

Trade Pathways Innovation Fund

Grant Round

Frequently Asked Questions

20 March 2023

The Trade Pathways Innovation Fund (The Fund) was released on Tuesday 21 February with an information session held on Wednesday 1 March.

Responses to questions asked during the information session and via email are provided in this communique. Please email TradePathways@det.nsw.edu.au if further clarification is required.

1.1. Is it compulsory to incorporate an accredited training component?

Delivery of training is not a compulsory requirement for projects. Various types of training can form part of a project proposal. The project design is to be informed by a strong evidence base and have the support of the relevant industry.

Projects incorporating training delivery are to provide detail related to any units of competency proposed and whether the training is accredited or non-accredited. Accredited training undertaken is to be Certificate III or above and include at least three units of competency.

Costs associated with accredited training are to be covered by the nominated RTO under Smart and Skilled funding. A Training Needs Identification (TNI) will need to be prepared by the RTO for the delivery of accredited training. If the TNI is approved via the issue of a Provider Activity Schedule (PAS), training costs will be paid directly to the RTO by Training Services NSW. Accredited training components funded via Smart and Skilled subsidy do not need to be included in the project budget.

1.2. Is the Fund an ongoing initiative?

The Fund is fixed-term with projects commencing in May 2023 for a 12-month period.

1.3. Will the Fund timeline be impacted by the NSW election?

It is not anticipated that the Fund will be significantly impacted by the 2023 NSW State election. Fund updates (including FAQs) will be uploaded to the [Grant Portal](#).

1.4. How is industry representative body defined?

An industry representative body is an organisation that is recognised by a particular sector to be a representative body. An industry representative body could represent the interests of employees, employers or both.

Definitions are located in Appendix A of the grant guidelines on page 10.

1.5. What qualifications are included in the Fund?

There is a list of qualifications located at Appendix B of the grant guidelines. In addition to the qualifications listed, Certificate III or above trade or trade-like qualifications on the NSW Skills List are included in the Fund.

Trade-like qualifications have similar characteristics to trades but do not require the completion of an apprenticeship.

1.6. Are national industry associations eligible?

National industry associations are eligible if they represent the interests of NSW employees and/or employers.

1.7. The guidelines state that *'other organisations may be approved to submit an application at the discretion of the Department'*. Which organisations can contact the Department to apply?

Whilst Smart and Skilled RTO's are not listed directly as eligible applicants, they will play an important role as delivery partners to funded projects incorporating accredited training into the project scope.

Contact TradePathways@det.nsw.edu.au if your organisation type is not listed in the eligibility criteria and you have an innovative, industry-led idea. We can discuss options and potentially link you in with eligible applicants.

1.8. Do all projects require the attainment of trade qualifications as an outcome?

Applications focussing on a particular cohort (E.g. experienced but unqualified workers) will benefit from incorporating the attainment of trade qualifications as a project outcome within the 12-month delivery period. Cohort-focussed approaches are best suited to projects that have a cohort of workers that are ready to transition to trade qualifications.

Applications proposing to undertake RPL / gap training are to ensure the project scope complements the Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers initiative - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/skills-initiatives/trade-pathways>.

Applications proposing to build a new pathway or enhance an existing non-traditional pathway are not required to incorporate trade qualification as an outcome within the 12-month delivery period. However, such proposals need to demonstrate that the 'new pathway' will result in the attainment of trade qualifications in the short to medium term.

1.9. Can an organisation submit more than one application?

Eligible applicants can submit one application only but can support other applications as a delivery partner.

1.10. Can funded activities (including accredited training) be delivered beyond the 12-month project term?

Funded projects are to be delivered within a 12-month timeframe from May 2023. If it is anticipated that components of a project will extend beyond the 12 months, the applicant is to detail how the associated costs will be funded separately from the grant. The exception is project-related accredited training funded via Smart and Skilled which can continue until training completion in accordance with the requirements of the associated Training Needs Identification (TNI) documentation.