



# Greater Northern Skills Development Group

Incorporated Association

**Committee Meeting Tuesday 21 Sept 2021 midday online via TEAMS**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Rob Walters, Bede Maher, Virginia Fenwicke, Joe Townsend, Casey Trevithick, Bronnie Cocking, Sara Alberton, Fiona Sweeney, Stephen Vile, Eleze Drew, Debbie Taekata, Tania Walsh, Peter Wynn, Karly Brogan, Jocelyn Cockbain, Ryan Hanrahan, Sue Maher, Shane Beglinger (Guest)

**Apologies:** Peter Rickard

**Conflict of Interest:** Nil

### **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"*

**Item 2: GUEST SPEAKER:** Shane Beglinger – Corrective Services.

Presentation on ***Pathways to Employment Pilot Program. Securing training and employment for ex-Offenders***

85% of inmates "go to work" every day. 6,000 inmates will be released over the next 12 months. Shane acknowledges Peter Rickard's energy and drive to get Pathways off the ground. Acknowledges Business Australia's efforts in general. A long-term program for years going forward. Hope to include some training component. Employers identify skills lacking in the workplace and Pathways may be able to fill shortfall with ex-offenders. Fiona Sweeney offered testimonial of the program. O'bioco had an inmate for his last three months of sentence. Found Pathways an easy program to navigate. Did offer the inmate full time employment upon his release, however he went home to Northern NSW. Found Pathways to be a WIN/WIN for Employer and Employee. Rob Walters mentioned Pathways provided a good talent pool for employers. RTO provider should touch base with Shane. Shane mentioned a lot of inmates would be prepared to move for a job as returning home would not always be advantageous for the inmate. A chance for the inmate to "reinvent themselves". Sara Alberton has introduced Shane to Best Employment previously

**Item 3: Updates from Skills Brokers:** (Jocelyn)

### **General and projects**

**Recruitment** still occurring for Sara's position

**Training numbers** as at Monday 20 September = 1,253

**Skilling for Recovery** extended until 30 December, 2021 with Job Trainer 2.0 still being negotiated

**Summer Skills** Intent to Participate closed on Friday 17 September. Working with RTOs to ensure training offerings. TNIs to be lodged in the coming weeks with approved training going up on the Summer Skills web page, to be launched imminently. The New Gap Year is

web page is also being promoted to businesses and students will be linked to the Summer Skills web page. See link below: <https://www.newgapyear.com.au/>

**Ranger program** - currently working with Tamworth LALC, LLS and Tamworth Regional Council about a potential ranger program.

**Vehicle Air Conditioning, repair and retrofit** - a couple of businesses requesting this training. TAFE Tamworth offer the training in the summer only due to the air conditioning simulation that occurs and the risk of OHS. The courses for this summer are all full, working to have a fourth course run and be funded under SFR. The only other TAFE campus that runs the course is Mt Druitt. Discussions with other RTOs to see if other providers could provide additional training.

**Real Pet Food Inverell** - Tamworth TSNSW office working with Regional NSW and a number of RTOs to coordinate and assist with training for redeployment of staff, due to the closure of the facility later this year.

#### **Training Young Leaders**

First round of Young Leaders training has occurred online in Tamworth on 7-8 September. Second round has been rescheduled to the 6-7 October. This training is being attended by a wide range of private engineering/manufacturing companies as well as young people from Tamworth Regional Council.

Forsythes Training running a second round in Tamworth. Dates to be confirmed. Also looking to re-engage with Boss Engineering and either take their training on-line or set new dates.

#### **SoA Aboriginal Cultural Studies**

Set up a SoA with TAFE Tamworth. The first offering of this training commences on line in October with numbers almost full. A second offering is currently being discussed.

#### **Royal Life Saving**

Life Guard, Pool Technician and Swimming Teacher training rolled out in locations across the State prior to the pool season opening in October. This has also been offered to Job Actives, which at this point hasn't had a significant uptake. The training will also be offered as part of Summer Skills for School Leavers. Tamworth Regional Council alone employs between 50-70 pool life guards over the season through a Labour Hire company. Training is already planned for late September and October.

#### **Skill Up From Home Program**

Working with RTOs to provide training through the Skill Up From Home Program to offer online training to organisations/individuals who may not qualify for the program but could be supported under Smart and Skilled eligibility (ie. Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander). Also working with other Skills Brokers to set up this training in other locations for eligible students. This has occurred with Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council and Dubbo Opportunity Hub.

