



Submission on Coronavirus Impacts: Executive Summary

The submission to the NSW Government aims to:

1. ensure the capacity of NSW adult and community education providers can be utilised to undertake appropriate, timely and targeted upskilling and training of priority groups such as newly unemployed, small businesses in trouble and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including in regional and rural parts of the state; and
2. retain the operational continuity of all NSW ACE providers, so that the state-wide ACE network's training capacity survives the Coronavirus emergency.

The submission also supports the NSW Government's efforts to retain a skilled workforce in 2021, after the conclusion of the Coronavirus emergency once Australia enters the recovery phase of this crisis. The submission contains four specific requests:

The NSW ACE Coronavirus Response Innovation Fund

Keep our people skilled and job ready

Help us skill and train people so they can go back to work when this is all over. The immediate establishment of an "innovation fund" for all NSW ACE providers and community colleges, with up to \$250,000 per provider (\$8 million state-wide), will deliver innovative, flexible, appropriate and community-specific education and training responses during the Coronavirus crisis. This fund will support online learning, telephone assistance and blended learning solutions, enabling ACE providers to transition existing training to e-learning environments and distance modes; and support the development of new programs and courses for existing client groups and newly disadvantaged community members and small businesses. We propose five program strands: (i) sector e-learning capacity reimagined; (ii) health and disability worker upskilling; (iii) mental health resilience; (iv) reach the newly isolated; and (v) "rural delivery in place", with support specifically aimed at outer regional and rural residents and communities.

Extend Free "Skills for Business" Courses to ACE Providers

Ensure NSW small businesses have expanded free access to crucial skills

Help us assist the state's small businesses, by extending to June 2022 the free "Skills for Business" program to NSW ACE providers, who will amplify and strengthen this program to ensure that one of the state's most vulnerable groups in the current crisis – small businesses – have additional opportunities to obtain assistance, especially in regional and rural NSW.

Maintain Support for the NSW ACE Sector

Keep ACE providers open today to skill the community in the future

Help us survive now so we can thrive and help others in a post-coronavirus world. CCA has identified important modifications to NSW Government training contracts, both in the current and next financial years. We are already liaising with Training Services NSW to ensure these take place.

Infrastructure Maintenance Funding in 2020/21

Give our students a great place to learn and be inspired

Help us prepare our facilities and campuses to be in great shape for when our students return. Let's build on the current NSW ACE infrastructure maintenance program and Implement a 2020/21 program for \$150,000 per provider (approximately \$4.8 million), with a program start date in late 2020 or early 2021.