

VET Reform Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Victoria – Melbourne

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Key Issues Raised

- Government funding models are not guaranteeing quality of training delivered and often creates perverse incentives in regard to training provider activity.
- There is an issue with diminished funding support for up-skilling or training existing workers, and reskilling.
- The focus on compliance with regulation is costly for training providers. This means that training providers are forced to execute 'quick and dirty' training rather than focus on quality; it also forces smaller providers out of the sector who provide niche training that the larger training providers are not interested in.
- 'One size fits all' regulation does not make allowances for scale, type, or risk of training provider.
- There are both duplications and inconsistencies across jurisdictions in the models for funding and regulatory requirements for the delivery of similar courses. This is confusing for both training providers and employers.
- Regulators do not appear to be keeping up with modern technology and does not factor in e-learning and modern environment for training delivery.
- VET standards are onerous and prescriptive compared with those for higher education.
- Training packages are not always keeping up with industry needs, and they are often too complex and dense.
- The VET sector does not have a robust mechanism for reporting issues or complaints within the sector.
- Teachers are not able to be passionate and creative in their teaching due to rigid teaching criteria.
- The Training and Assessment qualification is not fit for purpose. It should be longer, more rigorous, and involve industry body participation. There is also a difference in teacher requirements between VET and higher education.
- The competency-based system is at odds with reality for employers - 'competency' does not necessarily mean the individual is efficient or productive to get job done.
- The contestable model is currently not operating effectively.

Key Ideas for Reforms

- Focus funding on skill sets instead of qualifications.
- Ensure training and funding is capable of reskilling existing workers in the face of structural adjustment.
- Regulation that is streamlined and recognises different nature and training needs of industry, and of training providers.
- A nationally consistent framework with room for jurisdictional nuances, with a single point for funding and regulation that focuses on quality outcomes.
- Risk-based, consistent auditing.
- Auditor to provide education support.
- A clear, articulated, national vision of the outcomes the VET system is expected to achieve, and work back from there for a definition of quality outcomes.
- Students with support/guidance prior to starting a qualification have better prospects for finishing, this should be encouraged and supported.
- Improve VET's standing with better integration between VET and higher education.