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## Statement from COAG Skills Council

4 May 2020

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### ***Fast Tracking the Upskilling of Australian Workers on COVID-19 Safety***

A new national infection control skill set has been fast tracked and endorsed by all Council of Australian Government (COAG) Skills Council Ministers as part of the Australian Industry Skills Emergency Response Sub-Committee, established by COAG Skills Council on 3 April 2020.

The new national infection control skill set, agreed to by the COAG Skills Ministers, will help keep Australian workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The skill set is the first national training product developed by the new Australian Industry Skills Emergency Response Sub-Committee in response to COVID-19.

The Emergency Response Sub-Committee was set up by COAG Skills Ministers to enable fast-tracked adjustments to qualifications and training package requirements and ensure that Australia's Vocational Education and Training sector can quickly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Response Sub-Committee is led by Emeritus Professor Tracey Horton AO, Chair to the Australian Industry Skills Council. It is comprised of industry experts and is meeting regularly to drive rapid and flexible development of training products during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The introduction of a new skill set will ensure Australian workers are trained to understand best practice safety procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic and are able to implement these procedures at workplaces across the country.

This critical work will ensure workplaces are kept open, or can re-open with increased confidence as we enter the recovery phase.

The skill set covers a range of sectors and is designed to empower workers by teaching them the skills and knowledge they need to decrease risk and transmission of infection while carrying out their daily duties.

A series of resources to support Registered Training Organisations to deliver the skill set have been developed and will be available online shortly.

The first tranche of resources are targeted at the transport and logistics, retail and food-handling sectors, with material for other industries to be developed over time.

During this time, it is critical employees stay as connected to industry and work as possible to ensure that disruption is minimised and that they are ready to respond to changing circumstances as the pandemic passes.

All industry stakeholders and training providers are encouraged to provide feedback on current or emerging issues affecting the VET sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This information is critical to supporting the delivery of VET training during this challenging time. Feedback can be provided to the relevant Industry Reference Committee, or via the online forms at the [ASQA](#) or [AISC](#) websites.