

Meeting of the Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC) CEO Network Forum 13 June 2024

The JSC CEO Network Forum (the Forum) met in Melbourne on Thursday, 13 June 2024.

JSCs support the Government's commitment to deliver a collaborative, tripartite vocational education and training (VET) system, bringing together employers, unions and governments to address skills shortages and broader workforce challenges.

The CEOs were joined by Natalie James, DEWR Secretary who acknowledged the work undertaken to get the JSCs established and working to the level they are. She recognised the important and ongoing role JSCs play in delivering real change in across the labour market and VET sector to meet the evolving needs and expectations of industry, the economy and society.

A key focus of this meeting was JSCs' strategic engagement with whole-of-government priorities. The Forum discussed connections with JSCs' programs of work and ongoing opportunities to collaborate and provide industry stewardship.

Whole-of-government priorities

The CEOs discussed how JSCs are an important partner in delivery of government skills priorities, as well as the skills reforms and priorities that JSCs are all already engaging with. The National Skills Agreement, Qualification Reform and the Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System were highlighted, as well as collaborative opportunities with the TAFE Centres of Excellence.

There was a focus on industry-specific engagement on national priorities including the Net Zero transformation, essential care services, sovereign capability, digital and technology capability and housing supply, and Closing the Gap and supporting priority cohorts, as well as discussion on the Future Made in Australia and Building Women's Careers Program Budget measures.

Collaboration with Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)

The CEOs heard from new JSA Commissioner, Professor Barney Glover AO. Professor Glover, together with JSA Ministerial Advisory Board Cath Bowtell, has met with each JSC CEO and Board Chair and looks forward to regular ongoing engagement.

JSA provided an update on the JSA Work Plan for 2024-25, due for finalisation soon and which has drawn on JSC submissions and workforce plans as well as submissions from other stakeholders across industry, government, education and training providers and the public.

Over the coming months, JSCs and JSA will be collaborating on a number of JSC- and JSA-led projects.

The next meeting of the JSC CEO Network Forum will take place in September 2024.

Tuesday 9 July 2024

In attendance:

Sharon Robertson, Manufacturing (Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance)

Paul Walsh, Transport and Logistics (Industry Skills Australia)

Patrick Kidd, Finance, Technology and Business (Future Skills Organisation)

Natalie Turmine, Arts, Personal Services, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality (Service and Creative Skills Australia)

Gavin Lind, Mining and Automotive (Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance)

Emma King, Aged and Disability, Children's Education and Care, Health, Human Services, Sport and Recreation (HumanAbility)

Anthea Middleton, Energy Gas and Renewables (Powering Skills Organisation)

Brett Schimming, Building, Construction, Property and Water (BuildSkills Australia)

Michael Hartman, Agribusiness, Fibre, Furnishing, Food, Animal and Environment Care (Skills Insight)

Jean Dyzel, Public Safety and Government (Public Skills Australia)