

# Backing good jobs Cairns region

- \$1.7 billion Big Build investment creating 4,900 jobs
- Queensland's gateway to the Asia-Pacific
- Tourism, arts and culture
- Renewable energy projects
- Growing marine and superyacht industry

More than  
**142,400**  
employed  
by 2025-26

Jobs Queensland (2023), *Anticipating Future Skills (AFS) Series 4.*



**BACK TO WORK\*** **5,563** job seekers  
2,499 local businesses supported by \$62.56 million

**SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK\***

**3,452** employed  
\$43.05 million in community programs

Big Build figures: *Far North Regional Action Plan, Queensland Budget 2023-24.*

\*As at 30 April 2024

## Top 5 largest employing industries



**25,136** employed

Health care and social assistance

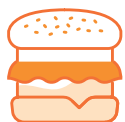
Registered nurses, aged and disability carers, child carers



**14,302** employed

Retail trade

Sales assistants (general), retail managers, checkout operators and office cashiers, shelf fillers



**14,162** employed

Accommodation and food services

Waiters, kitchenhands, bar attendants and baristas



**12,241** employed

Education and training

Primary school teachers, secondary school teachers, education aides



**11,578** employed

Construction

Electricians, carpenters and joiners, construction managers, plumbers

Cairns region projected workforce sizes by 2025-26. Source: Jobs Queensland (2023), *Anticipating Future Skills (AFS) Series 4.*

# Good Jobs, Great Training

# Queensland Skills Strategy 2024 – 2028 delivering for the

# Cairns region

# 5,086

## Free TAFE students and apprentices

Commencements from 2023 (as at 30 April 2024)

Popular free courses Cairns region	Aligned jobs	Average salaries seek.com.au
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	Early childhood educators	\$60,000 - \$65,000
Certificate III in Individual Support	Aged and disability carers	\$60,000 - \$70,000
Certificate III in Hospitality	Waitperson	\$65,000 - \$75,000
Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician	Electricians	\$90,000 - \$110,000
Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Bookkeepers	\$70,000 - \$80,000



**More Free TAFE** upskilling Queenslanders while driving costs down



**More local training** delivering for local communities



**More TAFE Trade Tasters** plus skills for school students aligned to good, local jobs



**Apprentices and trainees** supported across traditional and emerging industries, plus more pre-apprenticeships and Work Skills Traineeships



**Skills employers need** expanded industry input on workforce needs and priorities



Scan to learn more  
[qld.gov.au/SkillsStrategy](https://qld.gov.au/SkillsStrategy)



**Htoo Khaing, Cairns** | Construction worker

## Building bright futures through training

Htoo Khaing, an Arakanese refugee from Myanmar, was settled in Australia with his family by Centacare Multicultural Services and, despite previous construction experience, needed local qualifications to secure employment.

Htoo Khaing enrolled in a Certificate I in Construction with SkillCentred as part of Centacare FNQ's UpCyclinc Traineeships project, funded under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Bilingual supervisors and a bicultural support worker supported Htoo Khaing through his training, and he went on to secure a full-time position with

Port Douglas' Mark Fletcher Solid Plaster and Texture Coatings.

His employer Mark Fletcher is a strong advocate for workplace diversity and the benefits of inclusion, with his 2023 workforce including six refugees from Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar – two becoming qualified tradespeople and team leaders. "Htoo Khaing has been a wonderful addition to our team," Mark said.

The Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative funds training and support programs for unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders so they can start and stay in the workforce.



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