies.com.au.