New Arrangements for Training Product Development for Australian Industry

The Australian Government is committed to training that is high quality and delivers real skills for jobs. In an increasingly competitive, globalised and technologically-advanced economy, Australian industry needs skills training that meets the demands of modern workplaces.

Industry has informed us that in order to do this, the national training system has to be more responsive and flexible enough to satisfy the needs of employers of all sizes, across all industry sectors.

A new model

To this end, the Australian Government is introducing a new model for engaging Australian industry in the development of training products that guide the delivery of vocational education and training (VET).

The new model aims to:

- strengthen industry leadership of training package development and review so that training better aligns with jobs in the modern economy
- prioritise the development and review of training packages based on industry demand for skills across sectors
- achieve collaboration across stakeholders involved in training package development.

How are training packages developed?

Decisions about the national training system, including the endorsement of training packages, are made by the Ministerial Council with responsibility for training and education. In the new arrangements for training product development, the Ministerial council is supported by three entities:

- the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) - a committee of industry leaders from across Australia which will make decisions about what qualifications are needed and when.
- Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) - committees made up of people with experience, skills and knowledge of particular industry sectors which will ensure that training packages meet the needs of employers.
- Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) - organisations that support IRCs to develop the training packages that industry needs.

Australian Industry and Skills Committee

The AISC plays a critical role in overseeing the development of training products, ensuring Australian workers are provided with industry-relevant skills that meet the needs of employers.

The functions of the AISC are broad and include:

- advise Ministers on the implementation of national training policies;
- quality assure and endorse training packages for implementation;
- oversee the process for development and approval of accredited training; and
- provide direction on research priorities across the VET sector.

Industry Reference Committees

IRCs are charged with identifying industry’s skills needs, developing business cases setting out the case for...
change, and providing the sign off on training products before they go to the AISC for consideration.

In order to do this, IRCs will:

• gather industry intelligence for their industry sectors;
• direct the work of its SSO in developing industry proposals, business cases and cases for endorsement;
• provide sign off for industry proposals, business cases, cases for endorsement and other submissions for consideration by the AISC; and
• report, through the SSO, to the AISC on the progress of its work.

Skills Service Organisations

SSOs will play an important support role for IRCs to undertake the above functions.

SSOs are independent, professional service organisations. They will undertake the work commissioned by the AISC, under direction of the relevant IRC.

Each SSO will undertake activities that include:

• facilitate engagement across industry and the training sector;
• facilitate the development of training packages for consideration by their relevant IRCs;
• provide project management, information management, operation and secretariat support to the IRCs assigned to them;
• provide technical writing skills to support their IRCs in preparing technical specifications for training packages and other products; and
• manage the training packages through the endorsement process on behalf of IRCs.

How can industry provide more input?

Under the new model, industry can input directly into the process through their IRC.

Stakeholders will also be able to provide advice about where change is needed directly to the AISC. The AISC will look across all the advice received, including from the IRCs, industry regulators and other sources and determine:

• how the advice fits with national priorities;
• how the advice can be incorporated under funded activities; and
• if an existing IRC is in place to address that advice or if a new IRC needs to be established.

More Information

For more information please email trainingpackagedevelopment@education.gov.au