



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 5 November 2021

### **YOUNG LOCALS ENCOURAGED TO SKILL UP THIS SUMMER**

Young people across Hawkesbury are being encouraged to skill up this summer and support the regions with more than 10,000 free training places across more than 800 courses now available to study.

The NSW Government today launched its Summer Skills program, offering free training in critical industries delivered by TAFE NSW and 120 registered training providers.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said it was the perfect opportunity for young Hawkesbury locals and school leavers to develop new skills over summer and land a job in a growing industry.

“There has never been a better time to skill up and support our regions, or even stay local and support our local businesses and economy as we bounce back from the COVID pandemic,” Ms Preston said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said in-demand short courses including construction, agriculture, hospitality, animal studies, shearing and wool harvesting, were available to study for free for people aged 16-24 years.

“We’re encouraging young people to go bush and combine learning with on-the-job experience this summer to support regional industries,” Mr Toole said.

“Now is the perfect time to get out, go and pick fruit in the regions, learn how to make a great coffee working for a local cafe or lend a hand to our farmers with free training funded by the NSW Government.”

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education Geoff Lee said it was a great opportunity for young people to take advantage of new freedoms in NSW.

“It’s been a challenging period especially for our young people, which is why we’re committed to skilling them up to take on a job anywhere in NSW ahead of a bumper summer,” Mr Lee said.

“This is about giving school leavers a leg up in their career and the opportunity to put their skills to use after what has been a challenging year.”

Summer Skills program is funded under the joint Federal and State JobTrainer program and is available to people aged 16 to 24 who have left school and are living or working in NSW.

Summer Skills short courses include:

- Accounting
- Agriculture
- Animal Studies

- Hospitality
- Construction
- Process Manufacturing
- Transport and Logistics
- Shearing and Wool Harvesting
- Drone Essentials
- Care Roles Skillset

For more information and to enrol, visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/skills-initiatives/summer-skills>

Young people looking for a gap year working in regional NSW can find out about work opportunities across the state by visiting: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/gap-year>

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