



## CRITICAL STATE OF LACK OF INDUSTRY DATA

5 TIPS TO REDUCE FLOORING INSURANCE PREMIUMS

FCIA APPRENTICES SHINE AT  
NSW TRAINING AWARDS

FCIA GOLF DAY NSW ANNOUNCED

# UNDERSUNG STORY OF FLOORING STATISTICS – HOW LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

written by. Garry Thomas, FCIA Group

The FCIA has reached out to Jobs and Skills Australia to highlight serious deficiencies in the current data related to our industry and to recommend that floor finishing is recognised as a priority occupation on the Core Skills Needs List (COSL).

The industry is experiencing critical skills shortages due to the following factors:

1. An aging workforce where less than 25% of installers leaving the workforce are being replaced by apprentices.
2. There is a lack of qualified floor finishers domestically to meet demand and to supervise apprentices.
3. 80% of installers are engaged on a subcontract basis with limited capacity to train and support apprentices.
4. The current apprenticeship system is not meeting the needs and expectations of our industry.

The FCIA is hopeful that Jobs and Skills Australia will recognise the critical importance of the flooring sector to the building and construction industry and the Australian economy. There is a need to ensure that there are sufficient flooring finishers with the skills to meet the growth in housing foreshadowed by the Commonwealth government in the 2024 Budget.

## Current overview of Flooring Industry

FCIA is extremely concerned about the lack of accurate and current data that reflects the true nature and composition of the labour force within the Australian Flooring Industry. The most recent labour force data provided by the ABS completely misrepresents the employment status and qualification levels of the Flooring Industry as it does not recognise that up to 80% of Australian floor finishers (installers) are subcontracted to retail or commercial contracting companies and are not directly employed.

This skews any data related to employment numbers, and weekly earnings based on full-time/part time employment status. Subcontractors are generally sole traders, responsible for their own expenses and superannuation who are paid on a volume of work basis rather than hours per week.

There is also no official data available regarding unmet need in terms of skilled and unskilled labour in our industry. The FCIA is in the process of conducting national industry surveys aimed at defining the flooring labour force, providing quantitative demographic data, and identifying specific challenges around skills shortages and industry regulation.

## Skills Shortage

FCIA conducted an industry survey in February 2022 to identify the level of skills shortage in the industry and strategies to overcome the problem. Outcomes from this survey are summarised below, which clearly shows that the industry is suffering from significant skills shortages. Eighty-eight percent of employers cannot hire enough staff which leads to a tendency to hire inexperienced/unqualified labour and poaching from competitors.

It is important to note that there is no empirical data on the total workforce engaged in floor finishing. Anecdotal information obtained by the FCIA through consultation with members and non-members indicate that there are approximately 10,000 installers nationwide, that it is an ageing workforce, and a minimum of 10% (approx. 1000 installers) are leaving the industry annually.

Only 250 to 300 apprentices have enrolled in the qualification annually over the last 5 years. Trend data for the 2023/2024 financial year indicates that there is a further decline in enrolments of approximately 15% - 20%. Based on the estimated 1000 installers per annum leaving the industry through retirement, injury, or illness, this means that the current apprenticeship take-up rate is struggling to meet 25% of the known attrition rate, let alone providing sufficient skills to respond to growth projections in building and construction.

## Skilled Migration

The FCIA strongly recommends that the floor finishing trade is given equal recognition on the Core Occupation Skills List as any other trade in the Construction sector. Every building requires a floor covering to be approved for occupancy. In certain commercial sectors, our industry must also meet strict national standards with respect to substrates, wet areas, hygiene, noise, and electrostatics.

Skilled Visas for floor finishing must be extended to all regions in Australia. At present skilled migration for floor finishers is restricted to 482 and 495 employer sponsored visas. Both visa categories are restricted to regional areas, even though metropolitan skills shortages will be exacerbated by the foreshadowed government commitment to significantly increase construction of affordable housing over the next budget cycle.

