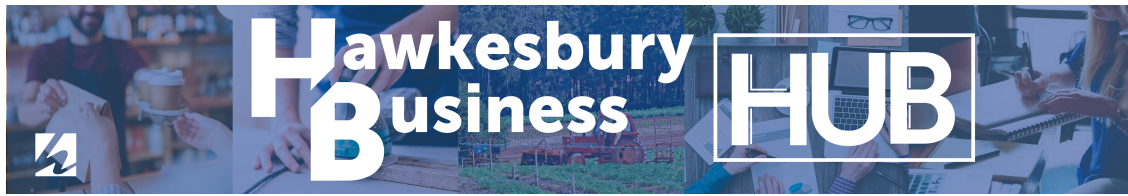


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## Welcome to this month's newsletter

This edition includes:

- [From Mayor Conolly's Desk](#)
- [TAFE webinar on Apprenticeships & Traineeships](#)
- [Mentally Healthy Workplaces](#)
- [Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)
- [Strengthening Business After Bushfire](#)
- [Minimal Viable Product Grants](#)
- [NSW Government's Regional Job Creation Grant](#)
- [Western Sydney Business Centre February webinars](#)

Please share this newsletter with other local businesses, become a member of the Hawkesbury Business Hub (it's free!) and please tell me what you think by contacting me on 4560 4437 or 0418 296 579 or email [Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

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### [From Mayor Conolly's desk](#)

On behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, I'd like to wish all of our local businesses a Happy New Year.

After an unforgettable 2020, all of us at Council are ready to support our incredible business community which has experienced so much change and uncertainty over the past 12 months.



I encourage all businesses to engage with programs being offered by local, state and federal governments to support and reshape businesses during this ongoing pandemic. For example, Council and TAFE NSW are hosting a

As we move into this year, I wish you and your business every success.

Mayor Conolly



TAFE NSW



## [Webinar on apprenticeships and traineeships](#)

Attention all Businesses: Thinking of putting on an apprentice or trainee or just looking to upskill your staff in 2021?

TAFE, in conjunction with Hawkesbury City Council, is hosting a webinar for interested businesses on **Monday, 22 February 2021** from **4.30 pm – 5.30 pm**.

TAFE NSW can help you with customised training packages or provide you with information about the changes to apprenticeships and traineeships and how they can support you.

Register your interest to attend by sending an email to [lisa.olderidge@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lisa.olderidge@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



### Mentally Healthy Workplaces



## [Mental Health at Work - Free Courses for Businesses](#)

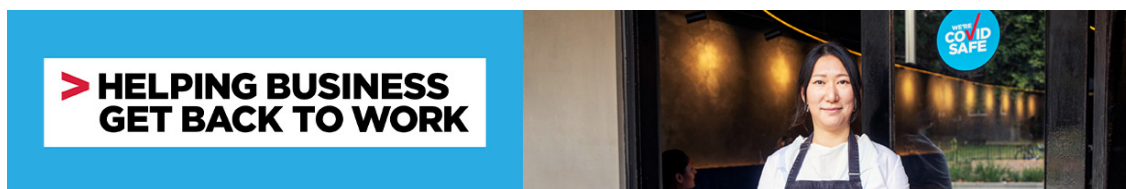
The NSW Government is helping to create mentally healthy workplaces by offering businesses with less than 200 employees and all non-for profit organisations access to free programs.

## Who cannot participate in the free programs?

- Businesses that have 200+ employees; and
- NSW Public sector and government entities.

## How do businesses sign up for the free programs?

1. Visit [www.mentalhealthatwork.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mentalhealthatwork.nsw.gov.au) scroll down on the home page and click 'Sign up for free programs' tab.
2. Complete the program sign up form to assess your eligibility for free training.
3. Black Dog Institute, which delivers the free programs on behalf of the NSW Government, will then be in touch within 10 working days to organise training once your eligibility has been confirmed.



## Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces: Information and resources

The rules around wearing masks have changed in Greater Sydney (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains and Wollongong). From Friday 29 January it is recommended, but no longer compulsory, to wear a mask in shopping centres (including supermarkets).

It is still mandatory to wear a mask on public transport – including waiting areas such as a bus stop or train platform – and in some indoor settings such as places of public worship, gaming rooms and hair and beauty premises.

Face masks are also mandatory for all staff in hospitality venues who have a customer-facing role.

[Click here for the latest update on COVID-19 restrictions.](#)

### Quicklinks:

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#), [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), and [NSW Office of Local Government websites](#).



## [Strengthening Business after last summer's bushfires](#)

The Strengthening Business program is about connecting businesses with experts who can assist to rebuild businesses after the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires.

Further information can be found on the [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) page.

Here is the link for the details on the individual [facilitators](#), however, Sarah Hunter is responsible for the Hawkesbury and can be contacted as follows:

Sarah Hunter

Strengthening Business Facilitator

Entrepreneurs' Programme

**M** 0447 489 712 | **E** [Sarah.Hunter@ep.industry.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Hunter@ep.industry.gov.au)

This program compliments the [NSW Business Connect](#) support program however it can provide businesses with a much longer period of support and business resilience. DNSW remains the tourism experts for complimentary advice and support via our [NSW First Program](#).





Minimum Viable Product (MVP) grants support promising pre-revenue startup businesses across all industry sectors to progress from proof of concept to a minimum viable product stage of development.

A matched funding grant of up to 50% of approval total development costs is available to eligible NSW startups, to a **maximum of \$25,000**.

To see if your startup is eligible for support, visit the [Jobs for NSW website](#)

Applications are open all year round.



## [NSW Government's Regional Job Creation Grant](#)

The Regional Job Creation Fund supports regional investment and job creation by offering up to \$10 million in co-funding to activate or bring forward regional projects in engine, enabling or emerging engine industries. Examples of eligible projects could include the:

- Replacement, upgrade or adaptation of plant and equipment at an existing regional NSW business
- Establishment of an additional production line for an existing regional NSW business
- Onshoring of activity currently done overseas to a regional NSW location
- Development of new regional tourism experiences and visitor attractions
- Relocation of a business operation from out of state to regional NSW.

The Regional Job Creation Fund's focus is to co-fund projects creating at least five sustainable regional jobs. Applicants must provide a minimum 50% cash co-contribution to the project and the NSW Government contribution will be no more than \$20,000 per new job created through the project.

**Applications close:** 5.00pm on Friday, 14 May 2021 or when program funding has been fully allocated

### **Assessment timeframes:**

Preliminary stage - seven working days from the date of submission

[Click here](#) for more information

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## [WSBC free online training](#)

Western Sydney Business Centre is offering a series of free webinars to help businesses acquire and refine essential skills. Click [here](#) to learn more.



**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
BUSINESS CENTRE

### **What to consider before designing or hiring a website designer**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Digital basic**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Low cost marketing**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Facebook Mastery**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm-8pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **LinkedIn the new Facebook for business**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **How to generate leads online**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Digital basic**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Getting started with MailChimp**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Digital Marketing Masterclass**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm-8pm - [Click here to book online](#)

### **Tools to help you reinvent your business – COVID and beyond**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm - [Click here to book online](#)



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