

## **Statement of Australian Government priorities BuildSkills Australia**

This Statement sets out the Australian Government's priorities for **BuildSkills Australia**.

### **Government policy priorities and objectives for all JSCs**

We expect your organisation to be actively involved in:

- addressing Australia's productivity challenges, including undertaking activity that supports building a skilled, adaptable and inclusive workforce
- working with my department, First Nations peoples, industry (employers and unions) and other JSCs to progress the priority reforms under the Closing the Gap National Agreement
- addressing system inclusivity in gender-segregated industries including by examining education and training pathway choices, and how these intersect with the gender make-up of occupations and industries
- using strategic workforce planning and strong stakeholder engagement to continue building a shared, evidence-based view of the challenges and opportunities for your industries and across JSCs
- reflecting the possible impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and broader digital transformation in workforce planning analysis, particularly emerging and changing skills needs within your industry sectors, and incorporating data, digital and AI learning outcomes into the design and review of qualifications and training products
- ensuring all updates to training products embed Qualification Reform principles to deliver streamlined, relevant, and future-ready qualifications. This includes reducing duplication, aligning with current and emerging workforce needs across jurisdictions, and responding proactively to industry and learner expectations.

### **Government policy priorities and objectives for BuildSkills Australia**

We acknowledge that BuildSkills Australia has a significant program of work underway in support of the building, construction, property and water sectors.

Recognising your existing workplan and government priorities as they relate to your industries, we expect BuildSkills to also:

- continue to support the national priority of delivering housing supply working with industry (employers and unions) and government to implement practical training solutions that address workforce shortages in residential construction
- progress work to support and facilitate industry-led action on skills, training, and other policy options that align with the JSC program, with a focus on improving the responsiveness of the training system to meet the workforce needs identified in the Housing Workforce Capacity Study
- support the recommendations of the National Construction Industry Forum's Blueprint for the Future, once finalised, by working with other JSCs to implement targeted strategies to address labour shortages in the building and construction industry. This includes supporting the take-up of high-quality safe and respectful workplace training, improving worker mobility through nationally consistent skills accreditation, strengthening pathways and addressing structural barriers to entry
- support the net zero transformation through partnering with industry (employers and unions) to develop training products and transition pathways for occupations critical to clean energy infrastructure development

- support the National Water Initiative by progressing the ten-year Water Workforce Roadmap, with targeted actions to address skill gaps in roles critical to service delivery and climate resilience. Working with industry (employers and unions) and government to ensure the water workforce is equipped for digital transformation and evolving service standards.

### **Partnering for success**

Success of the JSC Program depends on your organisation working in close partnership with your industries, employers, unions and other stakeholder groups, my department and other government agencies. This includes establishing and strengthening formal partnerships with First Nations peoples, enabling shared decision-making, and supporting projects that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to determine and drive their own economic development. Our department will support your efforts to bring together industry (employers and unions) and government to shape and drive workforce solutions across the economy, including by providing information and fostering connections across government.