FCIA does not have data on the number of industry members who have sponsored a visa holder in the past 3 years – this will be a major element of our 2024 industry survey. However, of 84 respondents, 71% wanted to learn more about accessing the skilled visa program.

FCIA consistently receives 2-3 calls per week seeking assistance to access the Skilled Migration Program as they find it extremely complex as well as experiencing significant delays in having their applications processed. Whilst the FCIA is working hard to increase the take-up rate of apprenticeships in Flooring Technology, the industry is desperate to bridge the broadening gap in qualified installers coming into the industry.

## Our need for data

The FCIA and the industry are in desperate need of concise data on the Flooring Industry to support our ambitions of increased access to a steady supply of Skilled Visa holders and improve the turbulent state of the industry. Please do your part by completing our industry survey on the next page.

For the full Jobs and Skills Australia submission please contact Garry Thomas at [gthomas@fcia.org.au](mailto:gthomas@fcia.org.au)

# HELP FCIA RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE FLOORING INDUSTRY.

The FCIA has designed an annual industry survey to assist us in influencing government policy regarding skills shortages, skilled migration visas, and funding for flooring training and apprenticeships.

Your feedback will help us promote the industry to key stakeholders and allow us to advocate on your behalf for improved support for the flooring industry.

COMPLETE THE 15 MINUTE  
INDUSTRY SURVEY

**FCIA**  
FLOOR COVERING  
INSTITUTE  
of AUSTRALIA



# PREPARING FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR: 5 TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUMS

written by. Nathan Ray, Flooring Protect

As the next financial year approaches, it's crucial for flooring businesses to evaluate their strategies to ensure they're getting the best value. Insurance costs are one area that should be considered. Here are five practical tips from a seasoned insurance broker with over 20 years of experience to help you keep your premiums in check in today's economic and insurance climate, where costs are rising.

## 1. Reviewing Current Insurance Coverage

Let's start with the basics—reviewing your current insurance coverage. Your business isn't static, and neither should your insurance be. Over the years, I've seen too many businesses paying for coverage they no longer need or lacking coverage where they need it most. Take some time to sit down with your broker (like yours truly) and go over your policies. We'll help you ensure your coverage is spot-on, eliminating any unnecessary expenses and making sure you're protected where it counts.

## 2. Implementing Risk Management Practices

I can't stress enough how crucial risk management is. Think of it as your first line of defence in keeping your insurance costs down. Simple practices like regular safety audits, thorough training sessions, and clear safety protocols can make a world of difference. Not only does this keep your team safe, but it also shows insurers that your business is a lower risk. And believe me, insurers love a low-risk client—hello, lower premiums!

## 3. Exploring Alternative Insurance Options

There's a whole world of insurance products out there, and sticking with the same old policy year after year might not be doing you any favours. This is where the expertise of Flooring Protect comes into play. With over two decades in the field, we've got a

pretty good knack for sniffing out better deals and more suitable coverage options. Let's explore what's out there and find a policy that doesn't just tick the boxes but actually saves you money.

## 4. Enhancing Workplace Safety

Workplace safety isn't just about compliance—it's about creating an environment where everyone feels secure. Investing in safety equipment and regular training not only protects your employees but also minimizes the risk of accidents. And fewer accidents mean fewer claims. Fewer claims? You guessed it—lower premiums. Insurers take note of your safety record, and a solid one can really work in your favour when it comes to negotiating rates.

## 5. Leveraging Industry-Specific Discounts

Here's a little insider tip: being part of the flooring industry has its perks. At Flooring Protect, we've negotiated some fantastic tailored insurance programs just for you. As the preferred insurance partner for the Floor Covering Institute of Australia, we've secured exclusive discounts and specialized coverage options that you won't find anywhere else. By taking advantage of these industry-specific programs, you can get top-notch coverage without breaking the bank.

In summary, preparing for the next financial year doesn't have to be a headache. With these strategies you can keep your insurance premiums manageable. At Flooring Protect, we're here to help you every step of the way. With over 20 years of experience, we're dedicated to ensuring your business is well-protected at the best possible rate. Give us a call at **03 9976 4242** and let's make sure you're set for success in the coming year. You can also visit [flooringprotect.com.au](https://flooringprotect.com.au) to get an obligation free quote.



