



Smart and Skilled

Fact sheet for individuals

Smart and Skilled will give you training to gain a job and further your career.

Smart and Skilled is a reform of the NSW Vocational Education and Training system.

It will give you the chance to gain the skills you need to get a job and advance your career. This will expand the skills of our workforce to meet future demand for jobs.

Smart and Skilled will be implemented in 2014, including from 1 January 2015:

- an entitlement to government subsidised training up to and including Certificate III qualifications for eligible individuals, and
- funding for higher level training and skill sets in priority areas.

What training is covered?

The entitlement will cover select foundation courses and full qualifications up to and including Certificate III qualifications.

The NSW Government will continue to subsidise pre-vocational training, skill sets and qualifications from Certificate IV to Advanced Diploma as it currently does through TAFE NSW and the training market.

A skills list will define which courses will be subsidised by Government. It is based on industry consultation and labour market research.

Am I eligible?

You may be eligible for government subsidised training if you are:

- an Australian citizen, permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder, and
- aged 15 years or older, and
- live or work in New South Wales.

If you have left school and have no previous qualifications at Certificate IV or higher you will be eligible for the entitlement.

Apprentices, new entrant trainees and VET in schools students will continue under existing arrangements. The main change will be that rather than paying an annual fee, apprentices and new-entrant trainees will pay a set fee per qualification.

Where can I get training?

If you are eligible for the entitlement you will be able to choose to go to TAFE NSW or an approved private or community training organisation that best meets your needs. For training outside the entitlement, subsidised places will be available through TAFE NSW and approved private and community training organisations.

TAFE NSW will continue to be the leading provider of vocational education and training in New South Wales. TAFE NSW trains over 420,000 students per year and plays a critical role in training workers, jobseekers and regional students. It also delivers specialist services for disadvantaged learners including Aboriginal people, young people and people with disabilities.

How much will it cost?

We're developing a simpler and fairer system for calculating fees and subsidies.

- Concessions and fee exemptions will be retained for Aboriginal people, students with a disability and welfare recipients.
- Students will pay a set fee per qualification, regardless of which approved training organisation they choose. This will replace annual fees, making the system fairer for part-time learners and students commencing at different times of the year.
- Fees for apprentices and new-entrant trainees will be converted from an annual fee to a fee per qualification.
- Student contributions will be higher for those doing a second or subsequent post-school qualification as they have already benefited from training.
- Students doing higher level qualifications will contribute more than

those doing lower levels in recognition of their higher capacity to pay.

- Young people from Year 10 up to the age of 17 can do multiple qualifications and continue to be charged at the same rate as for an initial qualification.
- Student loans similar to those offered to university students will be available for approved Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications.

The amount of fees and subsidies will be published in 2014.

What support is available?

Better information and advice

A new information service will allow you to easily identify training opportunities and compare training organisations. There will be an online portal with information on training, job prospects and career pathways. This will help you find training that best meets your interests and has good job outcomes.

Better quality

High standards and quality measures will ensure that only high quality training organisations can deliver subsidised training. This means you will benefit from a quality training experience. You will have more opportunities to provide feedback on your training and there will be new systems for complaints handling.

Support for all students

Aboriginal people, students with a disability and welfare recipients will continue to receive concessions and/or fee exemptions.

Approved training organisations who deliver higher cost training in regional and remote communities, and to groups including Aboriginal people, students with a disability or the long-term unemployed, will get extra funding support. This will ensure training organisations cater for all student needs irrespective of your background, learning needs or where you live.



NEXT STEPS

Smart and Skilled will commence in 2014, with an entitlement to subsidised training from 1 January 2015. After a year of implementation we will review the system with a view to extending the entitlement.

For information about 2014 arrangements visit the State Training Services website at www.training.nsw.gov.au

For further information on *Smart and Skilled* or to subscribe to updates visit:
www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled

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