

Mini Woolies launches new supermarket experience at TAFE NSW campus in Loftus

Tuesday, 28 March 2023: The Mini Woolies program launched its first store in a vocational education and training (VET) facility today, with the opening of TAFE NSW Fresh Food in Loftus.

The store will assist people with disabilities to gain job-ready skills in an accessible and safe learning space, increasing access to career pathways that empower lifelong learning.

Getting hands-on at TAFE NSW Fresh Food, students will build their confidence in a simulated retail environment while gaining practical skills in areas like point of sales, receiving and handling stock, and communicating with customers.

Alongside their practical training, students will work towards completing nationally recognised units from Certificate II in Retail and be connected with employers to assist with a successful transition to the workplace.

The Mini Woolies store has been established to simulate the operations of an actual Woolworths supermarket, with baskets for fresh food, shelving for groceries, ticketing, signage and Woolworths branded uniforms and fully operational Fujitsu registers to create an immersive educational experience.

Catherine Hunter, General Manager of Inclusion at Woolworths Group, said: "This is another milestone moment for the Mini Woolies program as we continue to explore new pathways that can support the educational experiences of young Australians with disabilities.

"We're really proud to expand our Mini Woolies program to VET providers such as TAFE NSW, helping young adults develop several transferable skills and qualifications that can create better experiences for a better tomorrow."

TAFE NSW Executive Director of Education and Skills Sydney, Raf Marcellino, said: "TAFE NSW Fresh Food – Loftus will offer more people with disabilities the opportunity to explore retail career pathways and gain job-ready skills for the workplace.

"Retail services is an industry where skilled workers are in high demand. These new state-of-the-art facilities will enable students to gain real-world practical skills using the latest industry-standard equipment, helping to engage students in meaningful employment.

"Our TVET and Certificate II in Retail students are excited to start training in the new facilities. We're also working closely with disability service providers and employers to establish pathways to help connect students with future training and job opportunities."

The new Mini Woolies site at TAFE NSW's Loftus campus joins over 30 stores across Australia. In 2022, Woolworths and Fujitsu [announced](#) the expansion of the program, with new sites to be rolled out in every state and territory by June 2023.

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