# NEW FCIA MEMBERS

FCIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO ITS GROUP.

## EMBELTON

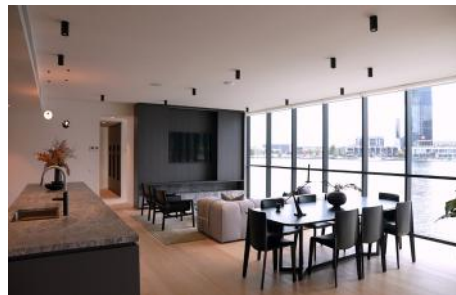
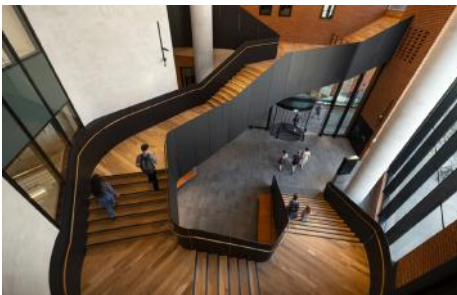
Since 1925, the Embelton name has been synonymous with high-quality products and exceptional service. Publicly listed in 1958, today we are a national business proudly managed by third generation Embelton family.

Over the years, Embelton has evolved into a multifaceted organisation with five warehouses across Australia, five distinct brands, and a growing national and international team. We supply and install flooring nationwide, and offer additional services including noise and vibration isolation, metal fabrication and flooring trade supplies.

As a leading Australian commercial contractor, we offer expert advice on

fit-for-purpose products and a vast selection of carpet and hard flooring options. Our team has successfully delivered flooring solutions for hundreds of commercial and residential projects nationwide.

For nearly a century, Embelton has been delivering exceptional products, earning a reputation for quality, service, and engineering excellence. This makes us the supplier of choice for leading architects, builders, acoustic consultants, and designers.

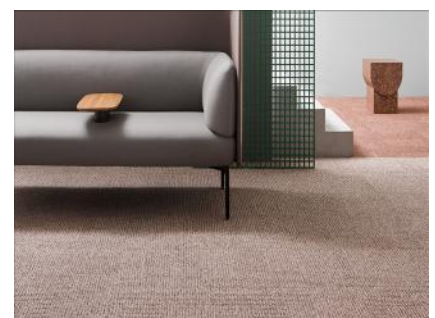


## TARKETT

The Tarkett Group's leadership in the flooring industry stems from 140 years of experience, built on the talents, values, and dedication of generations of entrepreneurs. Originally known as Allibert and Sommer, the company's journey began with the vision, energy, and commitment of its founders. Over the years, the Group has expanded continuously, incorporating other recognised, entrepreneurial brands from around the world.

With 34 industrial sites, 12,000 employees, and daily sales of 1.3 million square meters of flooring in over 100 countries, Tarkett maintains close connections with customers and suppliers globally. They blend the advantages of a global strategy with the practical expertise of

local teams to create products and services tailored to local customer needs and trends. Entrepreneurship is ingrained in Tarkett's DNA: ongoing flooring innovations and acquisitions have shaped their 140-year history. Today, Tarkett continues to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset, empowering their teams and promoting agility and accountability in decision-making. Tarkett's ReStart® take back programme, offers closed-loop recycling solutions on installation waste for Tarkett Vinyl and post-consumer Carpet Tiles, meaning that our floors are recycled back into floors.



# FCIA INAUGURAL SYDNEY GOLF DAY

2 0 2 4

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just looking for a fun day out, this event welcomes golfers of all skill levels.

You have the opportunity to sponsor an apprentice to be part of your team, allowing them to mix with different people within the flooring industry and see where their qualification takes them.

