

Meeting of the Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC) CEO Network Forum 5 December 2024

The JSC CEO Network Forum (the Forum) met in Canberra on Thursday, 5 December 2024.

JSCs are key drivers of the government's commitments 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 Hon Andrew Giles MP, Federal Minister for Skills and Training, and Anna Faithfull, Deputy Secretary, Skills and Training Group, Department of Employment and Workplaces Relations (DEWR) joined the CEOs over lunch, highlighting the important role JSCs play in helping drive skills reform and national priorities. The Minister spoke about tripartism being fundamental in JSCs' design, ensuring genuine partnerships and bringing employers, unions and government together to solve workforce challenges and to address skills needs for learners, employers and industries across the economy.

Natalie James, Secretary, DEWR joined the Forum to hear from CEOs on priorities for 2025 and how the department can continue to support their organisations to deliver stronger VET outcomes.

2025 Strategic Planning

The Forum discussed priorities for 2025 and how JSCs can build on the foundational work undertaken in 2024, which included delivery of workforce plans, strategic plans and initial activities. The CEOs discussed opportunities for JSCs to work collaboratively to make an impact on a system level. This included the central role JSCs will continue to play in addressing national priorities, with their current and pipeline of future activities supporting the net zero transformation, Future Made in Australia, Closing the Gap, housing supply, the care and support sector, and other priority sectors. JSCs will also remain an important partner in the delivery of the National Skills Agreement, qualification reform and the VET Workforce Blueprint.

Collaboration with Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)

The CEOs heard from JSA Commissioner, Professor Barney Glover AO, who was joined by JSC Deputy Commissioners Megan Lilly and Trevor Gauld. Professor Glover provided an update on key JSA publications including the 2024 Jobs and Skills Report and VET National Data Asset report.

Professor Glover also provided an update on key JSA projects and capacity studies including the food supply chain capacity study (close to being released), international student pathways and outcomes study, generative AI study, and work on tertiary harmonisation.

Additionally, Professor Glover outlined other planned engagement and consultation activities where JSCs and JSA will be collaborating on a number of projects, highlighting opportunities to further strengthen the relationship between JSA and JSCs.

Other sessions included a strategic conversation with Saxon Rice, CEO, Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), about opportunities to strengthen links and understand risk and training package development in the context of the objectives of VET, including consistency, quality and innovation. John King, Managing Director, National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), also joined the forum to discuss strategic opportunities to support the work of JSCs.

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

Thursday 8 January 2025

In attendance:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Walsh, Transport and Logistics (Industry Skills Australia)

Sharon Robertson, Manufacturing (Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance)