



## NSW UE ITAB News Service 139 – March 2025

### Executive Officer Message

Welcome to the March news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB. The news service brings sad news regarding the ITAB's chairperson and industry leader.

This month the ITAB is working for our industries by participating in Powering Skills Organisation Skills Summit and the VET Workforce Blueprint consultation meetings. The ITAB has also been working, SIESN meetings, DCCEEW working committees and feedback to Training Services NSW on national competency projects for our training package. As well regional skills summit participation and organising the ITAB conference.



**Enjoy the read.**

---

In this newsletter we have an:

[Vale David Britten](#)

[Hon Minister Whan to Open 2025 ITAB Conference](#)

[Greater Northern NSW Regional Skills Forum](#)

[NSW Mid North Coast Regional Industry and Schools Forums](#)

[Smart and Skilled update](#)

[NSW Premiers Teachers Scholarships](#)

[Government Allocates Funding for National Electrical Licence](#)

[Strong employment outcomes for apprentices and trainees](#)

[2024 Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers Achieve the highest employment outcomes](#)

[Hunter and Sydney Industry Electrical Safety Networks](#)

## NSW NEWS

### Vale David Britten



It is with a heavy heart that I let readers know that David Britten passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025. David, otherwise known as “Britto” was elected as the ITAB’s chairperson in 2024 and started working with me to facilitate new opportunities for our industries such as the ITAB’s renewable skills conference in September. David was an ITAB board member for many years representing the electrical supply industry. He was a keen advocate of vocational education and training, quality of training and assessment in the electrical supply industry. He was an industry leader, mentor and dear friend to many in our industries. He will be sadly missed.

## Hon. Minister Whan to Open 2025 ITAB Conference



The Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, the Hon Steve Whan will officially open the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB conference now to be held on the **4<sup>th</sup> of September and 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2025** in the Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin NSW. The Ministers in person address will set the scene for the conference theme of *Pathways to Renewables Skills*.

The conference will provide value insights and opportunities to meet the demand of skilled workers required for net zero by 2050. The agenda for the one and half day conference is currently being finalised. More details and conference registration information will be available soon. Sponsorship opportunities are still being sought, please contact me if your organisation is interested. We hope to see you there!



## Greater Northern NSW Regional Skills Forum

The NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB joined other NSW Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB) representatives at the New England industry skills forum held in Tamworth last week. The ITABs met representatives from industry, peak bodies, training providers and other stakeholders to discuss local skills and workforce issues. The forum, 'Building a Regional Workforce: Tackling Shortages, Upskilling & Retention', was hosted by the Greater Northern Skills Development Group (GNSDG) and Training Services NSW New England office.

The ITABs had the opportunity to share updates from their respective industries and conduct valuable roundtable discussions. Participants had the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas with other stakeholders on workforce development, upskilling, employee

retention and other local issues. Participants also heard about the support available to help them to retain and upskill employees and promote job opportunities with key agencies.

There is a high level of activity across the region in the utilities and electrotechnology industries with skills shortages impacting the electrical industries despite large enrolments. The event provided an excellent opportunity to share local intelligence and explore barriers to jobs and skills. Thank you GNSDG and Training Services NSW New England for hosting this important industry event.

## NSW Mid North Coast Regional Industry and Schools Forums

The Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB, will be joining other NSW Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs), and the Regional Industry Education Partnership (RIEP) teams for a series of Industry and Schools Forums to be held on the Mid North Coast. The forums will bring industry, employers and key school representatives together to share intelligence on local skills needs including utilities and electrotechnology industry priorities, employment growth industries and pathways to rewarding careers. Forums will be held in;

- Taree, Tuesday 27 May
- Port Macquarie, Wednesday 28 May
- Coffs Harbour, Thursday 29 May

The aim of these forums is to link local industry and employers with school careers advisors, principals and other staff, and provide a platform to discuss local job market trends, skill shortages, skill gaps and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

Sessions include:

- Regional overview provided by Regional Development Australia
- Local employer discussion panel
- Schools' discussion panel
- Speed meet session for schools and employers
- How to support work placement for schools and employers
- How to get involved with School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs).

[Click here](#) to register your interest to attend.

Please share this invitation with local regional employers who may be interested in attending.

## Smart and Skilled update:

Smart and Skilled Fee Free arrangements for January to June 2025 remain unchanged for the following categories:

- Fee free Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Fee-exempt students (Aboriginal students, students with a disability and their dependants)
- A refugee or asylum seeker on one of the specified visas listed in the Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy undertaking a qualification up to and including Certificate IV.
- All three categories for Fee Free Scholarships students – Eligible students a qualification up to and including Certificate IV:
  - Concession eligible aged between 15 to 30 years
  - A person aged between 15 to 30 years who is or was in Out of Home Care
  - A person who is experiencing or has experienced domestic and family violence.