PLAYER OPTIONS	DATE & LOCATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Team of Four (4)</b> \$880.00 Member   \$950 Non-member Includes 4 players, cart, breakfast and lunch. Please fill in space below with names of players.</li> <li><b>Individual Player</b> \$220.00 Member   \$280 Non-member Includes 1 player, cart, breakfast and lunch. Please fill in space below with name of player.</li> <li><b>Hole Sponsor</b> \$650.00 Member   \$700 Non-member</li> <li><b>Lunch only</b> \$80.00 Member   \$95 Non-member</li> <li><b>Drinks</b> - Pay as you go</li> </ul>	<p><b>Friday 13 September</b> <b>Oatlands Golf Course</b> 94 BETTINGTON ROAD OATLANDS , SYDNEY, NSW</p>
	SCHEDULE
	<p><b>7am</b> Breakfast and attendant talk</p> <p><b>8am</b> Shotgun start, 4 ball Ambrose</p> <p><b>1.30pm</b> Lunch</p> <p><b>4pm</b> Finish</p> <p><b>Game</b> Ambrose</p> <p><b>Dress Code</b> Golf attire</p>

Please RSVP by 1 August 2024

**REGISTER NOW**



Please note course is limited to the first 100 booking guests.

If you have any questions please contact Fiona Wischnewski on 0407 295 149 or [fwischnewski@fcia.org.au](mailto:fwischnewski@fcia.org.au)



### Golf attire:

- Collared, turtle-necked or mock-necked shirt worn tucked in.
- Tailored trousers or knee-length dress short with a belt.
- Soft spiked golf or sport shoes.
- Predominately white socks with shorts – ankle or quarter-ankle socks can be black but must be below calf length.



FLOOR COVERING  
INSTITUTE  
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PLATINUM SPONSOR



# FCIA APPRENTICES SHINE AS FINALISTS AT THE NSW TRAINING AWARDS 2024

written by. Niranjan Peter, FCIA Group

The Flooring Covering Institute of Australia proudly announces that two of its apprentices were nominated as finalists for the prestigious NSW Training Awards 2024. The NSW Training Awards, held annually, celebrate exceptional achievements in the Vocational Education and Training sector across all recognised trades in Australia. This makes the achievements of our two finalists a significant honor.

The NSW Training Awards Presentations, span multiple nights covering all regions. This year, our talented apprentices James Parfett and Lukas Patsiouras earned their spots as finalists, representing the FCIA with distinction.

James Parfett, an apprentice from Buckleys Carpet Court, was a finalist at the Western NSW Training Awards Presentation. The event took place on 6 June 2024, at the Parkes Social Club. James has shown remarkable dedication to his craft, consistently striving to enhance his skills and knowledge in the flooring industry.

Lukas Patsiouras, from Lomac Commercial Flooring Pty Ltd, was a finalist at the South Western Sydney NSW Training Awards Presentation on 21 June 2024, which was held at the Western Sydney Convention Centre. Lukas's commitment to mastering the complexities of the flooring business, from safety requirements and product knowledge to installation techniques, has been exemplary.

We are immensely proud of the efforts and achievements of both James and Lukas. Their hard work, dedication, and willingness to continuously learn and improve have rightfully earned them recognition at such a prestigious level. These nominations underscore their exceptional performance as apprentices and their commitment to becoming the best floor installers they can be.

The FCIA extends heartfelt congratulations to James Parfett and Lukas Patsiouras for their well-deserved nominations and thanks them for their significant contributions to the flooring industry.



James Parfett, Buckleys Carpet Court



Lukas Patsiouras, Lomac Commercial Flooring Pty Ltd

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF AXLE YOUNG (1 FEBRUARY 2007 - 26 MAY 2024)

written by. team at Southern Highland Carpet Court

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we at Southern Highlands Carpet Court remember Axle Young, a bright and promising young individual whose life was tragically cut short at the tender age of 17.

As a flooring apprentice, Axle was not only dedicated to mastering his craft but also knew that this apprenticeship could change his life and allow him to build a very successful career.

