



NSW UE ITAB News Service 137 - January 2025

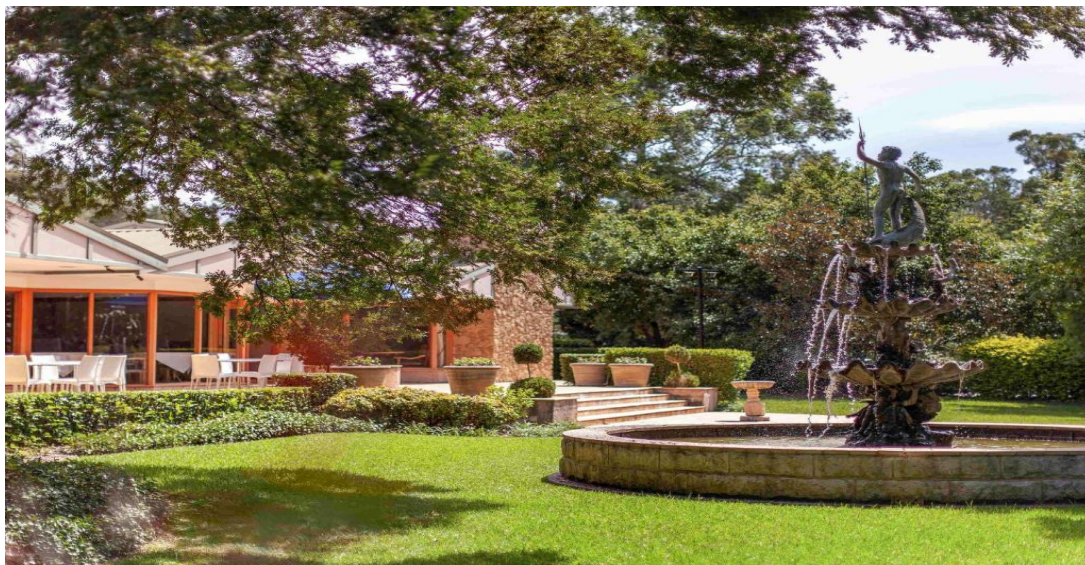
Happy New Year, I hope you all had a refreshing break. Welcome to the January 2025 news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB.

This month the ITAB is working for our industries by participating in Power Skill Organisation (JSA) training package discussions, meeting with PSO on updates and collaboration opportunities as well as organising an exciting 2025 conference agenda.



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NSW NEWS



ITAB CONFERENCE 2025 – CHANGE OF DATE: SAVE IT!

Due to overwhelming interest, the Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB conference have rescheduled the dates of its long-anticipated conference. The ITAB will now hold the conference on the 31st July and 1st August 2025 in the Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin NSW. The conference will provide valuable insights and opportunities to meet the demand of skilled workers required for net zero by 2050.

More details will be available in the next newsletter in February.

TRAINING SERVICES APPOINTS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Experienced state and Commonwealth senior official, Amanda Lawrence, has been appointed as the new Executive Director, Training Services within the Education Skills Reform division at the NSW Department of Education.

Amanda was most recently Executive Director, Corporate Services at the NSW Reconstruction Authority, where she led the establishment of the agency, overseeing the implementation of the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act.

Amanda played a key role in supporting disaster recovery efforts across the state, managing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and navigating significant organisational reforms.

She has held senior leadership positions in Department of Premier and Cabinet, as well as state and federal environmental agencies. The NSW UE ITAB congratulates Amanda on her appointment.



NEW APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP QUARTERLY DATA OUT NOW

A new report recently released by NCVER shows a 14.3% increase in apprentice and trainee commencements when compared with the June 2023 quarter.

The *Apprentices and trainees 2024: June quarter* report shows growth occurred across most occupations. Trade commencements rose by 18.1% to 20 485, mostly driven by increases in: Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians (up 127.6%), Food Trades Workers (up 68.4%), Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (up 12.4%).

