

MEDIA RELEASE

Digital Skills Organisation appoints new CEO, Patrick Kidd OBE OAM, as it kicks off first pilot project to train 100 data analysts

22 October 2020 – SYDNEY: The [Digital Skills Organisation](#) (DSO) announces the appointment of Patrick Kidd, OBE OAM, as its Chief Executive Officer. Patrick will lead the DSO as it aims to improve digital skills training in the VET system and provide an innovative and world leading approach to training and employing people in digital skills in Australia.

The DSO is an initiative led by the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#) as part of the [Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow](#) package. The Federal Government has tasked the DSO with taking ‘an end to end view’ of how best to get people into work within the digital sector.

The DSO is working in collaboration with State and Territory Governments, industry and small business, peak bodies and the training sector to develop, test and evaluate new approaches to digital skills training and getting people into digital jobs. These projects are designed to uncover innovative approaches to digital training that generate positive outcomes for learners and employers, quantified through increased enrolments, completions and employment.

Patrick’s appointment coincides with the DSO’s first pilot project to train and employ one-hundred data analysts. As part of the Train 100 Data Analyst Project, a number of bidders are currently participating in a competitive pitch process, to produce a range of innovative training solutions that will be funded by the DSO. The winners will be announced in November 2020.

Patrick brings to the DSO substantial experience in training and digital transformation. In his previous role, he worked in support of Infosys as the Programme Director implementing a large-scale digital transformation program into the Federal Government.

Prior to that Patrick worked with Deloitte Australia Consulting. During this period, he was seconded to the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Invictus Games Sydney where he led the Australian team that planned and delivered the 2018 Games. Patrick’s expertise in training was further developed over a thirty-year career in the British Army (1985-2005) and the Australian Defence Force (2005-2015).

Quote attributable to Patrick Kidd, CEO at Digital Skills Organisation:

‘I am extremely proud to be joining the DSO team at this time when the Government is putting so much attention into evolving the vocational education and training system.



Within the digital skills sector never has the need been greater to get people with the relevant skills into work.

What a great opportunity to collaborate with Government, training providers, industry and small businesses to trial innovative approaches to showcase how the current system can be improved.”

Quote attributable to Yasmin Allen, Chairman at Digital Skills Organisation:

“We are excited to welcome Patrick Kidd as our new Chief Executive Officer at the Digital Skills Organisation. This appointment is an important milestone for the DSO, and the Board is looking forward to working with Patrick to deliver on our mission to align industry with the training sector for better employment outcomes in digital roles across all industries.

Digital skills and employment will play a critical role in Australia’s recovery from the pandemic induced recession. Patrick’s impressive track record in leading a diverse range of complex projects, in commercial, not for profit, Government and military environments gives the Board confidence that he will lead the DSO to success in getting people into work, with the right skills, as quickly as possible.”

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About the Digital Skills Organisation

The Digital Skills Organisation (DSO) works with industry and the training sector to discover, pilot and implement innovative solutions to improve digital skills training and create an industry-ready digital workforce in Australia.

We create conversations and partnerships between industry, employers and training bodies to help develop fresh, agile ways of training new learners and existing workers in relevant digital skills. We want to make world-leading digital training more accessible and create a training system that is fast, relevant, and responsive to industry requirements.

Through our work, we will help to meet the digital workforce needs of tomorrow, creating better outcomes for learners, employers and the digital sector in Australia.

The DSO was established in 2020 as part of the Australian government’s *Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow* package. It is one of three Pilot Skills Organisations.

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