

VET Review

Points in relation to the terms of Reference

1. Funding, Policy and Regulatory settings... to maximize achievements of relevant skills and employment from the VET Sector.

1.1 There needs to be effective departments, commissions and authorities in place to devise policy, distribute funds, and to monitor and to regulate as appropriate the application of the key policy and funding allocations consistent with their primary objectives.

1.2 The funding, policy and regulatory authorities need to work in collaboration with VET public and private providers to ensure confidence and adequate standards in program and product provision. There needs to be adequate material, environmental and physical infrastructure to meet learners and organizational needs.

2. Skill shortages in VET related occupations and tensions between VET outcomes and the needs of industries and employers.

2.1 There needs to be some form of effective industry reference groups which can identify skills, articulate and mediate between the various components of the range of industry organizations.

2.2 The industry reference groups need to be incorporate the interest of educators, individuals and communities in the formulation and development of relevant contemporary skills. There needs to be a stronger voice from teachers, educators and students in the skills formation process.

2.3 There needs to be some level of autonomy or license given to established public providers to create courses that are responsive to local need or in response to government determinations.

3. Consideration of changes in future work patterns and the impact of new technologies and how to best prepare Australians for these changes and opportunities.

3.1 The VET Skill formation system needs to develop a wide range of core, elective, technical and operational skills required for the modern workforce and society. The AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) provides a good framework for a graduation in the range of skills, knowledge and attributes for the Australian workforce and society. This framework needs to be applied to the wide range of industries and integration of industries and the variety of social and community needs. The principles of being mind fit in keeping with work-place health and safety and environmental expectations need to be cultivated for individuals and entities in the context of the emerging economies and society.

4. Flexibility of qualification structures, particularly for mid career workers... and for the development of new skills.

4.1 The VET System has established a system and practice of RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning). This system need to be further developed and applied with integrity to ensure that good sense and accountabilities apply to the evolving systems, practices and regulations. Qualifications need to ensure that confidence and professionalism of the system and maintained and improved as required.

4.2 Learning and skill development domains need to be established and aligned in keeping with changes in the future of work, society and the environment.

5. Regard to community perceptions or the effectiveness of the VET Sector relating to accessibility, utility and outcomes.

5.1 The VET TAFE sector has become subjected to the neo-liberal ideology of the belief in the marketization of the VET program and provision. The Number of providers has grown for around 500 to around 4,500 over the past decade. There seems to be a blinded belief that the market will sort out the problems with some financial inducements and responsiveness of providers to better meet customer / student needs. The reality is that the there has been a great deal of market failure and over the past 5 years and a dilution of the quality of the programs, professionalism, processes and provision.

6. Possible additional support for vulnerable cohorts such as the unemployed, and at risk of being unemployed and those with low levels of literacy and numeracy.

6.1 The VET / TAFE sector has traditionally provided programs across the range skills and industry domains and across all sectors of society. It has provided applied and practical skills largely for the post schools demographics and overlapped or integrated with the School and University sectors. The VET TAFE Sector has especially supported the marginalized sectors of society as a means of social and economic integration and enhanced participation and performance. The marketization of the system has seriously fallen short of meeting the needs of the marginalized members of our society in recent times. This is even more acute with the emergence of digital and technological age of the 21 Century.

7. The Review should consider best practice in VET and consider whether specific trial should be undertaken to test innovative approaches likely to deliver better outcomes.

7.1 The VET TAFE sector has successfully developed innovative programs through practice of wide consultation with stakeholders and continuous revision and improvement of its courses. They have also adopted the practice of developing pilot programs many of which become established programs and

other are limited to niche purposes, settings and time frames. This requires flexibility and adaptability on the part of the VET providers.

7.2 Australia's VET system needs to contribute to and to draw upon Best Practice examples at local, regional, remote, state, national and international levels. There is much to be learned and gained from the application of VET over time and in response to adaptive technologies and environmental considerations.

7.3 Best Practice in VET needs to draw up ethical and cultural appropriate principles that have been established to serve the interest of social, commercial and public enterprises.

7.4 Research and Development needs to be fostered in VET to share Best Practice examples amongst VET practitioners. Research and development is ever so much important in this age of cultural, technological and social media platform changes. Balanced sustainable development is required in the age of various destabilization forces.

8. The review should have regard to the scope and outcomes from any previous or forthcoming reviews, consultation to date and inputs by industry and peak groups.

8.1 The Review of VET needs to engage with key stakeholders and interested parties. The mapping of VET is a challenging exercise in so far as it is diverse and distributed across urban, regional and remote demographic regions. The consultation and provision need to meet the needs of diverse populations and capabilities.

8.2 The Review should draw up several National and State Government inquiries that have been conducted into the TAFE VET Sectors.

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