

HOUSING SUPPORT INDUSTRY — TRAINING

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.11 am]: The Cook government is taking steps to enhance training opportunities in the housing support industry by attracting new professionals to the field and upskilling existing workers. Housing support staff often work with vulnerable individuals facing homelessness, mental health challenges, domestic violence, financial stress or community disengagement. The certificate IV in housing empowers them to better support those individuals and aims to improve industry outcomes by enhancing asset management and tenant experiences. By offering the certificate at a reduced fee through the state government's Lower Fees, Local Skills program, training will become more accessible, especially for smaller regional providers and Aboriginal community housing organisations. The Lower Fees, Local Skills program reduces course fees by up to 72 per cent for 160 priority courses, many of which support the community services sector. This initiative is the result of a collaboration between Shelter WA, North Metropolitan TAFE, Community Skills WA, the Department of Training and Workforce Development, the Department of Communities and community housing organisations.

North Metropolitan TAFE will commence delivering the course in term 4 of 2023 to an initial cohort of over 40 existing workers. North Metro TAFE plans to adapt the course to meet local needs and offer customised work-based training across the state, including in regional Western Australia. Industry participants can nominate existing employees for the training by contacting Community Skills WA. The initiative represents the importance of workforce development in the housing sector and supports the delivery of safe and stable homes to Western Australia's most vulnerable individuals.