

Update from INTERACT Policy and Industry Solutions Pty Ltd

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Visits to StryoMAX and AEP Engineering for the MSQ Manufacturing Workforce Transition Project.

SKILLS & WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Across a wide variety of sectors, many Australian firms and organisations are facing acute skill and labour force pressures, and in recent months INTERACT has been engaging with industry and government on these issues.

Not only are these challenges impacting the ability to meet increased customer and client demands but are also occurring in the context of economic and structural change – such as in renewable energy, technology, social services investment and housing.

At the same time, the skills and positive attributes of the existing Australian workforce is supporting greater innovation and dynamism for many firms and providing improved opportunities for more people.

Federal and State Governments have in place a number of strategies to address these challenges, though recognise that more still needs to be done.

In this context, INTERACT has been pleased to be engaged in recent months on a variety of skills, workforce development and education reform projects, including in manufacturing and health and community services.

These projects have involved working directly with business and government leaders in identifying specific challenges facing industry, and in reforming systems to better address skills and education needs.

Jobs Queensland

INTERACT has been engaged by Jobs Queensland (JQ) to support initiatives on workforce attraction and retention in the State's health and community services sectors.

It is projected that these sectors will employ more than 440,000 people in the State by 2024-25, including more than 63,000 additional people since 2020-21.

Over coming months, INTERACT will be working with the JQ team to identify learnings from Round 1 of funded projects through the QLD Care Consortium partnership and develop recommendations for future project funding.



Visit [Jobs Queensland](#) for more information.

Brisbane's future

INTERACT Founder and Director Aaron Johnstone has joined the Committee for Brisbane's Enterprise sub-committee as a Specialist Adviser.

The group supports the Committee's vision for Brisbane's regional economic ecosystems, and Aaron will draw upon his extensive experience in working with industry and government, in contributing to the work of the sub-committee in identifying initiatives and supporting economic development in the city.

See [link](#) for information on the Committee.

INTERACT Policy and Industry Solutions Pty Ltd is a consultancy formed to support collaboration between industry, government, and other bodies to improve public policy and to better understand key economic supply chains. Get in touch at aaron.johnstone@interactpolicy.com.

Manufacturing skills

INTERACT is continuing to support Manufacturing Skills Queensland (MSQ) in the Manufacturing Future Workforce Transition Project, an initiative funded by the QLD Government via the VET Emerging Industries initiative.

INTERACT have been engaged to interview a cross-section of manufacturers who have, or are transitioning to, the adoption of new technologies, systems, changes to workforce and training.

Interviews have already been held with more than 20 companies, and a wide spectrum of skills and workforce development innovations have been highlighted. The project will conclude in June where a final Manufacturing Matters Industry Report will be developed with recommendations including industry placed project proposals for consideration for MSQ's Annual Training Plan.

Vic education reform

INTERACT is in the final stages of a review for the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) on course accreditation processes. As the State's education and training regulator, the VRQA engaged INTERACT to analyse processes and consult with stakeholders.

In February 2024, INTERACT was also engaged by the [Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions \(DJIRS\)](#) to work with members of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Branch on implementation of its important [Stronger By Design](#) reforms for the sector

