



## Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council

**The Hon Minister Giles MP**  
Minister for Skills and Training

**The Hon Minister Hood MP**  
**South Australia**  
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

**The Hon Minister Whan MP**  
**New South Wales**  
Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**The Hon Minister Brooks**  
**Victoria**  
Minister for Skills and TAFE

**The Hon Minister Bates MP**  
**Queensland**  
Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

**The Hon Minister Ellis MP**  
**Tasmania**  
Minister for Skills and Jobs

**The Hon Minister Hersey**  
**Northern Territory**  
Minister for Education and Training

**Minister Pettersson MLA**  
**Australian Capital Territory**  
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Senior officials from Western Australia observed the meeting.

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

19 June 2026

# COMMUNIQUE

## MEETING OF FEDERAL, STATE AND TERRITORY SKILLS MINISTERS

Skills Ministers met today in Adelaide to progress shared priorities for Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector.

### National TAFE Network

Ministers endorsed the 2026 [National TAFE Network Annual Workplan](#), which includes 17 projects that will benefit TAFEs in every jurisdiction. The projects in the Workplan span a broad range of focus areas and will help strengthen the quality, relevance and accessibility of the VET system by enhancing skills recognition, enabling smoother workforce transitions, strengthening learner readiness and completion, and improving access for cohorts facing structural barriers to training and employment.

### VET Data Streamlining Legislation and Policy

Ministers agreed to legislative and policy amendments required to enable Phase 1 of the [VET Data Streamlining \(VDS\) Program](#) to commence in October 2026. The VDS program is a foundational element of the National Skills Agreement Enhanced VET Data and Evidence Initiative, and delivers a significant reform to improve the timeliness, quality and security of VET data submissions by registered training organisations.

### Tertiary Harmonisation

Ministers met with Professor Barney Glover AO, interim Chief Commissioner of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission, to discuss progress toward a [Tertiary Roadmap and National Credit Recognition Framework](#). Ministers reaffirmed the importance of having VET and higher education on equal footing in a harmonised tertiary system, providing real recognition of prior learning between systems and ensuring that tertiary qualifications are aligned with Australia's future skills needs.

### Delivering Housing Supply and Apprenticeships

Ministers were briefed by Jobs and Skills Council, [BuildSkills Australia](#), on new research exploring where the skills and training portfolio can most effectively contribute to Australia's housing supply priorities.

The Hon Steve Whan, NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education led a discussion where Ministers agreed to continue to strengthen apprenticeships and traineeships by commissioning focused activity in 2026 to: create coherent national construction supervisor training settings; examine national Group Training Organisation standards to ensure they remain fit for purpose; and increase gender diversity in construction industries. Ministers agreed this will build on current skills initiatives including Free TAFE and TAFE Centres of Excellence, and the actions outlined in the [National Skills Plan](#) and [Jurisdictional Action Plans](#).

### Quality and Integrity in VET

Ministers agreed to further strengthen the quality and integrity architecture of the VET system by investigating additional measures aimed at building public confidence, support quality uplift and improve system responsiveness. This builds upon recent actions undertaken by the Australian Skills Quality Authority. As an immediate priority, Ministers agreed to advance work on a national data and information-sharing protocol to strengthen collaboration and regulatory intelligence sharing to further enhance regulatory practice.

**FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2026**

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