



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

Australian Government Skills Initiatives

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16 April 2012

5th National Local Government Workforce
Development Forum

Skills Connect: Increasing Awareness, Strengthening Connections



Overview

- The Challenges and Opportunities
- Prime Minister's Skills Statement, COAG
- The Training Landscape
- Australian Government Skills Connect





Globalisation is transforming the economy

- Developing economies are in the global fast lane
 - The rise of the Asian middle class potentially presents a very large market for Australian goods and services.
- Policy settings must foster investment, innovation and skills, and enhance business management capabilities
 - Critical that we invest wisely now in both human and physical capital and make Australia leaders in workforce development.





The Training Landscape

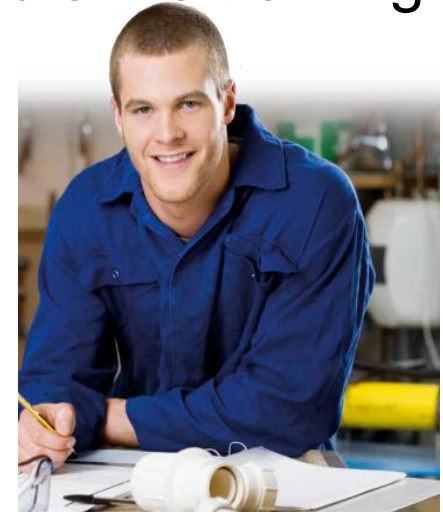
- Australian, State and Territory Governments work with industry to develop a **national training system**.
- Strong **industry leadership** and engagement is a key feature of the Australian training system.
- Training is being linked directly with the **workforce development needs** of businesses.
- Training qualifications are developed by industry, including **workplace competencies**, under a National Qualifications Framework.
- Key 2011-12 Budget measures for training:
 - \$558m National Workforce Development Fund
 - \$100m Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships
 - \$101m Australian Apprenticeship Mentoring package
 - \$30m More Help for Mature Age Workers
 - \$20m additional Workplace English Language and Literacy

**BUILDING AUSTRALIA'S
FUTURE WORKFORCE**



Skills For All Australians

- Skills Reform Statement 19 March 2012
- National reforms to skill more Australians and achieve a more competitive, dynamic economy
- Jobs are the Government's top priority, and skills training is all about jobs





COAG Agreement 13 April 2012

The key elements of the \$1.75 billion package are:

- The creation of a National Training Entitlement, giving working age Australians guaranteed access to a government subsidised training place;
- The expansion of income-contingent loans to subsidised higher level qualifications in the vocational education and training (VET) system;
- Launch of the MySkills website, to ensure students and industry can make an informed choice about the training that suits them, and a student identifier for the VET system; and
- Measures to raise the quality of skills training and outcomes.



Australian Government Skills Connect

- *Australian Government Skills Connect* is an **integrated approach** helping to link Australian enterprises and industry to a diverse range of services and programs in workforce development.

The Purpose

- Strengthen workforce development services and programs for enterprises and industry.
- *Australian Government Skills Connect* will:
 - increase awareness and strengthen connections of workforce programs and services
 - have strategic partners supporting employers to develop proposals for services and funding
 - consolidate access to a number of skills programs allowing employers or industry to come to government with a whole-of-workforce proposal
 - be an employers' gateway to information and expert support



Australian Government Skills Connect

- *Australian Government Skills Connect is building relationships and partnerships* with the experts in industry and regional knowledge through establishing clear expectations and co-ordinated support, where relevant, to provide quality workforce development service delivery.

The Network

- These experts in industry and regional knowledge include:
 - Industry Skills Councils
 - Enterprise Connect Business Advisers and Facilitators
 - Education and Training Advisers
 - Regional Education, Skills & Jobs Coordinators
 - Local Employment Co-ordinators





Australian Government Skills Connect

- *Australian Government Skills Connect* provides a holistic view to help consolidate access to a number of skills programs allowing business or industry to come to government with a whole-of-workforce proposal.

The Programs

- National Workforce Development Fund
 - Workplace English Language and Literacy
 - Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships
 - Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring
 - Experience+ Training
 - Experience+ More Help for Mature Age Workers
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- The individual programs can also still be accessed normally through the program areas.





National Workforce Development Fund

- Supports workforce development and training in areas of current and future skills need
 - Partnership model with industry co-contributing to training costs depending on the size of the business
- Applications for funding are open on a rolling basis
- \$130m in 2012-13 and will be managed by the new Workforce Development and Productivity Agency





Workplace English, Language and Literacy

- Focused on building the language, literacy and numeracy skills of existing workers in the workplace.
 - highly flexible and can be tailored to the specific needs of the workplace and participants
 - integrated with the VET system, with training focussed on the LLN components of workplace competencies
 - delivers improved staff retention and progression
- There would be very few, if any, workplaces in Australia whose productivity is not affected by LLN skills gaps.
 - Estimated at least 4.5 million workers don't have sufficient English language, literacy and numeracy skills to engage fully in education, training and work
- Since low LLN is so pervasive, WELL is a sensible partner to all of the programs under Skills Connect





Mature Age Training initiatives

■ Experience+ Training

- \$4,950 to employers of workers aged 50 years or over who work with apprentices or trainees
- Access training that improves capacity to provide supervisory or mentoring support in the workplace

■ More Help for Mature Age Workers

- \$4,400 to employers of workers aged 50 years and over with trade relevant skills but no formal qualifications
- Opportunity to have skills assessed and formally recognised
- Technicians and Trade Workers; Machinery Operators and Drivers and Labourers targeted
- Priority industries targeted include the Construction, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services





Australian Apprenticeships initiatives

■ Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships

- \$30m of this funding is available in 2011-12
- Fund industry-led partnerships to develop and implement innovative models that further the reach of competency-based progression
- Co-contribution is required at the same level as the National Workforce Development Fund,
- Apprenticeships at the certificate III or IV level where the nominal duration is 3 to 4 years

■ Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring

- \$15m of this funding is available in 2011-12
- Targeted support to apprentices to help them successfully progress in their apprenticeships
- Industry led partnerships are preferred
- Co-contribution is encouraged





Australian Government Skills Connect

- *Australian Government Skills Connect* is fostering a collective responsibility among its partners to consult with business and industry on workforce development. It will also build capacity by increasing the knowledge and skills of these partners to more effectively support businesses and industry.

The Benefits

- Improved **consultation** with business and industry on workforce development.
- Effective **communication** at all levels, including service provider to business; business to Australian Government; and within and between Australian Government departments on workforce development.
- Greater **collaboration** and **co-operation** with network service providers and program delivery areas to provide better quality service and outcomes for business and industry.
- **Consistency** in the way Australian Government does business on workforce development.



Contacts

- More information on the partners and programs targeted by this integrated approach are available at:
www.skills.gov.au/SkillsConnect
- Australian Government Skills Connect assistance is available from this site.
- Skills Infoline on 133 196

