



NSW UE ITAB News Service 151– May 2026

Executive Officer Message

Welcome to the May news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB.

This month the ITAB has presented to the Hunter Electrical Industry Safety Network (HEISN). I also attend the PSO Renewable Energy Jobs Workshop in Sydney and worked with NSW DCCEEW on the ASP scheme rules. The ITAB has also worked with PSO to help develop national qualifications and address major skill shortages in our industry.



Enjoy the read.

In this newsletter we have:

NSW News

- **The Gas Supply Industry: Bucking the Trend**
- **Good News at Sydney Trains**
- **Electrotechnology Trade Workers Come Out On top**
- **Smart and Skilled Updates**
- **Updated NSW Service and Installation Rules**

National News

- **Review of the UEE Training Package – Updates**
- **Clean Energy Job Ready workshop**

NSW NEWS

The Gas Supply Industry: Bucking the Trend

The energy sector has the lowest female participation rate compared to all other sectors- that includes low participation sectors like mining and automotive, transport and logistics, building, construction and property. Females make up just 5% of the energy trades workforce in Australia, compared to 51% of the overall workforce across all occupations. (PSO 2025 Workforce Plan: High Load, Short Supply pg 76).

However, one energy organisation is bucking the trend. Zinfra a leading Australian service provider that designs, constructs, operates, and maintains power and gas infrastructure, has welcomed a new wave of emerging talent female apprentices in their 2026 intake.

The 2026 years intake is a milestone for Zinfra and the gas services team with an all-female cohort joining from across NSW and Queensland.



With 25 women joining the 2026 apprentice and trainee program across electricity and gas, it raises the female representation to 29%. They bring with them a mix of determination, curiosity, and diverse life experience, including a former traffic controller, a school leaver and a public servant all who are changing their careers through an apprenticeship pathway.

Their stories reflect exactly what Zinfra is striving for, opening doors, creating flexible pathways, and building a workforce where everyone can thrive. Their enthusiasm, life experience and readiness to learn are a reminder of the reasons why Zinfra is investing in people.

Over the coming years, the new team will gain hands on experience across essential gas infrastructure projects, supported by experienced mentors and colleagues across the Zinfra field teams.

The new candidates will learn core technical skills to build confidence out in the field, they will play a vital role in supporting Zinfra to be a trusted partner in energy.

Good News at Sydney Trains:

Sydney Trains continues its investment in its Women in Trades programs, which are key to tackling the skills shortage faced by the industry. The 2026 female apprentice intake is 50% larger than 2025. Currently 11.1% of all Sydney Trains apprentices are women, which is 3.2% above the national average.



In the last 5 years, over 93% of all women apprentices who completed their apprenticeship were successful in gaining permanent employment at Sydney Trains. Sydney Trains is committed to ensuring this growing cohort has the resources, support, mentorship, and environment to thrive and build long-term careers in the industry. At the recent apprentice training day, the Hon Steve Whan, NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education met all the new recruits. For more information on this including a recording for 9 News this week please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/9NewsSydney/videos/a-record-number-of-apprentices-are-being-taught-the-skills-needed-to-bolster-a-l/681840721681756/>