Axle started his floor laying career with my son in law Ryan who subcontracted to us here at Carpet Court. As Ryan was moving interstate, Axle was then given a job as an apprentice with Carpet Court to build on his floor covering capabilities. We saw the potential in this very young 15-year-old. His passion for his work became evident to all those who worked with him. Axle's attention to detail and fine craftsmanship did not go unnoticed, he approached each task with a level of dedication and pride that was truly inspiring.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Axle was a kind-hearted and compassionate soul, always ready to lend a helping hand to friends, family, and colleagues. His infectious smile and positive attitude could light up any room, and he had a unique ability to bring out the best in those around him. His laughter, his energy, and his unwavering spirit will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Axle's life, though tragically brief, was filled with moments of joy, hard work, and love. He touched the lives of many, leaving behind a legacy of determination and kindness. While we mourn the loss of such a promising young life, we also celebrate the beautiful memories he created and the permanent mark he left on our hearts.

To his family, friends, and colleagues, we extend our deepest sympathies. In this time of immense sorrow, may you find comfort in the cherished memories of Axle and the knowledge that his spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Rest in peace, Axle. You will forever be remembered and missed by our Team at Southern Highlands Carpet Court.





# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEMALES IN FLOORING

written by: Fiona Wischnewski, FCIA Group

As you may be aware, the FCIA and its partners launched a new initiative in March 2024 called "Females in Flooring."

This collaborative effort is dedicated to supporting women in the flooring industry who are passionate about their profession.

Our aim is to create a community that fosters a welcoming and positive atmosphere where women can connect, support one another, and inspire each other to make a meaningful impact in the flooring sector.

Joining Females in Flooring offers valuable opportunities for networking, learning, and staying informed on relevant topics. It

also provides a platform for sharing ideas, gaining insights from experts, and staying updated on industry trends and community developments through discussion groups, meetings, and business speakers.

We have currently scheduled 2 events – one in Melbourne in August and one in Sydney in September. We are working on more events in other states.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or ideas to enhance the group's impact, please feel free to share them with me.

If you would like to be part of this group, please email me at [fwischnewski@fcia.org.au](mailto:fwischnewski@fcia.org.au)



## FEMALES IN FLOORING HIGH TEA

Melbourne, VIC  
16 August 2024

EMAIL VIC HIGH - TEA TO  
[INFO@FCIA.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@FCIA.ORG.AU) FOR DETAILS

Sydney, NSW  
12 September 2024

EMAIL NSW HIGH - TEA TO  
[INFO@FCIA.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@FCIA.ORG.AU) FOR DETAILS

# THE FCIA EXHIBITS AT THE 2024 SOUTH AUSTRALIA CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT EXPO

written by. Niranjan Peter, FCIA Group

Fiona Wischnewski, CEO of the Floor Covering Institute of Australia (FCIA) had the exciting opportunity to exhibit at the South Australia Career and Employment Expo, held over two days 10 and 11 May. The event, which attracted a total of 15,244 attendees, served as a platform for students, adults, and teachers to explore career opportunities across various industries.

The total attendance breakdown over the two days:

**Students:** 8,163  
**Adults:** 1,057  
**Teachers:** 641

Saturday alone, drew in 5,388 visitors, highlighting its importance in the region's career development landscape. Fiona Wischnewski, who attended both days, expressed her enthusiasm about the event, emphasising its value for connecting with stakeholders in the education and employment sectors as well as young students and teachers who are unaware of the flooring trade.

Looking ahead, Fiona Wischnewski discussed The FCIA's plans to engage further with career teachers through targeted outreach plans. This includes a mailout campaign designed as a postcard, highlighting the lucrative career opportunities within the floor covering industry.

"This expo has been incredibly valuable for FCIA," remarked Fiona Wischnewski, "and we look forward to participating in more events like this to foster greater awareness about our industry."

The South Australia Career and Employment Expo continues to serve as a pivotal event for both job seekers and educational institutions, providing a bridge between industry leaders like FCIA and prospective employees and students alike.



