



The National Skills Plan

Building a skilled Australia through Vocational Education and Training

The *National Skills Plan* outlines Australian and state and territory governments' shared vision for the vocational education and training (VET) system. It will guide the work of all governments to deliver on the outcomes and national priorities in the landmark National Skills Agreement (NSA) and provide direction for industry, employers and the VET sector to help align efforts so that we are all working towards the same shared goals.

The *National Skills Plan* represents a step change in how governments work together to build the skills Australia

needs now and into the future. Through a new focus on shared leadership, national planning and evidence-based decision making that is guided by industry knowledge, all governments and stakeholders will work in partnership to deliver a stronger and more responsive VET system. The shift away from a 'set and forget' approach and towards a system of shared stewardship and an annual cycle of evidence-driven review will maximise the increased investment in skills delivered by the National Skills Agreement to strengthen and expand the VET system across the country.

What is in the National Skills Plan?

The inaugural *National Skills Plan* is the first phase of a planning and evaluation process that will occur over the life of the NSA. The Plan includes:

- Ambitions and early actions to address agreed national priorities (see list on right)
- Context on the current skills and training landscape and the broad national reforms being delivered to guide skills and workforce development and address productivity and growth challenges
- An overview of complementary policy and program reforms to strengthen the VET system and outcomes for individuals, including Fee-Free TAFE, the Australian Skills Guarantee, the Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeship Incentives System and improvements to the integrity and regulation of the VET sector
- Detail of the policy initiatives being funded and progressed under the NSA, such as TAFE Centres of Excellence, Closing the Gap and measures to strengthen the VET workforce, improve foundation skills training and support students to complete qualifications
- A timeline of key national milestones and initiatives to be delivered over the period of the NSA
- Planned action to reform the VET system architecture and strengthen the industry and workforce evidence base
- Key elements of the new shared stewardship model.

Agreed National Priorities

1. **Gender Equality**
2. **Closing the Gap**
3. **Supporting the net zero transformation**
4. **Sustaining essential care services**
5. **Developing Australia's sovereign capability and food security**
6. **Ensuring Australia's digital and technological capability**
7. **Delivering housing supply**
8. **Delivering reforms to improve the regulation of VET qualifications and quality**

How will stakeholders be engaged?

The *National Skills Plan* is informed by effective engagement between governments, Jobs and Skills Australia, Jobs and Skills Councils, First Nations organisations and communities and partnerships with key stakeholders as part of the annual planning and review cycle. This includes a commitment to progress partnership arrangements with First Nations people in line with the principles of genuine partnership and shared decision making as outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

As part of the NSA, an outcomes framework is being developed to measure progress and support decision making and priority setting. Broad consultation with the VET sector will continue to occur to ensure a robust and relevant framework.

Jurisdictional Action Plans that support the implementation of the *National Skills Plan* and NSA will be published by the Commonwealth and each state and territory government. Each jurisdiction will provide engagement and consultation opportunities on their plans throughout the life of the NSA.

What's next?

The Commonwealth and all states and territories will publish their jurisdictional action plans by November 2024. These plans will detail specific local actions each jurisdiction will take to address the national outcomes and priorities explored in the *National Skills Plan*, set local ambitions and contribute to a transparent and collaborative model of shared stewardship.

By the end of 2024, an outcomes framework will be developed to measure progress against population and system level outcomes and targets. The Outcomes Framework will be the first of its kind for the VET sector with the measures and indicators forming a balanced scorecard of national targets, describing what success looks like, allowing progress to be measured and informing annual review cycles for the *National Skills Plan*.

The *National Skills Plan* will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, with later plans reflecting updated evidence and stakeholder feedback on progress toward national outcomes and priorities, identifying successful models, gaps in progress and new and emerging circumstances to be addressed.

Timeline of Key Milestones