[Click here](#) to find your Regional Provider Support Manager for more information.

## NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships

Scholarship applications are sought from current temporary or permanent teachers in NSW government and non-government schools, TAFE NSW or early childhood centres. Thirteen scholarship categories are available. With successful applicants receiving \$15,000 for a 5-week study tour within Australia or abroad applications close Friday 30 May. [Click here](#) for more information.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Government Allocates Funding for National Electrical Licence

The Australian Government will establish a high-quality national electrical license it says will cut red tape and save tradies time and money. With a federal election looming, Treasurer Jim Chalmers says the government will work with states, territories, businesses, and unions to design a national licensing scheme for electrical trades people.

A high-quality national license will allow greater movement between states for electrical workers eager to follow the work in high-demand sectors like construction and energy and provide greater community understanding nationally of the quality and importance of work performed by licensed electricians.

Electrical Trades Union National Secretary Michael Wright says that the ETU has long campaigned on behalf of the industry for this. Wright adds that the national regime must put safety and quality at the centre of its design, reflecting best practice from across the country - not composed of existing lowest common denominators in sub-national jurisdictions.

"Australia has some of the best electrical workers and highest electrical standards in the world. A national license must reflect that. We will work with government and industry on a licensing scheme that sets the global standard in this high-risk, fast-moving trade," Wright continues.

"The Australian national electrical license must be a mark of quality and safety that workers, industry, consumers and employers feel proud of and have confidence in.

"All Australians have the right to know that work performed by licensed Australian electricians has been performed safely and skilfully by a professional whose capability has been certified to the highest level."

For more information email: [lachlan@theshapeagency.com.au](mailto:lachlan@theshapeagency.com.au)



## Strong employment outcomes for apprentices and trainees

The latest report from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) shows apprentices and trainees experienced strong employment outcomes in 2024.

The *Apprentice and trainee outcomes 2024* report shows that 95.4% of trade and 89.4% of non-trade completers were employed after finishing their apprenticeship or traineeship, similar to the 2023 statistics.

Trade highlights include:

- 74.4% of trade completers were employed in the same occupation as their trade
- 14.6% of trade completers were employed in a different occupation but found the training relevant to their job
- 83.3% of trade students who did not complete their apprenticeship or traineeship were employed after training.

The most common reason for not completing a trade apprenticeship or traineeship was dissatisfaction with pay, working conditions, or the workplace, cited by 29.7% of trade non-completers (up 5.9 percentage points from 2023). This was also a key reason cited by 20.3% of those in non-trades, similar to 2023.

For more information visit: [Apprentice and trainee outcomes 2024](#)

## 2024 Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers Achieve the highest employment outcomes:

Latest NCVER statistics report that in 2024, 95.4% of trade completers and 83.3% of trade non-completers were employed after training, both like 2023. The occupations with the highest rates of employment in the same occupation as their apprenticeship or traineeship were: Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers (86.0%), Construction Trades Workers (84.6%), Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (81.0%) For more information visit: [Apprentice and trainee outcomes 2024](#)

---

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Hunter and Sydney Industry Electrical Safety Networks

The Sydney Industry Safety Network meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Sydney international Airport. To learn more about SIESN and participate in meetings, contact: [Robert.Lau@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:Robert.Lau@sydneywater.com.au). The Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network (HISEN) next meeting is generally held in the first Thursday of every month (3<sup>rd</sup> April) 2025. For more details contact Tim Bolam at [tim.bolam@tomago.com.au](mailto:tim.bolam@tomago.com.au)

---

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/](http://www.uensw.com.au/news/)

Kind regards  
Melissa Wortman  
Executive Officer  
NSW U&E ITAB  
**Mob: +61 421 830 056**  
**Email: [melissa@uensw.com.au](mailto:melissa@uensw.com.au)**

The News Service is produced by ©NSW UE ITAB, 2025

**Postal Address: PO Box 1711, CHATSWOOD, 2057**

You may [unsubscribe](#) or [change your contact details](#) at any time.

Follow us on:



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/uensw.itab.9>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/UenswItab?lang=en>

**Linkedin:** [www.linkedin.com/in/uenswitab](http://www.linkedin.com/in/uenswitab)

**Website:** [www.uensw.au](http://www.uensw.au)