# MJS HOSTS COMMERCIAL CONTRACTOR LUNCH & TRADE NIGHT IN ADELAIDE

written by: Fiona Wischniewski, FCIA Group

With FCIA now a funded training provider in South Australia, MJS hosted a commercial contractor lunch on 13 May in Adelaide.

The event saw a strong turnout of approximately 35 attendees. It was an excellent opportunity for FCIA to engage directly with industry professionals.

## Key Highlights included:

**Engagement:** The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue between FCIA and contractors/retailers, fostering a better understanding of industry needs.

**Insightful Discussions:** Participants showed keen interest in the training initiatives and the potential benefits of apprenticeships for the industry's future.

The event successfully facilitated networking

among industry peers, which is vital for collaborative growth and development.

It was fantastic to meet and speak with those present, many of whom posed insightful questions about training and apprenticeships. Thank you to Scott at MJS for organizing this event.

## MJS Trade Night Adelaide

MJS ran a Trade Night in Adelaide on 16 May. Approximately 60-17 contractors, sole traders and retailers attended. A lot of questions about apprenticeships and how they work and have had a lot of follow-up meetings over the past few weeks.

It was also a great forum for FCIA to catch up with a number of its members who trade stands; Ardex, Armstrong, DTA, Mapei, Nexus





# FCIA APPRENTICES SPEND A WEEK IN RANDWICK AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITY WORKSHOP

written by. Niranjan Peter, FCIA Group

The FCIA conducted an apprentice charity workshop at Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Randwick, NSW, focusing on enhancing living spaces for families by updating the flooring of their learning center and family apartments. This project, was held from 29 April to 3 May and allowed us to give back to our partners at RMH whilst developing practical skills for the apprentices.

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is a pivotal organisation dedicated to supporting families with critically ill children, providing essential programs and accommodations. FCIA's ongoing partnership with RMHC highlights their shared dedication to improving the lives of families facing medical

challenges. The workshop's primary objective was to renovate the flooring in two family apartments and a learning center within Ronald McDonald House. The project involved replacing existing floors, with new vinyl planks. Under the guidance of industry experts Jim and Will from Mapei and their trainer Ryan, 10 apprentices worked to complete the intricate tasks involved in the floor preparation and installation.

The first day of the workshop saw the apprentices attending a comprehensive training session at the Mapei training academy. This initial day equipped participants with essential knowledge of floor preparation techniques and the proper use of

materials—a crucial foundation for the days ahead. Project Activities Included:

**Learning Centre:**

- Mechanical preparation for levelling compound application
- Flooring preparation
- Hand scraping and leveling procedures
- Installation of vinyl planks, including complex patterns and adhesive application

**Family Apartments**

- Removal of existing adhesive and skim coat application
- Flooring preparation
- Precision installation of LVP with attention to detail and adhesive phases

The final day of the workshop focused on learning and assessment, overseen by Ryan from FCIA Training Academy the Apprentices were directed to their workbooks which is essential to them completing their qualification.

The FCIA's apprentice Charity workshop wrapped up on Friday 3 May 2024 with fantastic outcomes! Huge appreciation goes out to Ronald Macdonald House Charity's Randwick, MJS Floor Coverings, and Karndean for generously donating their products.

A special thank you goes to Mapei, represented by Jim and Will, for their contributions of products and valuable time during the workshop, guiding the apprentices through the floor preparation process. A big thank you also extends to the employers and apprentices who participated in the workshop, showcasing a fantastic group of enthusiastic young learners!

This collaboration between FCIA and Ronald McDonald House Charity exemplifies the positive impact of community-driven projects, fostering skills development and making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.



# MEET THE TEAM: ESTERA POP

written by. Niranjana Peter , FCIA Group

Estera is the newest member of the team here at FCIA and has been with the company for just over 12 months. She works as our Administration Officer and juggles a myriad of tasks including managing our CRM, supporting marketing initiatives and general administration activities to support the leadership team.

Estera has been an Administration Professional with over 15 years' experience working within Professional Services which included Engineering, Recruitment, Financial services, and the Warehousing + logistic sectors.

