

MEDIA RELEASE

Industry Skills Australia Releases 2026 Transport Supply Chain Workforce Planning Publications

Industry Skills Australia (ISA) has today released the **2026 Workforce Planning Updates** (the Updates) and the **2026 Transport Supply Chain Workforce Outlook** (the Outlook). Together, the publications demonstrate purposeful collaboration between industry, union and government stakeholders to strengthen workforce capability and improve productivity across Australia's transport supply chain industries.

The launch was marked by a formal event attended by the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP alongside representatives from industry, unions and government.

The Updates highlight priorities for Australia's **Aviation, Maritime, Rail, and Transport & Logistics** sectors, report on industry-led progress, and set out future action to build a more skilled, agile and resilient workforce.

The Outlook draws on key insights from the Updates to highlight the national significance of the transport supply chain and the common pressures shaping all four sectors, including an ageing workforce, rapid technological change, rising infrastructure demand and increasing fuel costs. These challenges continue to place strain on industries that encompass more than **237,000 businesses nationwide** and contribute more than **\$270.6 billion annually** to the Australian economy.

Released at a time of global disruption and with **22 transport supply chain occupations currently in national shortage**, these publications reinforce the need for coordinated action to deliver effective workforce solutions. Given the transport supply chain's interconnectedness to all other industries, the capacity and capability of its workforce is critical to Australia's sovereign capability, economic productivity, community wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

"Australia's transport supply chain is the lynchpin of the Australian economy, connecting people and goods to communities and markets across the country. Workforce planning is central to ISA's role as a Jobs and Skills Council – and vital for building a world-class workforce for these essential industries." – Catherine Baxter, Chair of the ISA Board, Industry Skills Australia.

Industry-Led Workforce Planning

ISA's workforce planning is overseen by the Strategic Workforce Planning Committees comprising of industry leaders and experts. Extensive national engagement continues to support the workforce planning process, ensuring the approach remains aligned to industry needs. This continuous engagement ensures the publications reflect real challenges, real progress and practical solutions for industry.

Turning Priorities into Action

“Improving productivity depends on turning priorities into action. These publications show how ISA is delivering projects that support national reform, strengthen partnerships, advance diversity, and build the workforce capability needed to meet both current demand and future change.” – Vanda Fortunato, Interim CEO, Industry Skills Australia.

To address workforce challenges, ISA’s program of work spans 32 active projects, demonstrating the commitment to translating workforce planning into practical, industry-led action. More information on our projects and ISA program of work is available here: [Projects - Industry Skills Australia](#)

Access the Workforce Planning Updates

The 2026 Workforce Planning Publications are now available here, visit: [Workforce Planning - Industry Skills Australia](#)

About ISA

Industry Skills Australia (ISA) has been established as the Jobs and Skills Council (JSC) for the transport supply chain industries, which includes Aviation, Maritime, Rail, Transport and Logistics, and the emerging sectors of Omnichannel Logistics and Distribution, and Air and Space Transport and Logistics.

ISA is owned and led by industry. Our goal is to build a world class workforce for Australia’s transport supply chain industries to boost productivity, create better jobs and build opportunities for individuals. Our 30-year history working with industry supports us in researching workforce needs, promoting skills development and creating training products that meet industry priorities.

To access more information, please visit www.industryskillsaustralia.org.au

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