

Micro-credentialing Program 2023

Factsheet

What are micro-credentials?

The term micro-credential is increasingly being used by industry to define priority skills that are not currently being addressed through post-schooling education pathways. Micro-credentials provide an opportunity to support changing workplaces by enabling the provision of focused training for new or transitioning employees in specific skills to better support businesses and industries to adopt innovations and improve productivity.

For the purposes of the Micro-credentialing Program, the skill outcomes to be targeted will not be nationally recognised (i.e. vocational education and training or VET), as these outcomes can be supported under existing VET investment programs.

What is the aim of the Micro-credentialing Program?

The Queensland Government has committed \$2.9 million for the 2023 funding round, which will be administered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). The Program will aim to:

- support a range of approaches to micro-credentials targeting priority industry skills by industry and through regional partnerships;
- improve employability of participants by providing skills in demand from industry; and
- increase labour productivity of enterprises through investment in technical, digital or other emerging issues not addressed through existing VET products.

What assistance is available?

The Micro-credentialing Program aims to improve employability of participants by providing skills in demand from industry and increasing the labour productivity of enterprises through investment in priority skill areas. Micro-credentials developed for this program must represent a timely training solution developed in response to:

- a. digital or technical disruption that requires skill bridging or updating;
- b. regulatory, licensing, or other compulsory requirement that imposes new requirements on industry and workers;
- c. emerging health and safety issues and/or protecting vulnerable workers; and/or
- d. other emerging issue/s that are not addressed through existing VET products.

DESBT will provide up to \$250,000 (GST exclusive) for each successful application funded through this Micro-credentialing Program funding round.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must be registered for GST and fall into one of the following categories:

- Queensland's public VET providers (TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity)
- industry peak bodies
- regional industry bodies
- unions
- employers (on behalf of their industry)
- Industry Skills Advisors (approved by the Department)

An application submitted by eligible organisations should demonstrate their capacity to manage the project as well as how the micro-credential:

- complements (does not duplicate) existing VET products
- addresses current or future workforce skill needs
- is industry driven
- is accessible for participants
- is supported by employers and portable for participants
- is sustainable
- represents value for money

Who will the funds support?

The Micro-credentialing Program will upskill Queensland existing workers, new entrants or job seekers in industries, regions and enterprises targeted by programs. Eligible participants must:

- be aged 15 years of age or over
- be no longer at school
- permanently reside in Queensland
- be an Australian citizen, or a New Zealand citizen, or hold an eligible visa as identified by DESBT at <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/providers/inclusive/visa-eligibility>
- meet any additional eligibility requirements identified through approved program projects.

Application process

The funding round will open on 3 April 2023 and will close at 5.00pm on 11 May 2023. Applications, including supporting evidence, are to be submitted via the online application form which can be found at [Micro-credentialing Program | Department of Employment, Small Business and Training \(desbt.qld.gov.au\)](https://desbt.qld.gov.au/micro-credentialing-program).

Late applications will not be considered.

A panel will assess the applications against the selection criteria detailed in the Micro-

credentialing Program Guidelines for Funding 2023.

Funding conditions

Organisations approved to deliver projects will be generally offered funding of up to 12 months duration. Longer durations will be considered by the panel on a case by case basis.

Funding is only available on the basis of a negotiated co-contribution for all projects, which may be from industry, enterprises or participants. The extent and nature of the co-contribution will be taken into consideration when assessing applications against the selection criteria.

DESBT reserves the right to fund projects addressing emergent needs or government priorities outside of this funding channel. DESBT is not bound to accept any application and reserves the right to discontinue or change the application, selection process and/or selection criteria as appropriate.

More information

Organisations seeking information on the Micro-credentialing Program or funding round should contact DESBT by email VPI@desbt.qld.gov.au.