

# Industry Forum in Perth to focus on future Skills

Industry Skills Forum Perth 8 November 2018

Perth businesses and industry representatives, training and education providers, and Government leaders will come together for an Industry Skills Forum at the Hilton Hotel on 8 November to discuss future skilling the workforce. With digital transformation and new technologies rapidly changing the employment landscape and the skills required for work, businesses and education providers are seeking ways to ensure workers are prepared for change.

Hosted by prominent journalist and author Kerry O'Brien, the free forum will involve industry leaders in Q&A panel discussions about future skilling in an age of digital transformation and new thinking about jobs and careers.

Many businesses in Perth have put digital transformation at the top of their organisational agenda to benefit from the rapid acceleration of new technologies and innovations across industry. Leveraging the opportunities of digital transformation will help the city remain an economically resilient and prosperous city.

The Perth Industry Skills Forum is among a series being conducted by Australian Industry Standards across the country until November. Over 220 people have already registered to attend the forum, where they will have the opportunity to talk about the skills shortages and workforce challenges facing their industry.

Technologies such as automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, and Big Data have already created a significant overhaul in job descriptions and functions. Many people are working at jobs that did not exist even five years ago. Similarly, many more jobs will be created in the next five to ten years which require different skills sets. With 40% of jobs affected by digital transformation, upskilling or reskilling the current and future workforce is an absolute necessity.

The ability to anticipate and prepare for future skills requirements, job content, and changing labour markets and recruitment patterns is increasingly critical for businesses, governments and individuals. Businesses will need to put workforce planning, training and talent management front and centre of their growth.

Following the panel discussions there will be industry-specific break-out sessions focused on emerging skill needs and the barriers and opportunities to recruiting skilled employees. Participants will discuss higher-order skills for the workplace (such as management capability); cyber security; regulatory frameworks; environmental sustainability; and workforce profile and staff retention issues (including an ageing workforce and cross sector competition for staff).

AIS is a Service Skills Organisation that supports Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) in developing qualifications and skills standards for the aviation, transport and logistics, maritime, energy, water and utilities, public safety, police, Defence and corrections industries. Collectively these industries cover more than 1.3 million workers or almost 10% of the Australian workforce. More significantly, these workers add \$174 billion to the Australian economy – or 11% of GDP.

AIS will draw on information gathered at the skills forums to influence policy on skills and workforce development. This is presented to the Federal Government in key documents called Industry Skills Forecasts.

The Skills Forums are being held in each capital city around the country from September to November. The event in Perth will be held at the Pamela Hilton Hotel on Thursday, 8 November.

**Contacts**

Leisa Weightman

0470609661

mailto: [leisa.weightman@australianindustrystandards.org.au](mailto:leisa.weightman@australianindustrystandards.org.au)