She is a highly adaptable team member and is able to maneuver new environments due to her ongoing success working within the temporary work assignments with the ability to hit the ground running.

Estera has strong communication skills with high interpersonal communication allowing her to seamlessly interact with people and a deep understanding of the importance of great customer service as well as providing support to meet deadlines and set tasks.

She also manages accounts receivable and payable, schedules and general administrative duties.

We asked Estera a few key questions to get a better understanding of who she is as a person.

## What are your greatest achievements to date?

Well I am the proud mother of two wonderful kids. Many people underestimate the toll being a parent has on you but I understand the value of the investment and my family are an important element of my success.

## What's your favourite thing about your role at FCIA?

I enjoy the diversity of my role at the FCIA. Every day is different with new tasks and challenges that come my way.

## What you are focused on in the business now?

My current focus is to complete my course in Certificate IV Accounting & Book-Keeping

## What are you most looking forward to in 2024?

I hope to finish my Cert IV in Accounting and Booking Keeping and be utilising my skills and knowledge at FCIA by doing the book keeping.

## What's your dream vacation destination?

My dream vacation would have to be in Paris and a trip around Europe, exploring different cuisines and culture.

Estera is an excellent part of our team and embodies the mindset and values of the business through consistently going over and above for the success of the organisation. She loves to learn and has made a real impact on the many administration requirements of our business. She is flourishing in her role and we look forward to supporting her future success.



# FCIA APPRENTICE COMPLETIONS

written by: Niranjan Peter, FCIA Group

## JARROD THORNE - CRESTIA BY ANDERSENS IN WAGGA WAGGA

Congratulations to Jarrod Thorne on successfully completing his apprenticeship in MSF30818 Certificate III in Flooring Technology. We are excited to see another qualified flooring installer and branching out into new opportunities.

During his apprenticeship, Jarrod highlighted the fulfilment he received when learning new skills and accomplishing the various jobs he worked on. Now that he is qualified he is looking forward to a new career in which he can pave his own path. He is especially excited to be able to access greater job opportunities and continue to advance his skillsets.

The on-the-job learning experience Jarrod gained is invaluable, providing him with practical insights and problem-solving skills that will serve him well in his future endeavors. He discussed how the practicality of on-the-job training allowed him to earn while he learnt and also made it easier to manage his learning.

Jarrod has cited the importance of being qualified as he understood the value it provided in unlocking further expansion into the flooring industry. He also was overwhelmed by the feeling of accomplishment. By becoming qualified, he not only enhances his earning potential but also gains credibility and influence within the industry.

FCIA Training Academy wishes Jarrod continued success in his journey towards becoming a contractor in the flooring industry. With his determination and passion advancing his capabilities, there is no doubt he will achieve great things.



Left to right: Jarrod Thorne, Crestia by Andersens in Wagga Wagga

# FCIA TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD SKILLS 2025

written by: Fiona Wischnewski, FCIA Group

FCIA attended the Empowering Skills Excellence with World Skills at Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday 25 June 2024, celebrating the launch of the WorldSkills Australia 2025 National Championships and Skills Show.

In 2025, FCIA and its partners have an opportunity to participate in World Skills but partaking in a flooring demonstrations throughout the three days of competitions. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the skills and abilities of our flooring apprentices.

More information will be shared as we move forward with this process or you could send me an email [fwischnewski@fcia.org.au](mailto:fwischnewski@fcia.org.au) if you have any questions.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Wollongong  
NSW  
Workshop  
5-9 AUG 2024

Females in Flooring  
Hightea, VIC  
16 AUG 2024

Females in Flooring  
Hightea, NSW  
12 SEP 2024

FCIA Golf Day  
NSW  
13 SEP 2024

Bendigo  
VIC  
Workshop  
TBC

Melbourne  
VIC  
Workshop  
TBC

Floor Tech  
Trade Show  
VIC  
28 FEB 2025

FCIA Gala 2025  
VIC  
1 MAR 2025

For information on any of these events  
please contact [info@fcia.org.au](mailto:info@fcia.org.au)