

Goal and program outcomes

The Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) is the Australian Government's largest Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) investment in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. It is implemented by TAFE Queensland (RTO 0275). APTC has made significant contributions in Tonga during APTC3.

Goal: A more skilled, inclusive and productive workforce that enhances Pacific and Timor-Leste prosperity.

Supporting purpose: The skills and attributes available to employers from TVET systems align with labour market requirements.

The APTC goal is supported by the achievement of three end-of-program outcomes:

- Graduates have improved employment outcomes
- Co-investment in skills training increases
- Selected TVET partners demonstrate quality TVET provision



APTC has committed to inclusive training opportunities to allow women to take up non traditional trades as a career.

Graduates and training

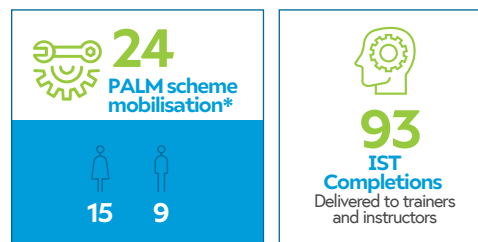
Graduates from 45 different accredited full qualifications and International Skills Training (IST) courses since 2008.



In addition to the total graduates, there are:



Note: Some of these graduates were trained in other APTC Country Campuses across the Pacific.



Note: * The number of graduates who have been mobilised for the PALM scheme.

APTC Tonga

- APTC's activities in Tonga are overseen by our Samoa and Tonga Country Office, Apia
- Our Country Engagement and Liaison Coordinator, based in Tonga, supported and monitored program implementation.

APTC offered flexible training delivery that met the demands of industry and the community.

We were committed to supporting training needs as identified by the Tongan Government.



Key partners

- Ministry of Education and Training (MET)
- Ahopanilolo Technical Institute (ATI)
- Montfort Technical Institute (MTI)
- Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board (TNQAB)
- Tonga National University (TNU)
- Tupou Tertiary Institute (TTI)

Key achievements in Stage 3

- Provided human resource support and conducted a situational analysis on TVET trainer registration for the Ministry of Education and Training TVET project coordination unit. This partnership strengthened Tonga's TVET sector with competent and qualified trainers, delivering high-quality and relevant skills to the Tongan people.
- Contributed resources to TNU School of Science and Technology for the panel beating and spray-painting program, accredited by TNQAB.
- Delivered a cookery trainer mentoring program for hospitality professionals with APTC Samoa.
- Provided technical assistance in mentoring and training trainers for the Certificate IV Electrical Engineering in partnership with MTI.
- We collaborated with TNQAB to develop the National Certificate in Whale Watching and Swimming Guide Level 3 (NCWGL3).
- Provided technical expertise to TNQAB to review their quality assurance policies and procedures, and their quality audit policies and processes.
- Delivered accredited short courses in plumbing and construction to women and unemployed youths from various districts in Tonga, creating pathways to the Australian APTC Certificate II in Construction and Certificate II in Plumbing.
- APTC supported Tailulu College teachers by offering TAFE Queensland Microcredentials for professional development. Teachers are required to complete 50 hours of professional development to renew their registration.
- Delivered IST training to 30 TVET trainers.

Climate change initiatives

We supported targeted activities for climate change and skills for the green economy. This included the completion of Climate 101 training by 12 trainees, comprising staff, students, and trainers from Montfort Technical Institute and other institutions.



APTC has trained more than 24,726 Pacific Island and Timorese citizens, including over 736 Tongans, to acquire Australian standard skills and qualifications for diverse vocational careers.

Delivering strong GEDSI outcomes

APTC worked hard to address the barriers to training and employment for women, people living with disabilities and individuals from rural and remote areas. We worked in consultation and collaboration with governments, peak bodies, associations, and individuals who advocate for inclusivity and accessibility.

APTC Tonga had initiated a range of successful and innovative projects to tackle barriers and forms of exclusion.

- We conducted a GEDSI Awareness Workshop for staff from APTC partner organisations.
- Delivered an accredited short course on domestic violence, providing a pathway to the APTC Certificate III in Community Services.
- We partnered with the Tonga Leitis Association (TLA), a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the health and rights of individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in Tonga and the Pacific, to co-facilitate the Supporting Sexual and Gender Identities in the Workforce Microcredentials for professionals and organisations aiming to create more inclusive workplaces.
- Targeted equitable outcomes for women, persons with disabilities, and students from remote areas through student recruitment and marketing.
- Held GEDSI Awareness Sessions for Tongan students preparing for studies at APTC campuses.

Labour mobility

APTC supported labour mobility by delivering targeted training and supported our partners to develop high quality training programs that provided skills in demand by Australian employers.

APTC Tonga has:

- Reviewed and implemented a training profile to meet national and international demand, ensuring net skills gain.
- Engaged and collaborated with key national labour mobility stakeholders, including government ministries, training providers, the Overseas Employment Unit, and employers, to enable country ownership.
- Ensured 17 candidates from TTI and ATI completed the Working in Aged Care Preparation Skill Set accredited short course for overseas employment.
- Delivered job interview skills training to labour mobility candidates in the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Overseas Employment Division work-ready pool.

Looking Ahead:

While APTC3 concludes in March 2025, the Australian Government remains committed to supporting Tonga's workforce development, ensuring it is more skilled, inclusive and productive. The Pacific Australia Skills Platform (PASP) will build on APTC's achievements.