



Greater Northern  
Skills Development Group  
Incorporated Association

Committee Meeting Tuesday 8 February, 2022 via TEAMS

MINUTES

**Meeting opened: 12.05pm**

**Attendees:** Robert Walters (Chair), Bede Maher, Fiona Sweeney, Eleze Drew, Debbie Taekata, Tania Walsh, Joe Townsend, Stephen Vile, Kandi Meere, Ryan Hanrahan

**Apologies:** Virginia Fenwicke, Sara Abberton, Peter Wynn, Karyl Brogan, Bronnie Cocking, Peter Rickard, Casey Trevithick (resigned), Jocelyn Cockbain, Russell Stewart

**Conflict of Interest:**

**Item 1:**

Acknowledgement of Country: *"I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Gomeroi nation and pay my respects to elders past and present, and emerging youth"*

**Item 2: Updates from Skills Brokers: (Eleze)**

**Change in Skilling for Recovery Funding requirements.** Working with stakeholders about the initiative. Priority areas Aged Care, Digital, Disability Care, Childcare and TAE quals. Identifying needs in region in addition to BAU. Current travel restrictions. Forums and workshops to reach employees. Value add through the disability network. Networks to send SB's an invite.

**Item 3: Updates from RIEP staff:** (Ryan) Nov and Dec in Schools. Mixology mixer course at the Press. Industry relevant training. Licencees attended. Student offered work. COVID /Omicron having an effect. Fit for work program – various high Schools in Tamworth participating in 10-week program. State-wide Project in Salesforce with 503 students. 52 New England students. Doing industry tours

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***Skills Brokers/ RIEP reps invited to opt out of meeting***

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**Item 4: Acceptance of minutes from previous Meeting 2 Dec 2021**

Moved: Fiona Sweeney, Seconded: Tania Walsh

**Item 5: Business arising from previous minutes:** Backtrack visit in Armidale to present Jack Ackling People's Choice Award.

**Item 6: Chairperson Report (Rob)**

Economy is going forward. Skilling focus on Health. Construction in local region. Obieco secured funding out of the Regional Growth Fund – congrats. Apprentices and Trainees have increased which is good for industry and employers.

### **Item 7: Finance Report (Tania)**

Bank Account balance: \$4,986.00.

Term Deposit: \$68,499.64 reinvested for March 2022

Membership renewals going out in February

Copy of the new membership form for 2022 presented.

All reports for finance included within the TEAMS platform for the Executive members.

**Membership applications:** Nil for month of Feb. Casey Trevithick resigned from Committee.

#### **Inwards Correspondence:**

1/2/22 Email provided by Casey and Executive thanked her.

#### **Outwards Correspondence:**

25/1/22 To members – advertisement for TS New England – TA role

19/1/22 Members – Business Chamber Networking event postponed

### **Item 8: Strategic Plan:**

A group to discuss and review the Strategic Plan. Sara, Bede, Fiona and Rob to meet. Bede to set up Meeting.

### **Item 9: Training Awards: (Bede)**

Had first Training Awards Sub-committee meeting 8/2/22. Extended invite out the GNSDG Inc members to be involved with the TA Sub-committee. Went through scope of tasks for the Awards.

Training Awards Funding deed signed and confirmed with Corp Office.

Funding deed Includes:

- Two invoices to be processed for grant funding totalling \$20,250.00.
- Allocate \$1000 prizemoney to 7 main Award categories
- Culling of noms to 10 Finalists in each category
- The awards function to meet certain criteria
- Recruitment of Contractor and /or casual employees 1/1/2022 to 30/8/22 or part thereof
- Prospectus being designed and emailed out to stakeholders: Gold, Silver and Bronze levels
- Eligibility list for Nominees out to Training Advisors who work in specific “Areas” in the New England Region
- Contractor agreement designed and confirmed by the Executive: EOI processed, 4 enquiries and one response from Sue Maher, to start 1/3.
- Discussion about various other tasks that need to be done in the coming month.
- Next meeting before GNSDG Inc Committee Meeting 8 March, 2022

**Item 10: Skills Shortages:** Jobs Forum Focus Group. Availability of jobs, Issues, Challenges, Trades Perspective.

**Item 11: Website [www.gnsd.com](http://www.gnsd.com)** (Tania). No update as such. Priority focus, share information on the website, Share the load of the website. Need intel on the region, automatically goes into Facebook.

**Item 12: Updates from Training Services:** (Bede). Alerted Committee about the recent changes in the criteria for SFR funding arrangements. Bit of a stall at the moment with stakeholders as the training needs are very hard to justify and verify in alignment with the new changes. Small numbers of TNI's coming in. The Agskilled strategy continues.

Hyperlinks added.

**Smart and Skilled Part qual team Current Programs:**

Skilling for Recovery – Construction part quals  
Skilling for Recovery – Regional and Youth part quals  
Step Safely Info Construction – PE for SFR construction  
Business as usual part quals  
Agskilled 2.0 – May 23

**Initiatives:**

Pacific Labour Scheme Pilot  
Trade Pathways Program – Construction Industries Pilot  
Clubs NSW Regional Cub Training Employment Program May 2022  
Skill up at Home – fee free online training courses  
Summer Skills – for Year 12 school leavers April 2022

**Item 13: Updates from Committee members:**

**Joe** provided an update on the local economy. Survey for businesses moving forward. Things are stable, with consumers showing a decline in spending during Dec and Jan. Omicron people are not travelling, lack lustre, no revenue generated for Dec and Jan. Gov't support in Feb

**Rob** welcomed Kandi from Tamworth Community College as a Training and Compliance Office to the Committee, to replace of Cheryl Wilson.

**Deb** mentioned Careers Network have deferred their workshops until the end of the year.

**Items 14: General Business**

**GNSDGI Inc Survey** out to members and completed by end of Feb.

**Meeting closed: 12.46pm next meeting in March online**