

VET Reform Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Tasmania – Hobart

Date: 27 March

Key Issues Raised

- Employers struggle to navigate the VET system due its complex governance and complex funding models.
- Tasmania has a thin training market, so training providers are particularly affected by fees and changes to funding.
- The increasing cost of apprenticeships reduces incentives to be involved in the industry.
- Training providers spend more time and effort on compliance rather than training. The regulatory burden is impacting smaller providers and quality in the VET system.
- Greater recognition is needed of the different nature of enterprise-based training providers compared to training providers more generally, with separate regulations and auditing standards.
- The national regulator needs a timelier, flexible and transparent process, provide more support and have the resources to address complaints.
- Standards for training providers need to be clearer, so people can more easily comply.
- Training Packages are not sufficiently flexible and need to include transferable skills so employers do not have to start from scratch when employees change roles.
- Industry Skills Councils need to make particular effort to engage small businesses in Training Package development consultations.
- Tasmania often has small scale employers, so the state needs a training system that meets the requirements of this structure, rather than a national 'one size fits all' approach. Delivery needs to be managed on a local basis.

Key Ideas for Reforms

- Funding of the VET sector should concentrate on apprenticeships, traineeships and nationally accredited qualifications, to take the pressure off training providers.
- A risk based approach to regulation should be adopted instead of a 'one size fits all' approach.
- Implement scalable regulation that supports high quality training by taking into account the needs of small providers and enterprise registered training organisations.
- Preliminary audits provided by the national regulator as a means of providing advice and increasing the quality of the training provider.
- Reduce emphasis from compliance monitoring and focussed on quality monitoring instead.
- Halt the review of standards by the former National Skills Standards Council.
- Reduce the emphasis of 'quality' in the standards, but instead set a minimum standard for training providers to meet and allow the market to compete on quality.
- The New Zealand model has three levels of providers: generic registered training providers, enterprise registered training providers, and then 'government registered training providers'. The usefulness of applying this framework in Australia should be considered.