Electrotechnology and telecommunication trades worker qualifications had a 15.7% increase in commencements from June 2023 to June 2024. This equates to 530 additional apprentices at a total of 3915 against the previous 2023 June quarter.

Trade completions increased by 15.4%, primarily driven by a 32.0% increase in Construction Trades Workers.

[Read the report](#) to find out more.

TAFE NSW: CHANGING OF THE GUARD



TAFE NSW's Managing Director, Stephen Brady, is leaving the role after leading the organisation for the past three years.

Mr Brady was appointed to the role in December 2021, and during his tenure has overseen important reforms in vocational education and training sector.

Mr Brady was instrumental in leading TAFE NSW through the NSW VET Review, a Minns Labor Government commitment to restoring TAFE to the heart of the VET sector.

With TAFE NSW now entering its new phase of implementing the VET Review, including finalising a new Operating Model and TAFE NSW Charter. Minister Whan says, "it is the right time for new leadership to guide TAFE NSW through this next stage".

The process to appoint a new Managing Director will commence in due course. In the interim, Chloe Read, Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education will act in the role.



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2025 NSW TRAINING AWARDS.

Congratulations to Essential Energy who won the Australian Apprenticeships Employer Award (Gold) in 2024.

In its 70th year, entries are now open for the 2025 NSW Training Awards.

The awards celebrate and honour the achievements of students, teachers, training organisations and employers. To see if your apprentice, trainee and employer organisation is eligible to enter, please use the [eligibility checker](#) to see which awards you or your organisation participate in. For [more](#) information please use the link.

2025: A REVIEW OF THE NSW APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP ACT



A review of the NSW Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act is scheduled to commence early this year. The review is expected to focus on bringing the Act up to date. This will include potentially facilitate more flexible models of training, such as degree apprenticeships.

The review will be one of the key activities as a result of the NSW VET Review, along with other possible changes to training activity including the operation of NSW Smart and Skilled model. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

ALERT: IN CASE YOU MISSED IT! FEE FREE APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS EXTENDED TO 30 JUNE 2025

In case you missed it, the NSW Department of Education (Training Services) has confirmed a further extension of free apprenticeships and traineeships for students who commence their Smart and Skilled training up until 30 June 2025. This assistance helps remove financial barriers for students and supports a strong pipeline of skilled workers to build the NSW economy.

[Click here](#) for more information.

NEW POST ADDRESS FOR THE UTILITIES AND ELECTROTECHNOLOGY ITAB

The ITAB has a new postal address. The new postal address is PO Box 1711, Chatswood, NSW, 2057. To find the contact details of any of the NSW ITAB's visit:

[Industry training advisory bodies \(ITABs\) | NSW Government](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Power Skills Organisation: National Summit:

The full agenda and the announcement of a special keynote speaker for the PSO Summit has now available. The Hon. Steven Whan, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education New South Wales is the keynote speaker at the summit!

Dates: Thursday, 6th March & Friday, 7th March 2025

Location: Level 2, Hilton Sydney, 488 George St, Sydney NSW 2000

For more information visit: [PSO Summit 2025 Agenda - BASIC DETAIL ONLY](#)

State and Territory ITAB's/ITC Roundtable with PSO.



The state and territory ITAB's/ITC who represent the utilities and electrotechnology industries in their respective states and territories will hold a meeting with Power Skills Organisation in January. The aim of the meeting is to discuss 2025 strategic goals and effective way to work together. It is anticipated that this will be the beginning of on-going dialogue and strong partnerships between the stakeholders. Thanks to PSO for hosting the meeting!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Hunter and Sydney Electrical Safety Networks

The next Sydney Industry Electrical Safety Network (SIESN) meeting will be held on Monday 17 February 2025. The events are catered for, as such, the in-person RSVP cut-off date will be Friday 24 January 2025. To learn more about SIESN, contact: Robert.Lau@sydneywater.com.au. The Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network (HISEN) next meeting will be held in February 2025. For more details contact Tim Bolam at tim.bolam@tomago.com.au

HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY!



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