



**THE HON IAN MACFARLANE MP
Minister for Industry**

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER LEADS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST SKILLS DELEGATION TO INDIA

Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane is leading the largest ever Australian skills delegation to India to encourage greater collaboration between the two nations.

Minister Macfarlane said more than 100 representatives from across the industry and training sector were travelling with him to build new connections.

“Australia wants to further enhance our global partnerships on skills and training and this delegation has the experience and expertise to help achieve this goal,” Minister Macfarlane said.

Minister Macfarlane will today deliver a major speech to the Indian Industry's Global Skills Summit in Mumbai and host a business roundtable. Tomorrow he will deliver the keynote address to the third India Australia Skills Conference – Skills for Better Business.

Minister Macfarlane will also launch an innovative vocational education and training pilot programme to be trialed in India over the next 12 months.

The programme will be delivered by Australian registered training providers working with either industry, Indian training providers or governments. The courses will be delivered under the Australia Future Unlimited brand.

“India needs thousands of additional trainers and assessors as it strives to skill 500 million people by 2022 and Australia is a nation with training expertise,” Minister Macfarlane said.

“The Governments of both countries are encouraging skills cooperation and laying the foundation for greater collaboration and development of commercial opportunities between Australian and Indian industry and training providers.”

A roundtable Minister Macfarlane will host today will examine opportunities for upskilling the Indian resources and energy sector labour force, as well as collaboration on training models for large and small business.

During his visit, Minister Macfarlane will meet his resources and energy, and science and technology counterparts in the Indian Government.

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