#### **Item 4: Updates from RIEP staff: (Ryan/Karly)**

- During lockdown have been facilitating webinars for local students
- Have provided pilot funding to Tamworth High School to utilise EDGE Careers Teaching Materials for 12 months

- UNE Partnerships RTO bringing Allied Health Assistance onto scope for SBATS in 2022
- Term 4 will see students from the PCYC 'Fit for Work' program participating in face to face Industry Tours (Some places still available. If members are interested in participation, please contact Ryan Hanrahan
- Summer Skills promotion in New England schools is producing great results with 17.5% of student interest state wide coming from the New England

**Item 5: Acceptance of minutes from previous Meeting 17 Aug 2021** Adopted as a true and correct record: Moved: Tania Walsh, Seconded: Bede Maher

**Item 6: Business arising from previous minutes-**

Sponsorship Strategy – Fiona Sweeney put ideas together with four members of GNSD for Sponsorship Guidelines. To be sent to full committee and discussed for adoption at next meeting

**Item 7: Inwards Correspondence (Bede)**

26/8: Two membership applications Wests and NSW DPI

**Item 8: Outwards Correspondence** emails (Tania and Bede)

- 13/9: Committee member profile reminder
- 10/9: **Members:** TAFE SOA about investigating Aboriginal Culture
- 8/9: TAFE Committee membership representative
- 8/9 and 7/9: Joblinkplus Training Awards Sub-committee membership
- 8/9: Replacement of Regional NSW Committee member: Emily replaced by Sara
- 7/9: GNSDG Email blockage to some members
- 6/9: Payment authorised for Gmail Monthly hosting
- 6/9: Notice from Mary Garnett about 3 Live Train and Work events deferred to March 2022
- 6/9: 8 Past regional winner's invitation to be members of GNSDG Inc
- 3/9: China notice about the GNSDG IN domain name
- 2/9: Reviewing GNSDG Inc W drive folders
- 2/9: Committee Member Profiles for website – template emailed
- 2/9: Amy seeking assistance with maintaining website media assistance
- 2/9: Proposing a **Meet and Greet session** for all GNSDG Inc Members in Dec 2021 as a final meeting for the year.
- 1/9: New Members be invited as Guest Speakers for Committee Meetings: HVTC, Verto, Gunnedah Shire Council, Australian Training Plus
- 1/9: **Members:** Encouraging people to complete **People Choice awards** for Training Awards
- 1/9: **Members:** Summer Skills training opportunity notice
- 27/8: GNSDG Inc Facebook page for People's Choice Award
  - Tania advised that Emily from Department of NSW sent COVID 19 information, Ryan has sent Summer Skills information and People Choice Awards information, do we pass this onto our stakeholders and post on our website?

**Item 9: Chairperson Report (Rob)**

Rob acknowledges there are so many jobs out in the workplace and a big skills shortage. GNSDG should push our training and skilling of our people

**Item 10: Finance Report (Tania)**

Bank balance of cheque account: \$5,951.00, Term Deposit \$73,487.00. \$350.00 Income from membership, \$223.48 outgoing of bank fees and Winner cheque cashed. Outstanding invoices \$700.00. Two new members. Tania has designed membership templates

**Item 11: Draft Sponsorship Strategy proposal**

Outline key benefits of our organisation. Plan for 2022 Training Awards. Provide a consistent process.

**Item 12: Training Awards (Tania)**

State Awards via online – 9<sup>th</sup> October. People’s Choice Awards close this Monday. Plan for 2022 Training Awards- Email sent for EOI for next year, eligible list is ready. Looking for quality applications. Possibly create a video to promote the awards with help to understand the process

**Item 13: New Organisation Membership applications for Approval:(Bede)**

**West Tamworth Leagues Club** – Theresa Brodbeck, Rod Laing

**NSW Department of Primary Industries** – Jodie Bartlett Taylor, Jayne Wood, Nicole Redfern

**Novaskills** – David Sainsbury, Kelly Cooper, Corie Morris, Sandy Holden

Proposed: Tania Walsh Secoded: Bede Maher - *Carried*

**Item 14: Skills Shortages Discussion (all).** Nil discussion.

**Item 15: Website [www.gnsd.com](http://www.gnsd.com) (Tania)** Setting up a meeting with the website designer to provide updates and get new strategies in place.

**Item 16: Updates from Training Services: (Bede).** Mentioned the continuation of all the programs and pointed out funding for PLS workers

**Smart and Skilled Part qual team:**

**Current Programs:**

Skilling for Recovery – Construction part quals – 2021 - 2022

Skilling for Recovery – Regional and Youth part quals – 2021 -2022

Step Safely Info Construction – PE for SFR construction – 2021 - 2022

Business as usual part quals – May 2022

Agskilled 2.0 – May 23

**New Initiatives:**

Pacific Labour Scheme Pilot - 2021

Trade Pathways Program – Construction Industries Pilot – 7/21 to 6/22

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 17: Update on the 3 Live Train work workshops (Deb T)**

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, workshops have been moved to March 2022

**Item 18: Updates from Committee members - NIL**

**Item 19: General Business**

Bede proposed that End of Year meeting to be a social event to meet and greet all members of GNSDG, enabling the question to be asked of the general group, “how should GNSDG move towards 2022?”

**COVID 19 Impact:** ***Lock down for parts of STATE continues***. Update region.

**Any other Business**

**Next meeting Tuesday 19 October 2021.**

**Meeting closed: 1.00pm**