

National Precast Concrete Association Australia

Training meets demand as precast sector surges

Australia's precast sector is shifting gears – with new training to support its scale, complexity and ambition.

As Australia's construction industry embraces precast concrete for its speed, quality and sustainability benefits, one challenge is finally being addressed – access to formal training for those who design, specify or work with it.

The use of precast continues to grow across commercial, residential and infrastructure projects. Now, for the first time, a nationally available training solution tailored to precast concrete workers – and allied professionals such as builders, engineers and architects – is available.

Despite the critical role precast plays in modern construction, many of those on the tools or in design offices have had to 'learn on the job' – an unusual reality in an industry where safety, compliance, quality and productivity are all on the line.

National Precast has closed this gap with the launch of 10 online micro-credentials. Funded by the Queensland Government, the program is available nationwide and free to Queensland-based participants.

Designed for factory-floor workers, site installers, supervisors, engineers, specifiers and anyone with a stake in precast, the micro-credentials are short, targeted and practical. Each module focuses on core industry knowledge and real-world application.

The first module – Introduction to Precast Concrete – provides an overview of the sector: what precast is, how it's made, where it's used, and why it's transforming how we build.

It's an excellent entry point. Whether you're on the factory floor, part of an installation crew or a design professional specifying precast, this module gives a strong foundation for understanding the whole picture.

Other modules cover more specific and technical aspects of precast manufacturing – including reinforcement placement, lifting and handling, documentation, safety, sustainability and environmental compliance.

Each module earns a Certificate of Completion. Participants who complete all 10 receive an industry-recognised *Certificate: Fundamentals of Precast Concrete*.

These micro-credentials have wide-reaching value. They help factory owners upskill their workforce, assist labour hire firms,

support infrastructure contractors who set up temporary yards, and even inform procurement authorities. Precast is no longer niche – and this training approach reflects that.

National Precast has also partnered with the Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance (MSA) to initiate a national update to the MSM Manufacturing Training Package, with the aim of embedding a precast concrete specialisation into formal VET qualifications.

The MSM: Precast Concrete Manufacturing Skills project will see five new precast-specific units, currently in development, incorporated into Certificate II and III manufacturing qualifications.

These new units will establish a nationally recognised precast skill set. It means people can formally train in precast as part of a recognised career pathway – and employers will have an endorsed benchmark for hiring.

Together, these two initiatives represent a watershed moment for Australia's precast sector. The industry is growing fast – and now, the training is here to match it. 

Further details about the MSM project can be found on the MSA website. To register interest or take part in the micro-credentials, visit nationalprecast.com.au



By Sarah Bachmann,
CEO of National Precast.



New micro-credentials from National Precast target the precast industry's training gap. (Images: National Precast)