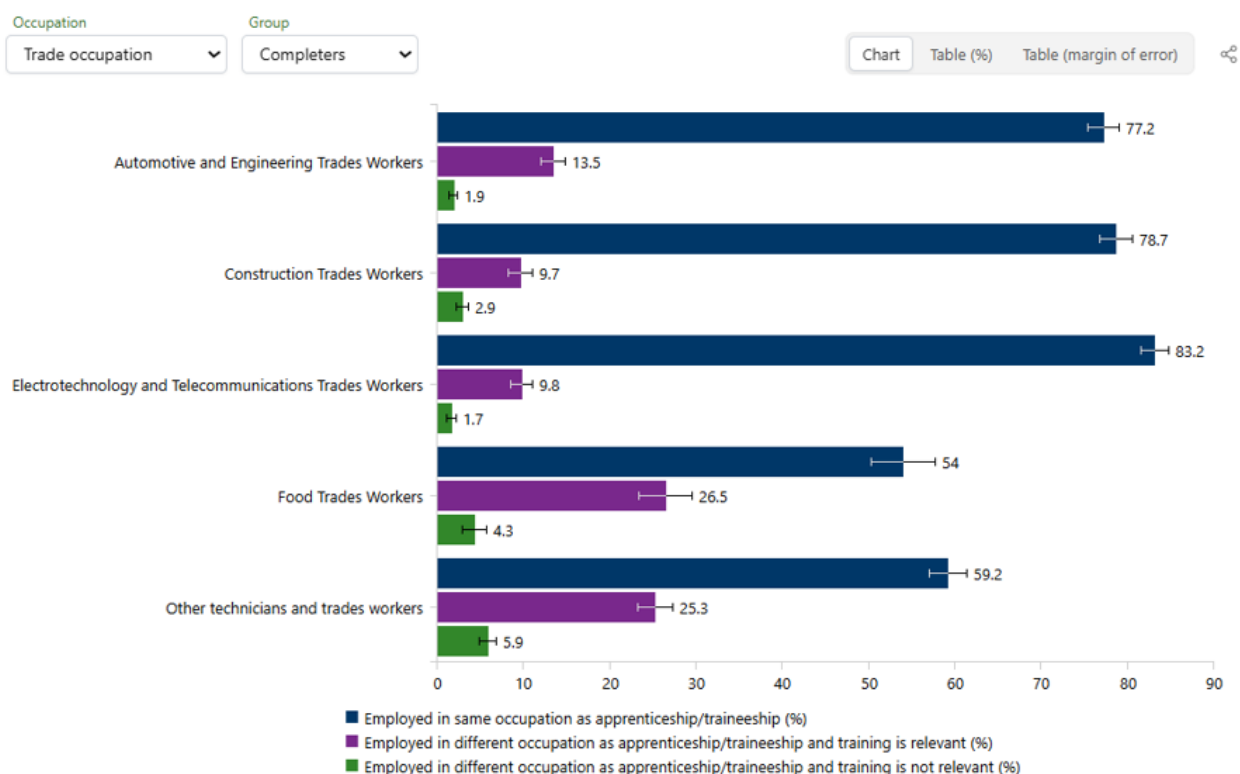
Electrotechnology Trade Workers Come Out On Top.

Latest National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) for apprenticeship and traineeship outcomes for 2025 shows once again, that doing an apprenticeship or traineeship in the electrotechnology and telecommunication industries provides big rewards.

Research shows the outcomes of apprentices and trainees who undertook an apprenticeship or traineeship during 2024. The 2025 survey results are based on the responses of 24,291 apprentices and trainees, collected between June and August 2025, as part of the National Student Outcomes Survey.

The highest rates of trade completers working in the same occupation as their training were found in Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers (83.2%), Construction Trades Workers (78.7%) and Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (77.2%). For completers from non-trade occupations, the highest rates were for Community and Personal Services Workers (48.4%), Machinery Operators and Drivers (45.5%) and Sales workers (44.3%). Details in figure 5 below:

Figure 5: Relevance of training to job after training, Trade occupation, Completers, 2025 (%)



In 2025, employment outcomes after training differed across trade and non-trade apprentices and trainees, with higher employment rates observed among completers than non-completers.

Among trade apprentices and trainees, 94.8% of completers and 80.8% of non-completers were employed after training, like 2024. Close to three-quarters of trade completers (73.7%) were employed in the same occupational group as their apprenticeship or traineeship, while

15.0% were employed in a different occupational group but found the training relevant to their job.

For non-trade apprentices and trainees, 89.2% of completers and 70.4% of non-completers were employed after training. This is similar to 2024 for completers but a decrease of 5.7 percentage points for non-completers. Among non-trade completers, 37.5% were employed in the same occupational group, while 38.2% were employed in a different occupational group where training was relevant to their job.

