

## **VET Reform Stakeholder Engagement Workshops**

### **Northern Territory – Darwin**

Date: 14 March

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

- Training is currently funding driven and focused on qualifications, instead of the skills needed for the job.
- Measuring funding in nominal hours is outdated and compromises quality.
- The regulator's focus on compliance sometimes forces training providers to buy off-the-shelf products which compromise student outcomes.
- Auditors are not auditing in a consistent way.
- There are inconsistencies of qualifications across jurisdictions.
- Volunteers in not-for-profit organisations are burning out due to the level paperwork and regulatory burden in the system.
- Industry is not engaged enough in the development of Training Packages
- The level of 'churn' in the system, such as frequency of changes to Training Packages, standards and funding models, is costly and detracts from quality training.
- Students want to enter the VET sector because they do not consider themselves to be suited to academia, but then they are given a workbook. They disengage. It's not what they thought they were signing up for.

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

- Reduce regulatory red tape.
- Adopt a risk management approach to auditing with a minimum compliance level and an educative role for the regulator to help improve quality.
- Provide templates for regulatory requirements and companion guides to ISCs, AQF, ASQA, Standards.
- Review the standards so that they are outputs rather than inputs focused, and so they are unambiguous and easy to understand.
- Batch updates to Training Packages.
- Get rid of duplication between qualifications and Training Packages by focusing the VET system on foundation core units, delivered separately to each other.
- Have more substantial industry consultation in the development of Training Packages, and incentivise small businesses to engage in consultation on Training Package development.
- Improve teacher training by focusing on the industry a teacher will specialise in, involving training providers in consultations about improving teacher training and mandating industry experience and minimum language literacy and numeracy skills before being licenced to teach.
- Nationalise the training system.