

## **Summary points from face-to-face consultation on VET Reform**

A number of themes have emerged so far from the consultations including:

### **Industry responsiveness:**

- Participants at every consultation raised issues with:
  - defining who industry is and their role;
  - the lack of engagement with small business; and
  - concerns that consultation with industry associations and ISCs is not sufficient as they do not represent all of industry.
- There was consensus that greater industry engagement is needed, but also recognition that individual businesses have other priorities and that more needs to be done to facilitate their involvement.
- Many participants were of the view that current training packages and qualifications do not always meet the needs of industry, but also recognised that sometimes industry can have unreasonable expectations and highly variable needs. It was suggested that training needs to be flexible and RTOs should engage with individual business to customise training.

### **Quality:**

- Many participants queried what quality means and how it should be defined. There was also a view that the focus should be on outcomes rather than inputs and processes.
- The quality, proficiency and qualification level of trainers and assessors was a concern for many participants.
- There was general support for the new standards; however a number of participants were of the view that ASQA needed to focus more heavily on poor quality providers and brokers, supply more assistance and information, and apply more consistency to audits.

### **Streamlining and deregulation:**

- Participants agreed that the VET system is overly complex and greater consistency between the states, territories and commonwealth is required.
- Participants suggested streamlining standards and systems for reporting and funding. Improved communication between the Commonwealth and State governments was also required.
- Participants in the Melbourne and Perth sessions noted the additional complexity caused by having both a state and national regulator and many were supportive of replacing their state regulator with a national regulator.

### **Funding:**

- The recognition of skill sets was a common issue raised in most consultations. Participants agreed that skill sets should be funded along with full qualifications as they are important for meeting industry needs of many employers.
- Pathway courses and apprenticeships/traineeships also require greater funding.
- Participants called for consistency and stability in funding arrangements within and between states and territories, stating that the fast pace of change can affect the viability of RTOs.
- Participants raised a number of concerns that the targeting of funding is pushing students into inappropriate courses and RTOs are making delivery decisions based only on what is funded.

### **Implementation:**

- A general consensus from stakeholders was that there is 'reform fatigue' in the VET sector; that there needs to be time to allow previous and current reforms to be implemented fully and evaluated.