AIIA Supporting Queensland's ICT skills

The Australian Information Industry Association's (AIIA) is supporting the growth of Australia's ICT workforce today announcing that more than 1,340 Queenslanders have now participated in the two pilot Queensland Government supported ICT micro-credentialing courses in the past 12 months.

Over 820 people have completed the joint AIIA and QUT co-designed Cyber Security course and over 500 people have completed the IT Enabled Innovation course.

With demand for ICT jobs in Australia greatest in South-East Queensland, graduates of the AIIA's Skills Hub courses have work-related skills with industry recognised credentials.

The two pilot courses were co-designed by AIIA members in partnership with QUT to ensure that the skills acquired by participants met industry needs. The first course focuses on improving the professional skills of digital workers aimed at supporting digital innovation. The second course is designed to improve the cyber security capability for non-cyber professionals within Australia's digital workforce.

AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci, said: "The pilot for our micro-credentialing courses has been embraced by industry and workers. Thanks to the Queensland Government's funding, we have provided high-quality courses with QUT that have upskilled Australian ICT workers and we are committed to continue to work with them to expand the program. This successful pilot demonstrates that we need an ongoing commitment from government, with the AIIA's expertise, to roll out this program as a statewide co-designed Cyber security course with QUT as well as across other higher educational and VET providers to continue boosting skills across Queensland. ICT has grown to become Australia's third-largest sector of the economy. The high participation rate by Queenslanders in these two microcredentials goes a long way towards government being able to achieve its objectives of the Digital Professional Workforce Action Plan.

"Australia's ICT workforce is struggling to keep up with this growth and demand for skills. With 1.1 million people expected to be employed in the ICT sector by 2026, we must provide opportunities to grow and develop our workforce.The way our micro-credentialing courses have brought education providers, the ICT industry and workers together demonstrates that we need these types of courses across the country. There is massive demand for skilled ICT workers across Australia, and we are contributing by training and upskilling Australian workers to meet the evolving needs of the ICT industry," Mr Gauci said.

QUT's Director of Open Professional Education, Dr Peter Beven, said: "QUT is proud to partner with AIIA to deliver these courses. We pride ourselves on delivering real-world courses that deliver work-ready skills. We have seen strong demand from professionals to grow their digital skills to support their career journey. The Cyber Security Coursework and

the IT Enabled Innovation courses were developed with the skills needed by today's digital workers."

"Australia has the chance to be a world leader in digital innovation, we must grasp this opportunity and provide a framework to build around. It is time for governments to realise the digital change that is occurring and to act now to support Australia's ICT growth," Mr. Gauci concluded.

ENDS

Course information:
The two micro-credential courses are:

Topic 1: Cyber Security
Key skill areas being addressed:
- Network security
- Predict, identify and mitigate cyber risk
- Knowledge and strategies to defend and respond to threats and attacks
- Protecting organisations, people, their data and rights

Topic 2: Strategic IT-enabled Innovation
Key skill areas being addressed:
- problem-driven innovation and validation of problem definitions
- transformation enabled by IT innovation and change
- Co-design strategies and approaches in IT enabled innovation
- Strategies, methods and approaches used by organisations to develop innovation programs and support IT enabled transformation
- Methods and approaches in collaboration for technology product innovation
- Treatment of innovation risk

The content for the micro-credential modules were written at an AQF 7/8 Level, and align with the Department of Education's Academic Qualifications Framework as well as the Skills Framework for the Information Age version 7.

The micro-credentials are non-award programs consisting of approximately 20-30 hours of online self-paced, self-directed learning with expert virtual facilitation with options for group coaching.

The skillset of each participant is benchmarked upon commencement and completion of the micro-credential program. Each participant is also issued a skills passport so that they can track their progress throughout their learning journey. Upon completion of the program, each participant is issued an industry-recognised digital micro-credential.

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About AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.