



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Over 1,000 Data Analysts to be trained as Digital Skills Organisation awards contracts to Goanna Education, General Assembly and TAFE Queensland for industry-led training programmes**

#### **Indigenous Australians, mature-aged and young people amongst those to be trained and employed as data analysts in push to close digital skills gap with diverse talent**

**3 December 2020 – SYDNEY:** The Digital Skills Organisation (DSO) has announced online learning provider, [General Assembly](#), Indigenous ICT training provider [Goanna Education](#) and [TAFE Queensland](#) as the winners of its first pilot project to trial and test innovative solutions to train and employ one-hundred data analysts each.

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 organisation has been tasked by the Federal Government to shape the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Sector, by taking an industry-led approach to digital skills training and employment in Australia.

The 'Train 100 Data Analyst' project is the first in a series of projects designed to fund, test and evaluate improved ways of training people in digital skills to get people into digital jobs, to help close Australia's digital skills gap. Following the successful completion of the pilot the DSO will look to scale these approaches to train and employ over 1,000 data analysts.

This project is testing an 'employer-led' approach that allows training providers to develop course content specific to employers' needs. Incentives are used to help ensure course graduates find guaranteed employment at the successful completion of the training.

Patrick Kidd, OBE OAM and CEO at Digital Skills Organisation said: "We are thrilled to announce General Assembly, Goanna Education and TAFE Queensland as the winners of our pilot project, which tests innovative ways to train and employ data analysts. The DSO is focussed on ensuring we get Australians into digital jobs with the right knowledge and skills for them to be immediately relevant in the workplace. There's a significant demand for people in work with digital skills and our aim is to streamline the process of training to ensure the right people with the right skills are in the right jobs."

Following the pilot, the DSO will take evidence-based insight to inform the Government's agenda and create a VET system that can provide an innovative and world leading approach to digital skills training in Australia.



**Quote attributable to S. Ryan Meyer, Managing Director - Asia Pacific at General Assembly:**

"General Assembly is thrilled to announce our partnership with the Digital Skills Organisation of Australia. With their support, we will train up to 100 individuals in Data Analysis through an immersive 9-week program and help them find jobs in the modern economy. We are honoured to be part of this program, which is the first of its kind in Australia, that will align the interests of individuals, industry, and the government."

**Quote attributable to Sally Browner, CEO at Goanna Education:**

"Goanna Education is so incredibly excited to be part of the DSO initiative to develop innovative ways to train up to 1,000 Data Analysts. Goanna is passionate about driving diversity in the tech sector and we are bringing to the table, a wealth of knowledge about effective, intensive, technology education, amazing connections with industry and a vision for better inclusion of First Nations candidates in this style of program."

**Quote attributable to Bob Easton, Chairman at Accenture Australia, and New Zealand:**

"Through training and internship opportunities we are collaborating with Goanna Education to upskill Indigenous talent across Australia; equipping those who are looking for jobs with the right skills to fill open positions. We're proud that our decisive action and an unwavering commitment to equality is driving change for Indigenous Australians, helping them to be job-ready for roles at organisations like Accenture."

*\*Please note Accenture Australia and New Zealand is an official corporate partner of Goanna Education.*

**Quote attributable to Sanan Themo, CEO at Ingrity:**

"Many Small Medium Businesses in Australia are joining the "data rush" to convert data they collect into dollars. Skilled data analysts at the price point SMB can access are in short supply. DSO initiative will help increase the supply of highly skilled data analysts and create new job opportunities. Ingrity is pleased to be working with Goanna Education to help provide real life data challenges as part of this program and look at supporting the candidates to optimise their employment opportunities."

*\*Please note Ingrity is an official corporate partner of Goanna Education.*

**Quote attributable to Jackie French, Director at TAFE Queensland:**

"TAFE Queensland is excited to officially announce its partnership with the Digital Skills Organisation, championing its first pilot program to train one-hundred data analysts and help them gain successful employment. For more than 137 years, TAFE Queensland has been delivering practical and industry-relevant training to equip students with the skills and experience they need to be job-ready and build lifelong careers. We pride ourselves on working with industry partners to ensure our training meets current and future employment demands and the addition of the Digital Skills Organisation will further enable us to deliver the skilled data analysts that Queensland and Australia needs now and into the future."

**-END-**



## **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.