

# Queensland JOBS AND SKILLS CONNECT

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May 2025



## It's almost game time — let's go, Queensland!

As our mighty Maroons prepare to battle it out in the State of Origin, another Queensland team will be chasing national glory - our 121-strong tradie and skills squad at the WorldSkills Australia 2025 National Championships and Skills Show!

From 12–14 June, our emerging skills stars will go head-to-head with the best from across the country in 60+ skill categories - from traditional trades to tech and professional services.

Held alongside the [Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo](#), this FREE event is the chance for visitors to explore career pathways, chat to industry experts and try their hand at trades in interactive Try-a-Skill zones.

Whether you're an educator or skills enthusiast, come and support Team Queensland!

**Can't make it to Brisbane?** Watch all the action unfold on [Channel WSA](#) – your front-row seat to the

event, bringing you live coverage, inspiring interviews and behind-the-scenes magic from the competition floor.

This major event is proudly supported by the Queensland Government and TAFE Queensland.

[Learn more](#)



## Revitalised Jobs Queensland Board to strengthen Queensland's skilled workforce

A dynamic, seven-member Board will reinforce Jobs Queensland's dedication to Queensland's skilled workforce.

Professor Michael E. Drew has been appointed as the new Chair of the Board. Professor Drew is a continuing board member, co-founder of Drew, Walk and Co, Professor Emeritus of Finance at Griffith University, and Chair of Volunteering Australia.

Ms Deirdre von Guilleaume joins the Board in 2025. As a retired school principal with extensive experience in leadership, mentoring, coordination and government and more than two decades of teaching experience, Ms Guilleaume provides a vital voice for education.

Danielle Carey, Heidi Cooper, Bernie Hogan, Kate Venables, and Trent Young will continue their



## Inclusive careers thrive at Gunabul Homestead

Thanks to support from the Back to Work program, Wellness Australia Group has transformed Gunabul Homestead in Gympie into a vibrant, inclusive employment hub.

CEO Julie Marsh says, *"These success stories are proof that with the right support, people can thrive in meaningful, purposeful employment."*

Team members like Nathan, Michael, and Anthony have overcome long-term unemployment to build careers in hospitality, grounds-keeping, and customer service - backed by hands-on training, mentoring, and personalised support.

Julie says, *"This program has been life-changing for them - and for us."*

Since 2016, the Back to Work program has assisted 29,400+ employees and 13,500+ employers.

service as Jobs Queensland Board members through their respective terms.

[Read the story >>](#)

Since 2016, Jobs Queensland has provided strategic skills advice, workforce planning, and employment-related data.

[Meet the board >>](#)

QUEENSLAND  
**Training  
Awards**

***Regional finalists revealed***

### **Congratulations to our 2025 Regional Queensland Training Awards finalists!**

We are proud to announce 227 outstanding finalists across seven regions for the 2025 Queensland Training Awards.

[Meet our regional finalists >>](#)

Nearly 750 nominations were carefully reviewed by 59 dedicated judges, including past winners and industry experts, across 14 categories and 27 panels.

From apprentices and trainees to trainers and industry leaders, each finalist reflects the impact of vocational education and training in Queensland.

We look forward to celebrating their achievements at the upcoming regional finals with tickets on sale soon!

[Get ready for the awards >>](#)



## Careers shift into gear at 2025 Brisbane Truck Show

The Depot careers hub was a hive of activity during last week's Brisbane Truck Show.

The Skills for Queensland Jobs stall was firing on all cylinders — guiding attendees through a simple 3-step process to access funded training and apprenticeship pathways across Queensland.

As Australia's largest industry exhibition, the 2025 Brisbane Truck Show attracted a record-breaking 54,790 attendees.

With over 30 career pathways in transport and logistics on display, the event spotlighted the critical role of apprenticeships in powering the future of an industry that keeps the state moving.

[More training info >>](#)



## Forum strengthens collaboration on Queensland's workforce priorities

The recent Industry Skills and Jobs Advisor Forum brought together CEOs and project leads from the newly established advisor network to strengthen collaboration between industry and government.

The forum served as a platform to workshop key workforce issues including attraction, retention, training, and skilling, all tailored to meet industry needs.

The Industry Skills and Jobs Advisors play a critical role in ensuring Queensland's training and workforce strategies are informed by on-the-ground needs, helping to address regional skills gaps and support a future-ready workforce.

[Find out more >>](#)



[Help shape the next decade of sport in](#)

## Supporting regional jobs and strengthening the sugar industry

Mackay Canegrowers, working with regional canegrowers organisations and local industry leaders, successfully delivered a targeted haul-out training course in Tully to help address the sugar industry's driver shortage.

With funding from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work *Community Work Skills* program, 10 local participants, including people with disability and mature-aged job seekers, gained accredited training and hands-on experience operating essential sugarcane transport machinery.

All 10 gained full-time employment post-training, helping build a skilled and sustainable workforce for Far North Queensland's sugar sector.

[Find out more >>](#)

## Queensland

Queensland is on the cusp of something extraordinary. With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, now is the time to shape the future of sport across our state - from the grassroots to elite competition.

The Queensland Sport Strategy discussion paper is now open for public consultation. This is the chance to have a voice in building a lasting legacy — one that goes beyond medals and mega-events to support healthier, more active communities across Queensland. Have your say today to help build a stronger, healthier Queensland.

The survey is open until 15 June 2025.

[Take the survey >>](#)

## Mentoring and employment support program shaping young futures

Funded under Back to Work's [Growing Workforce Participation Fund](#), the [Torres Strait Kaziw Meta's Remote Indigenous Boarding Students Mentoring and Employment support](#) program is successfully delivering meaningful guidance and support to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Torres Strait.

Respected local Torres Strait Islander and Career Transition Officer, Jimmy O'Cloudy, said *"This program is more than just about jobs; it's about instilling confidence, building skills and fostering a sense of purpose among our youth. Watching students step into roles that not only provide financial independence but also contribute to their communities has been incredibly rewarding"*.

Significantly surpassing its targets, the program has engaged 50 participants in activities to either prepare for work with practical skills or gain employment.



[Find out more >>](#)

## Events and programs

### Celebrate this great state on Queensland Day!

On 6 June 1859, Queensland separated from New South Wales - one of the many great reasons to rejoice - and this year, Queenslanders can join the celebration by:

- attending an amazing [Queensland Day event](#)
- [nominating a local legend](#) for their contribution to the community
- [voting for the best](#): be it beach, coffee or parmi

With events throughout May and June, unite with pride for Queensland.



[Join the celebrations >>](#)

### National Reconciliation Week

From 27 May to 7 June we honour National Reconciliation Week, a time to reflect on our shared histories and commit to reconciliation in our communities and workplaces.

This year's theme, *Bridging Now to Next*, highlights reconciliation as a journey - connecting past, present and future through listening, learning and action.

This year, show your support by:

- sharing the good work with these [marketing resources](#)
- [attending an event](#) in your community
- access [multilingual resources](#) for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) audiences.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

**Bridging  
Now to  
Next**

[Show support >>](#)

## Multicultural Employment EXPO

**Date:** Friday, 27th June

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Southport Community Centre, 6 Lawson St

This FREE event connects jobseekers from diverse backgrounds to a range of employers and community services. Stalls are also provided FREE to employers and organisations, register your interest by 15 June.



Register >>

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The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas from across Queensland.

This email was sent by Department of Trade, Employment and Training, Level 14 | 150 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4001, Australia to [mandy.shearn@desbt.qld.gov.au](mailto:mandy.shearn@desbt.qld.gov.au)

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**Queensland  
Government**