



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Senate Education and Employment References Committee report:
Vocational education and training in South Australia

October 2019

Introduction

On 6 December 2017, the Senate referred the matter into vocational education and training (VET) in South Australia to the Education and Employment References Committee (the Committee).

The Committee released its report, *Vocational education and training in South Australia*, on 31 March 2018. In the report, the Committee made one recommendation.

In addition to the Committee's Report:

- The Coalition and Australian Greens' Senators submitted a *Dissenting report*
- Coalition Senators provided an *Additional statement*
- The Australian Greens' Senators submitted an *Additional statement*, which included one additional recommendation.

Committee Report - Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Government establish a comprehensive review of Australia's entire VET sector with a view to achieving adequate and sustainable ongoing funding levels, appropriate controls on private providers and a coherent and supportive policy framework.

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

On 28 November 2018, the Prime Minister and then Minister for Small and Family Business, Skills and Vocational Education, announced that the Hon Steven Joyce would undertake a review into the Australian VET system (Joyce Review). A report, *Strengthening Skills: Expert Review of Australia's Vocational Education and Training System*, was delivered to the Australian Government in March 2019.

The Joyce Review focused on how the Government can ensure Australians have the skills they need to succeed in a changing labour market. It also focused on ensuring Australian businesses, including small and family businesses and businesses in rural and regional areas, have the skills they need to support their business' growth.

A copy of the review and the Terms of Reference can be accessed on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/vet-review.

Australian Greens' Senator's Additional Statement - Recommendation 1

- The Australian Greens recommend that a comprehensive review be initiated into the role of the VET sector in the Australian labour market.
- The review should examine how public funding can better aid the provision of vocational education and training, and how effective the contestability reforms have been in assisting the sector.
- Finally, the review should examine whether the VET system is being adequately funded to deliver what is required of it, and whether there is scope to improve the means through funding is distributed between public and private operators.

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

Vocational education and training (VET) is central to the growth of Australian businesses and for Australians to succeed in a changing labour market. Achieving success in the VET system is complex, as it is delivered through Commonwealth and state and territory funding, policy and regulation, and a network of public, private and industry providers.

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The Government demonstrated its commitment to support the VET sector in the 2019–20 Budget through its \$525.3 million Skills Package, *Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow*. This package ensures Australians can access the training they need for the jobs of today and prepare for the jobs of the future.

The Skills Package lays the building blocks for reforms identified in the Joyce Review, placing industry at the centre and raising the profile of VET as a career pathway of choice. It takes important steps towards longer term funding and governance reforms to help ensure that the VET system is responsive, respected and flexible into the future.

More information on the Skills Package, including the allocation of funding for the package, can be found at employment.gov.au/skills-and-training-budget-overview-19-20.