



NSW UE ITAB News Service 134 - October 2024

Executive Officer Message

With the end of October just around the corner the year is flying by. New training developments in our industry and opportunities allow stakeholders to take the future with gusto.

The NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB started the month with a visit to exciting new NECA NSW training facilities at Chullora. The ITAB has also been busy in October working with numerous stakeholders such as Training Services NSW, Powering Skills Organisation, Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network, the Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB network across Australia, NSW DCCEEW, Sydney Industry Electrical Safety Network, Tomago Aluminium and Essential Energy to name a few. A special thanks to Dominic Schipano from the National Communications and Information Technology Training ITAB for filling in the jigsaw puzzle of opportunities and highlighting how the two industries can work together.



Enjoy the read.

In this newsletter we have an:

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Update On Smart and Skilled: Revised Supervision Standard for Apprentices in the Electrical Industry

Most importantly, the NSW Department of Customer Service has introduced a revised Supervisor Practice Standard for Apprentices in the Electrical Industry. The practice standard explains the roles and responsibilities of employers, supervisors and apprentices in the electrical industry. The practice standard has been developed to clarify the legislative requirements for the supervision of electrical apprentices. It details the mandatory requirement under the Home Building Act to achieve compliant work in a safe manner.

This practice standard does not replace the obligations imposed on a PCBU prescribed under the Work Health and Safety legislation or those provided for in the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001.

From the 1st September 2024, this practice is mandatory and will be enforced as a condition of holding an electrical licence. All licenced electricians conducting supervision must abide by these requirements and penalties can be imposed for breaches. For more information regarding this revised standard can be found at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/building-commission/enforcement-of-supervision-practice-standard-for-apprentices-electrical-industry>



UEERA Refrigeration and Airconditioning UOC review

The review of a unit of competency (UOC) in the refrigeration and air-conditioning training package is currently open. Powering Skills Organisation (PSO), with assistance from a technical committee of subject matter experts, reviewed

UEERA0051 Install, commission, service and maintain air conditioning systems and is now available for public consultation.

The project has resulted in several key draft updates to the unit. Key draft changes include:

- Refinements to the requirements for installing low voltage (LV) cables, ensuring alignment throughout the unit descriptor.
- The technical committee identified gaps in the current pre-requisite unit regarding the necessary prior knowledge and performance competencies needed to complete UEERA0051. The technical committee has commended the addition of further pre-requisite units to provide foundational knowledge. Feedback is due to the **ITAB by COB Wednesday 30th October 2024**: For more information visit <https://poweringskills.com.au/ueera0051-review/>



Refrigeration a career of first choice

Following on from the previous article, the refrigeration industry peak body, Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) has released statistics showing that the refrigeration and air-conditioning is considered by youth as a career of first choice. Australians are increasingly turning to refrigeration and air conditioning as a career of first choice, according to new licensing data released by ARC. ARC figures for the past five years show strong year-on-year growth which peaked in 2023-24 for both Refrigerant

Handling Licences (RHLs) and Refrigerant Trading Authorisations (RTAs), especially in the automotive sector.

Net growth in the number of RHLs exceeded 10,000 for the financial year, 14% up on the previous year, while RTA numbers grew by almost 2,000, or 10%. The strongest growth was in automotive, which accounted for a third of RHL growth and half of RTA growth.

ARC promotes the industry to school careers advisers and students as a career of first choice for bright young people, and the numbers suggest this is having an impact.' ARC's consumer marketing campaigns highlight the value of licensed technicians and businesses, which puts the industry on the radar of consumers who might be considering careers for themselves or their children. For more information visit: <https://www.arcltd.org.au/>



NSW 2030 Renewable Energy Workforce Plan

Through the *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023*, the NSW government has committed to emissions reduction targets for NSW including a 50% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030, a 70% reduction on 2005 levels by 2035, and Net Zero by 2050.

The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (EIR) is the NSW Government's primary vehicle to reach Net Zero. A key pillar of the roadmap is the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across NSW.

Work commissioned by the government highlights the need for the government, in partnership with industry, the education and training communities and other key stakeholders to attract, train and employ the workforce required to implement the EIR. To coordinate and develop the skilled workforce a draft 2030 Renewable Energy

Workforce Plan has been developed by the NSW Department of Education. The five key pillars of the plan are: awareness, access, support, equity and mobility.

