



MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 May 2026

Atwea College to phase out Training Services, strengthening focus on Secondary Education and Community Learning

Atwea College today confirmed its decision to phase out the Training Services division by 30 June 2026, enabling the organisation to concentrate resources on Alesco Secondary College and community-based learning programs.

The decision, approved by the Atwea Board as part of the organisation's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, represents a strategic return to Atwea's core mission of supporting young people through innovative secondary education and delivering accessible community learning.

"This is a deliberate decision about where Atwea can create the greatest long-term impact for our community," Jane McConville, Chairperson of Atwea College, said.

"Atwea was founded on the principles of the Workers Education Association, with a core commitment to accessible, community-based education. After careful consideration, the Board determined that focusing our expertise and resources on Alesco Secondary College and community learning programs represents the best use of our capacity as a not-for-profit organisation."

Supporting current students

All of our students currently enrolled in Training Services programs will be supported to complete their qualifications through partnerships with quality Registered Training Organisations in the Hunter Region and beyond.

Completed units of work and training records will be carefully managed to transfer to new providers with the outcome that students will not need to repeat work they have already completed.

Atwea is organising a student information session week commencing 8 June 2026, where students can meet potential new training providers, ask questions, and make informed decisions about where to continue their studies.

Supporting staff transition

Affected Training Services staff will be supported through the transition with:

- Fair Work and Atwea's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement-compliant processes and entitlements
- Individual consultation sessions
- Access to Employee Assistance Program (EAP)



- Career transition support including resume preparation and interview coaching
- An employer information session, where other RTOs can meet staff and discuss employment opportunities

"This decision is not a reflection of the dedication, commitment or quality of work provided by our Training Services staff. The contribution they have made to students, communities and Atwea over many years is deeply valued and recognised," Ms McConville said. "We're committed to supporting them through this transition with dignity and practical assistance."

Future focus: Alesco Secondary College

Alesco Secondary College serves students who have not found their place in mainstream schooling, operating eight campuses across the Hunter Region with outstanding outcomes:

- 97% of parents say Alesco brings out the best in their child
- 98% of students say Alesco helps them work toward their goals
- 96% of students feel accepted;
- 98% feel safe at school

Atwea is actively exploring new Alesco campus opportunities in growth areas, demonstrating ongoing investment in expanding access to quality alternative education.

Community learning programs

Atwea's Learn for Fun initiative, grounded in the organisation's Workers Education Association heritage, provides accessible adult learning for personal enrichment and community connection.

"By concentrating on secondary education for young people who need an alternative pathway, and flexible community learning for adults, we're able to invest more meaningfully in the students and communities we serve," Ms McConville continued.

"This decision reflects strategic planning and deliberate choice about impact, not financial distress. As Alesco continues to expand, we're investing more deeply in how we can best serve our community."

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