

The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Skills and Training
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ministers

Thank you for your correspondence outlining the Australian Government's priorities for Service and Creative Skills Australia (SaCSA). SaCSA welcomes the clarity provided through the Statement of Priorities, which will continue to inform our strategic focus and guide the delivery of our functions under the Jobs and Skills Councils program and associated performance framework.

Government policy priorities and objectives

SaCSA will be actively involved in supporting the Government's priorities through a coordinated program of workforce planning, industry engagement and training product stewardship across the service and creative industries. This work draws on SaCSA's tripartite approach and existing work program to deliver industry-led, evidence-based advice aligned with Government priorities and policy settings.

Productivity and workforce capability

SaCSA contributes to addressing Australia's productivity challenges by supporting the development of a skilled, adaptable and inclusive workforce. Through its workforce planning cycle SaCSA identifies current and emerging workforce challenges and aligns skills development with industry demand.

This includes delivering a contemporary workforce planning approach that combines labour market data, research, targeted analysis and stakeholder input to provide timely and actionable insights. These insights inform training product development and updates, industry stewardship and stakeholder engagement activities, ensuring effort is prioritised toward areas of greatest workforce need across SaCSA's sectors.

First Nations and Closing the Gap

SaCSA will work with a First Nations-led approach to improve engagement, training and workforce outcomes for First Nations peoples and First Nations-owned businesses. This includes strengthening

relationships with First Nations stakeholders and ensuring their perspectives inform workforce planning, skills analysis and training product considerations in culturally appropriate ways.

SaCSA will support the progress of priority reforms under the Closing the Gap National Agreement by aligning its work with relevant government-led and First Nations-led initiatives and contributing workforce insights that support improved participation, self-determination and outcomes.

Gender equity and inclusive participation

SaCSA will address gender equity in gender segregated industries by incorporating gender analysis into workforce planning and industry research. This includes examining education and training pathway choices and how these intersect with the gender make-up of occupations and industries.

Insights from this work will inform advice to government and stakeholders and support more inclusive participation across the service and creative industries.

Strategic workforce planning and stakeholder engagement

SaCSA will use strategic workforce planning and strong stakeholder engagement to continue building a shared, tri-partite, evidence-based view of workforce challenges and opportunities across its industries and in collaboration with other Jobs and Skills Councils.

This includes ongoing engagement with employers, unions, training providers and government, and collaboration across JSCs to share insights and support a coordinated approach to workforce and skills challenges at a system level.

Digital transformation & artificial intelligence

SaCSA will reflect artificial intelligence and broader digital transformation in its workforce planning analysis, particularly emerging and changing skills needs within its industry sectors. This includes incorporating data, digital and AI learning outcomes into the design and review of qualifications and training products.

This work will be informed by industry consultation and cross-JSC collaboration to support a consistent and coordinated approach to digital capability across the VET system.

Supporting national strategies and sector priorities

SaCSA will continue supporting major national strategies, including the National Cultural Policy, *Revive* and THRIVE 2030 by delivering industry-led skills and training solutions aligned with government priorities and developed in close collaboration with relevant agencies.

This includes incorporating workforce insights and stakeholder input into advice that supports implementation of these strategies and ensures alignment between sector workforce needs and broader policy objectives.

Apprenticeships, traineeships and skills pathways

SaCSA will identify ways to improve apprenticeships and traineeships by exploring what helps or hinders pathways to build skills across its sectors. This will include engagement with employers, unions and training providers to understand challenges relating to attraction, completion and progression.

Insights from this work will inform advice to government, including contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of the Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System and broader policy considerations.

Qualification reform

SaCSA will continue to lead the implementation of Qualification Reform principles as endorsed by Skills Ministers through its training product development and updates. This includes applying reform guidance to the design and review of training products and working with industry, unions and training providers to deliver streamlined, relevant and future-ready qualifications.

Strengthening the VET workforce

SaCSA will continue to contribute to strengthening the VET workforce by identifying barriers to attracting and retaining trainers and assessors across its sectors, and by working with employers, governments and training providers to inform strategies that address sector-specific challenges.

Connecting skills and employment systems

SaCSA will explore opportunities to leverage intersections between the skills and training system and employment services. This includes examining how workforce insights and industry engagement can inform more integrated approaches to skills development and employment pathways, and providing advice on future policy settings that support improved alignment between employment services and industry needs.

SaCSA appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Government's priorities and looks forward to continuing to work closely with you and the department to deliver on these priorities. SaCSA remains committed to its role as a trusted and effective partner in strengthening Australia's skills and training system.

Yours sincerely

Professor Gary Mortimer
Chairman
Service and Creative Skills Australia