

Lucy Hood MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Friday, 18 September 2026

Showcasing SA skills on the world stage

A pair of young and talented South Australian women will represent the nation and go for gold at the world's biggest skills competition in Shanghai next week.

Third-year apprentice painter and decorator Jemma Glatz and TAFE SA graphic design graduate Emilie Flavel will compete at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, as part of the Australian 'Skillaroos' team.

The global event – known as the 'Olympics of trades' – brings together 1,400 young skilled competitors from more than 70 countries and regions and is expected to attract over 500,000 visitors to Shanghai.

Participants will test their skills across 64 competitions spanning six sectors, demonstrating technical and vocational excellence.

Three South Australian experts will travel with the Skillaroos squad – TAFE SA lecturers Steven Baliga, who mentors Jemma, and Ryan Grieger, along with PEER trainer and assessor Paul Gadaleta.

South Australian Minister for Education, Training and Skills Lucy Hood will address the team and engage with WorldSkills delegates during a one-week education and skills focused mission to China, departing for Shanghai tomorrow.

The Minister will also mark South Australia's 40-year Sister-State relationship with Shandong province, meet with school leaders and senior government officials and visit a SACE school in Changzhou to strengthen ties across the Asia Pacific region.

WorldSkills reflects the Malinauskas Government's commitment to building the state's VET sector – delivering fee-free TAFE, expanding our network of technical colleges and boosting funding for training providers to address skills shortages.

Jemma and Emilie underwent a two-year selection process to become Skillaroos, impressing at regional competitions in 2024 and the national event last year.

South Australia's focus on skills excellence will continue to grow when Adelaide hosts the WorldSkills National Championships in June 2027.

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 runs from 22 to 27 September. More about South Australia's Skillaroo members is available [here](#).

Quotes attributable to Lucy Hood

South Australians donning the green and gold have put in the training and will showcase their skills on the world stage.

Skilled workers are critical to our state's future and we're proud to get behind local apprentices, trainees and students as they compete in Shanghai, the financial and economic capital of China.

Our Government is committed to providing more pathways for young people and this mission will focus on education and skills opportunities in one of the world's most important economies.

Quotes attributable to South Australian Skillaroo Jemma Glatz

WorldSkills has given me a lot of experiences. It's helped my skills so I can produce better finishes, and I'm more confident in the work I produce.

It would be amazing to win, but I don't mind where I place in the competition. I just want to produce a good finish that reflects the amount of time I've spent training and proves if you put in the hard work, it pays off.

Quotes attributable to SA Skills Commissioner Cameron Baker

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is the culmination of a two-year journey for Jemma Glatz and Emilie Flavel, who have already worked incredibly hard and excelled in their chosen skills at a national level.

The South Australian Skills Commission is proud to have supported the competitors and the growth of WorldSkills participation in South Australia ahead of Adelaide hosting the WorldSkills National Championships in 2027.

WorldSkills competitions elevate the standing of vocational education and training and provide competitors with the chance to work alongside their peers.

Quotes attributable to TAFE SA Chief Executive Officer Adam Kilvert

At TAFE SA, we are very proud to have two of our incredibly talented students representing Australia in Shanghai.

Skilled workers have an enormous role to play across the state in the years to come, and our WorldSkills competitors are great role models to both current and future students, by demonstrating the high levels of skills and knowledge that can be developed at TAFE SA and applied across many industries right here in SA.

We wish Jemma and Emilie all the best and look forward to following their competitions.