

---

## Tertiary Report

---

**Madame President, Distinguished Guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present the Tertiary Portfolio Report for 2022.**

This past year has been hailed as the “year of the apprentice”. Nationally there were 490,000 people are enrolled in job training and apprenticeships – the highest number on record. There are currently around 102,000 apprentices and trainees in training in NSW, a 19.8 per cent increase from 2020.

### **Federal Government:**

In the last budget the university sector is notable largely for the absence of new expenditure. The previous budget tipped an additional \$1 billion into research funding.

The thrust of the Australian Government appears to be its commitment to higher education delivering job-ready graduates, including through short courses and innovative delivery.

However, larger uncertainties are confronting universities such as keeping Australia’s border closed for an extended period due to Covid19. Recently the National Cabinet has come together to develop a plan for the safe return of international students.

### **Job training**

- \$2.7 billion to extend the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, which is a wage subsidy that will reimburse businesses up to \$7,000 per quarter for 12 months for taking on new apprentices and trainees
- \$500 million extension of the JobTrainer fund, conditional upon state and territory governments matching contributions
- Next Generation of Women in STEM received \$42.4 million allocated over 7 years.

### **New South Wales Government:**

Headline budget items were an announcement to attract more teachers with \$125 million to develop a *Teacher Supply Strategy*, which was a recommendation in the Productivity Commission. The Budget also provides \$2.9 million to attract more high achievers into teaching, particularly in regional NSW.

The Skills sector will benefit from a \$2.6 billion investment to support new and innovative training for the jobs of the future and transform the vocational education and training (VET) sector to make skills training more accessible.

The Skills funding component will provide more than \$2 billion for TAFE NSW. This includes \$19 million in technology upgrades at campuses across the state, \$5.9 million for 16

undercover trades training facilities\* and \$11.4 million to complete or continue the construction of seven Connected Learning Centres\*\* in regional NSW.

**\*Undercover trades training facilities** to help meet the booming demand for skilled trades including in Broken Hill, Kingscliff, Moruya and Western Sydney.

**\*\*Connected Learning Centres** already exist in Bega, Bourke, Coonabarabran, Corowa, Deniliquin, Glen Innes, Grenfell, Murwillumbah, Narrandera, Quirindi, Singleton, Tenterfield and Yamba. The ones to be completed are in Bateman's Bay, Cobar, Jindabyne, Hay, Tomaree, Nambucca Heads and Byron Bay. CLC's are state-of-the-art facilities providing regional areas with greater access to skills training and employment outcomes.

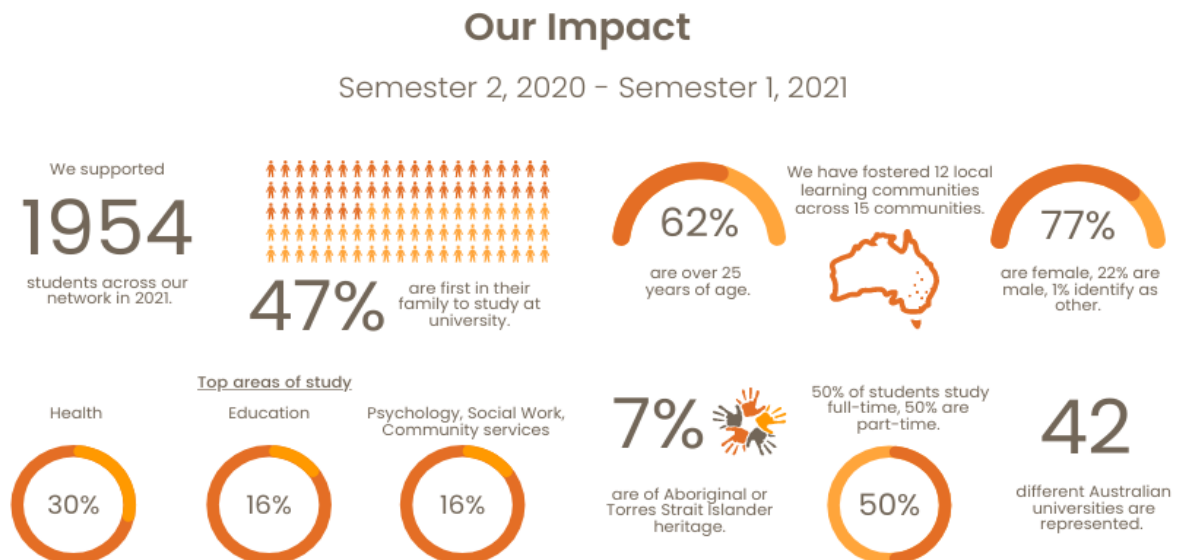
\$318.6 million over 2 years to continue investment in the Skilling for Recovery program to help job seekers retrain or upskill, and support school leavers to enter the workforce.

Despite this TAFE and the skills portfolio saw an overall reduction in funding from last year's Budget. It was also required to update 250 training and assessment material as a result of changes to national training packages.

The Government did confirm \$11.4 million funding for Careers NSW, a pilot scheme for dedicated careers support service which has been a previous conference motion.

### Country University Centres:

I nicked this their website([www.cuc.edu.au](http://www.cuc.edu.au)) – it is much more neatly organised than what I could put together 😊



**Micro-credentials:**

On-the-job training and short courses are growing as employers target specific skill sets for their staff outside of university and trade qualifications. Think business, hospitality, retail, and aged care.

Thank you to my fellow councillors, especially Deborah Castle for her role as State Secretary.

Tim Fletcher

NSW State Councillor, Tertiary portfolio.