

## **VET Reform Stakeholder Engagement Workshops**

### **Queensland – Brisbane**

Date: 21 March

#### ***Key Issues Raised***

- Funding inconsistencies between jurisdictions.
- Funding for training in small or niche industries no longer exists and as a result it is very difficult to undertake training as the markets are too thin. In some cases, the best training for a niche market is in another State, which is difficult to access.
- Regulation and audits are inconsistent within themselves and across jurisdictions.
- Auditors often lack experience in the area they are assessing.
- Industry Skills Councils' consultations are too narrowly focused on particular employers rather than industry as a whole.
- Training Packages change too often, adding undue costs to training providers.
- High compliance burdens, rapid changes, focusing on inputs instead of outcomes and a 'one size fits all' approach to regulation is compromising quality and pushing small training providers out of the market.
- There isn't enough of a focus on quality in the VET system. Instead, assessments should focus on whether a person learnt a skill.
- More information on funding, regulations and standards is needed to help improve the quality of training providers.
- Industry favours skill sets as opposed to a qualification. There is a danger, however, of these skills sets not being tied to a career path and locking students into a narrow set of competencies. The skills sets need to be able to merge with a qualification.
- Training is driven by qualification requirements rather than the needs of industry.
- VET in Schools needs to be treated differently to other VET delivery and may need more support.
- There is a lack of alignment between VET, licensing and the actual skills required for a job.

#### ***Key Ideas for Reforms***

- Fund skills sets, not just full qualifications.
- Explore tendering services to deliver training in thin markets centrally, with travel subsidy.
- National consistency and a single shared vision for quality, funding, licensing, partnerships with industry and regulation.
- Consolidate all skills policies, regulation and training package development into one place.
- Achieve a better balance between auditing and proactive information assistance; adopt a risk based approach to audits; and mandate that auditors have experience in the industry and area they are assessing.
- ASQA to have an educational and advisory role to training providers.
- Industry Skills Councils to use one set of templates and resources across all Training Packages and remove inconsistencies across qualifications.
- Develop a better way to sanction poor quality training providers. Licencing and registration of training providers could help this.
- Front load apprentice training so that students have more skills when they enter the workplace.
- Measure the effectiveness of pathways to further education and benefits to industry.
- Better information to determine how many people enter employment or use their qualification as a pathway will help improve quality in the VET system.
- Adopt the New Zealand model that has training undertaken by provider panel for thin markets or specialised areas.