Students engaging in further study after training varied across student groups and occupations, with those who completed a non-trade apprenticeship or traineeship most likely to undertake further study, and increasing since 2024.

For more information on this visit: [Apprentice and trainee outcomes 2025](#)

Smart and Skilled Update

The latest Smart and Skilled updates for training providers outlines details on Contract Review Notices supporting the delivery of full and/or part qualification and apprenticeships and traineeships. There is a continued focus on the 6 Critical Skills Areas identified in the NSW Skills Plan and the National Skills Agreement priorities.

A 2.5% price indexation will be applied to all qualification for students commencing from 1 July with Financial Caps adjusted for the impact of the increase. There will be no change to student fees – the full cost of price indexation will be applied to the subsidy component of the qualification's price.

Limited Fee Free Tranche 2 places for the July-December 2026 semester are available in qualifications that support priority industries and cohorts. The NSW utilities industries have been designated as a priority industry for funding opportunities to meet the NSW Skills Plan. For more information regarding Fee Free places contact your local NSW Department of Education(Training Service) office at TSCust.Service@det.nsw.edu.au

Updated NSW Service and Installation Rules

The NSW Service and Installation Rules Management Committee has reviewed and updated the Service and Installation Rules of NSW, publishing the April 2026 edition. These changes are effective now, and we encourage Authorised Service Providers to become familiar with the updated rules.

This update reflects the evolving needs of the electricity networks, embraces technological and market changes, and improves clarity and consistency for electricity service work across NSW. A summary of the changes has also been prepared to help users see where changes have been made. You can access the



updated rules and summary of changes here: <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/regulation-and-policy/service-and-installation-rules#current-service-and-installation-rules>

National News:

Review of the UEE Training Package – Updates

As readers would be aware the UEE Training Package is currently under a full review. One of the cornerstone qualifications in the UEE Training Package is UEE30820: Electrotechnology Electrician. A draft outline of the new qualification is now available for comment. Please be aware that this is only the first stages of public consultation. Powering Services Organisation has published this early draft as a response to the joint state and territory ITAB's asking for a long review time for public comment for each of the qualifications. A summary of what has been done so far is as follows:



- Qualification code changed from UEE30820 to UEE3082X, with Release 1 of the new qualification mapped as a major change from the current qualification.
- Packaging rules changed from a points-based structure (990 core + 120 general elective weighting points) to a core-only model in which all listed core units must be completed.
- Core unit set has been substantially redesigned: multiple existing UEECD/UEEEL core units have been replaced or consolidated into new or revised UEEEL units, including new portfolio-focused units (UEEEL3001, UEEEL3099) and a new foundational trade skills unit (UEEEL30XX).
- Foundation skills section has been reframed, with detailed foundation skills “to be determined” and explicit recognition of digital literacy as an essential foundation skill. Levels will be assigned once units of competence have been developed

To find out what the new qualification will potentially look like and make initial comments visit:

[UEE3082X Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician – Public Consultation](#)

As you may be aware, one of the core functions of the NSW UE ITAB is to ensure that qualifications that are developed by PSO meet the workforce development and skilling requirements of NSW industry stakeholders. As such please ensure that any comments that you make, that you also forward them to me.

Clean Energy Job Ready Summit

The Executive Officer recently attended a PSO Clean Energy Jobs Summit in Sydney.

The workshop identified clean energy pipelines, documented NSW specific issues, benchmarked agreed skills, qualifications and competencies and safe training across industry for clean energy roles, validated role titles and role descriptions for clean energy roles, made connections to career pathways, licencing and potentially influencing training package development. As a national



project, it aims to develop a long term, skilled and safe clean energy workforce, improve training participation, productivity and employment through clear documentation of roles required. The project aims to enhance the visibility of the pool of qualified and experienced workers and improve partnerships between training providers, industry workers and potential learners. What a lot to accomplish ! For more information visit :

<https://poweringskills.com.au/project/clean-energy-job-ready/>

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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