1. **Awareness** -so that students are informed about, interested in, and get a taste of renewable energy pathways
2. **Access** - so that students can access renewable energy pathways where there are renewable energy jobs
3. **Support** - so that students are supported through renewable energy education, training and employment pathway
4. **Equity** - so that under-represented cohorts have a fair share of renewable energy opportunities
5. **Mobility** - so that employers can access skilled workers from other sectors, regions and countries to meet critical skills gaps

For more information visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/nsw-2030-renewable-energy-workforce-plan>

UEE traineeships nominal duration change:

The nominal term for five traineeship vocations has been varied, these are:

- UEE40420 - CIV Electrotechnology - Electrical Instrumentation,
- UEE40920 - CIV Electrotechnology - Industrial Electronics and Control,
- UEE40320 - CIV Electrotechnology - Installation Inspection and Audits;
- UEE40620 - CIV Electrotechnology - Systems Electrician,
- UEE43322 - CIV Electrotechnology - Renewable Energy

The new CIB outlines the new nominal term for the traineeships as 24 months or until the relevant competencies are achieved where the trainee meets the entry requirements. For more information visit: www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/resources/cibs-bulletins/cib-755

Good news for the electrotechnology and telecommunication industries: new apprentice and trainee quarterly data out now

The latest NCVER report shows a decline in the total number of apprentices and trainees in-training as of the end of March 2024, with differences emerging across trade and non-trade occupations.

The *Apprentices and trainees 2024: March quarter* shows there were 351 695 apprenticeship and traineeship contracts in-training in the March 2024 quarter, a decrease of 34 570 (8.9%) when compared with the March 2023 quarter. Most of this decline occurred in non-trade occupations, which fell by 30 585 (21.3%) to 112 895.

However, there was good news for the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries in NSW bucked the trend by having a growth in training with a 5.4% increase in apprenticeship training.

For more information visit: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/apprentices-and-trainees-2024-march-quarter>

VET Workforce Blueprint

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) on behalf of the national Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council released the VET Workforce Blueprint earlier in October. It provides a roadmap to address long-standing challenges within the VET sector and support the actions under the National Skills Agreement to deliver \$30m from the Commonwealth and \$70m from states and territories for workforce initiatives to grow and retain a quality and sustainable VET workforce. Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) undertook a VET Workforce Study to provide an evidence base for the Blueprint and a comprehensive profile of the VET workforce. [Click here](#) to view the VET Workforce Study. The Blueprint aims to;

- grow the workforce by increasing the VET pipeline to ensure long-term supply of staff
- retain and develop the workforce by supporting and building capability to ensure a sustainable and highly skilled VET workforce
- understand the workforce through data collection and mapping of roles and pathways.

Blueprint actions include;

- occupational mapping of the VET workforce
- developing a VET workforce data strategy
- establishing ongoing research for key workforce issues
- mapping, analysing compliance and administrative burdens to reduce.

[Click here](#) to view the VET Workforce Blueprint in full or [click here](#) for the abridged version.

Revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) has released the revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), the work is a result of four years of consultation across the VET sector. The standards aim to strengthen the focus on quality outcomes for learners and employers, provide greater clarity, and allow for more flexibility and innovation in training delivery. The revised standards are framed around 23 outcome-focussed standards across four key quality areas: training and assessment, learner support, workforce, and governance.

The new standards will come into full effect from 1st July 2025. In the ASQA will progressively release the draft *Regulatory Guidelines* to support providers transition to the revised standards. ASQA's draft *Preparing for the revised Standards* is now available.

For more information go to the [DEWR webpage](#) and the Revised Standards for RTOs or [click here](#) for the policy version of revised Standard

Enhanced Training.gov.au is going live on 23 October 2024!

- The enhanced TGA will be more intuitive and accessible.
- It can be found at training.gov.au, meaning the vast majority of your existing browser favourites and bookmarks will still work.
- You can manage your notification subscriptions using the blue [Manage your notifications here](#) button on the enhanced TGA homepage.
- Webservice connections will remain the same at go-live.
- You can access a preview of the enhanced TGA at beta.training.gov.au.

Ahead of the change, we'll be hosting a *Training.gov.au go-live showcase* on the 22nd of October to demonstrate new features and answer some of the most frequently asked questions. If you would like an invitation to the go-live showcase sign up [here](#).

You can read more about the National Training Register Enhancement Project, including the Training.gov.au update [here](#).

Safe Work Australia: National Return to Work Strategy

Safe Work Australia (SWA) is developing a model Code of Practice which provides guidance for PCBUs on managing fatigue risks at work. This [draft model Code of Practice](#) has been developed with the support of Safe Work Australia Members and other safety regulators.

To support the model Code's development, SWA are seeking a wide range of views on the draft. Responses from public consultation will be used to refine the draft model Code and ensure it:

- assists duty holders to determine what is reasonably practicable to manage fatigue hazards, and
- is broadly applicable across all industries.

Safe Work Australia welcomes submissions from all interested stakeholders, including duty holders, regulators, government agencies, unions, workers, legal professionals, researchers, members of the public and other parties. Responses close **11:59pm on 27 November 2024**.

Visit our [Consultation hub for more information](#) and to have your say.

If you would like to contribute to this News Service, please feel free to write to the undersigned accordingly. Thank you.

For the latest and past News Services visit: www.uensw.com.au/news/

Kind regards
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