

Northern Territory Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON SKILLS REFORM

Part 1: Preliminaries

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform (NP) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The NP will contribute to reform of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system to deliver a productive and highly skilled workforce which contributes to Australia's economic future, and enable all working age Australians to develop the skills and qualifications needed to participate effectively in the labour market.
2. Reform of the VET sector through the NP will enable Australia to meet the challenges of changing economic conditions, maximising our productivity and prosperity in the longer term. The Commonwealth and the States are committed to a responsive, agile and equitable national training system that meets the needs of industry and students (including those from disadvantaged groups or locations) and provides pathways into and removes barriers between schools; adult and community; vocational and higher education; and employment.

Part 2: Terms of this Implementation Plan

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Skills, and the Northern Territory, represented by the Chief Minister.
4. As a schedule to the NP, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how projects intend to be delivered and demonstrate the Northern Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the NP.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the NP, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or milestones.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State/Territory Ministers responsible for it under the overarching NP.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

Part 3: Strategy for Northern Territory implementation

Project Information

8. The progress made toward achievement of the national reforms outlined in Part A clause 26 and Schedule 2 of the NP, that all states/territories have agreed to implement, will be reported in each jurisdiction's annual performance report.
9. The planned project descriptions for the Part B structural reforms as outlined in clauses 27-29 and Schedule 2 are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Project Descriptions

Outputs	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date
Quality			
State/Territory criteria for access to public subsidy funding and/or complementary strategies	An Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) is developed, trialled, implemented and reviewed. The EPM will include a self-assessment by the training provider and monitoring by the Department against criteria for quality and transparency and the introduction of an online data submission system, in line with clause 27(a) of the NP.	July 2012	Dec 2016
External validation of RTO assessment practices	The Northern Territory will improve the quality of VET through the development, implementation and review of a pilot program for the independent validation of RTO assessment practices, with a view to informing the development of a national model, as per clause 27(b) of the NP.	July 2012	Dec 2016
Publication of RTO quality measures through My Skills (<i>under improved consumer information below</i>)	Work with the Commonwealth in the development and implementation of My Skills website and ensure quality information is publicised on RTO and My Skills websites continually thereafter, as per clause 27(c), 26(d) and as per milestones in schedule 2 of the NP.	July 2012	Dec 2016
Efficiency			
Improved government to government information sharing	The Northern Territory Government will work with the Australian Government to improve information exchange through development of a shared information model, as outlined in clause 29(a). The development of the model will be through NSOC and its committees. Information sharing will be complemented by the existing nationally led projects, including those led through the DPMPC. Project including:	July 2012	Dec 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VET data quality; • Quarterly reporting; • Unique Student Identifier; • VET data portal; • Total VET activity; and • My Skills. <p>The information which becomes available to governments under this model will facilitate the conduct of the Review of the National Partnership as referenced in clause 29(a) of the NP.</p>		
Support public training providers	<p>Support public providers to implement skills reforms while they continue to provide existing services; undertake an impact analysis of reforms on public providers and on their existing service delivery; review public provider activity based costing model, including the need for differential funding for particular student attributes, to enable them to continue to meet community service obligations, particularly remote delivery, as per clause 29(b) of the NP.</p> <p>Note: the two public providers are independent, autonomous organisation established under their own legislation and governed by their own Council, and are not a Northern Territory Government entity.</p>	July 2012	Dec 2016
Review	<p>Participate in a review of the NPA and reforms in conjunction with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions as outlined in the NPA, in line with clauses 54 to 58 of the NP.</p>	July 2013	Dec 2015
Access and Equity			
National entitlement	<p>Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) is developed, implemented in stages and reviewed until integrated into total VET system. NTSEM includes performance monitoring, increased participation of private providers and improved contract and payment management systems, in line with clause 28(a) and schedule 3 of the NP.</p>	July 2012	Dec 2016
Increase access to ICLs.	<p>Income Contingent Loan (ICL) system is implemented in stages, initially through public providers then expanded to private providers as appropriate, as per clause 28(b) and schedule 4 of the NP.</p>	July 2012	Dec 2016

10. In accordance with clauses 7 and 8 of the NP, the Northern Territory has also included the following projects in this Northern Territory implementation plan:

- Wrap-around service delivery model (NP clause 7) which will include a model for improved linkages between registered training organisations and employment service providers (NP clause 8a), and language, literacy and numeracy (NP clause 11).

This will include a joint assessment of Commonwealth and Northern Territory language, literacy and numeracy programs, including consideration of how we can more effectively coordinate and consolidate funding and management of programs, and possible changed arrangements for the Commonwealth Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program, subject to government approval processes for such changes.

- Development of a Northern Territory VET workforce development strategy (NP clause 7).

More detailed project information and associated milestones are at Attachment A – Appendix A.

11. The Northern Territory agrees to the Part A – National Reform transparency projects as outlined in clauses 26(a) to (d) of the NP, and milestones as specified in the NP.
12. Projects relating to transparency as identified in Schedule 2 of the NP will be reviewed through the annual performance report.

Risk management

13. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood. The risk management plan is subject to the usual risk management processes in place for the Northern Territory Government programs.

Relevant State or Territory Context

14. In developing this Implementation Plan, consideration has been given to the Northern Territory context.
 - (a) The VET sector in the Northern Territory (NT) is dominated by two public providers who are independent, autonomous organisations established under their own individual legislation. They are governed by their own representative Council and are not deemed to be a government owned entity in any way. The NT does not have a TAFE sector and relies on these two providers to perform functions similar to TAFE. While there are a small number of medium sized training providers who deliver across various industry sectors, the majority are small and deliver in very niche markets.

The Northern Territory faces a number of challenges in the delivery of VET, including remoteness, variances in weather impacting on accessibility to remote communities, and the demographics of the population. Approximately 31% of the Territory's population are Indigenous and over 60% of these live in remote communities, limiting their access to VET on a regular basis. Low levels of foundation skills among the Indigenous population, particularly those in remote areas, impact on the ability of this cohort to achieve outcomes in VET without significant levels of support, including literacy and numeracy.

The high costs of delivering training and small student numbers in remote areas continue to be an impediment to continuous and quality service delivery.

- (b) The Northern Territory VET sector operates in a thin market. It also has a thin client base and managing the demand driven reforms, increasing participation and training completions in such a thin training market is in itself, challenging. Large projects and external interventions (such as the Northern Territory Emergency Response) impact greatly and can cause significant downturns in training activity that is beyond our control. We will need to balance our high cost training needs in the thin market, ensuring training providers and delivery remains viable for all, which makes supporting the role that our public providers will continue to have all the more important.
- (c) Training activity in skill sets and individual units of competency is relatively high in the Northern Territory. Individuals seek training in specific skill sets or units to upgrade and update their skills, for example, to meeting licensing requirements, or simply because they need a particular skill for a particular job activity. This is particularly so for existing workers and Indigenous people in regional and remote communities.
- (d) The challenges and impediments aside, the VET sector in the NT could be described as quite robust, with the NT having one of the highest VET participation rates in Australia. There are currently record numbers of apprentices and trainees in training and government targets for apprentice and trainee commencements continue to be met. Territory Government support for the VET system and delivery of training continues to be in excess of \$90 million each year.
- (e) The Northern Territory Government's *Territory 2030 Strategic Plan* sets the Territory Government's direction for the next 20 years. Education and training is a key element of *Territory 2030*. Supporting *Territory 2030* is *Jobs NT – 2010-2012*, the Territory Government's employment strategy. *Jobs NT* brings government policies and initiatives into an overarching workforce development structure and includes a key focus on growing the size of and skilling the Territory workforce. Both these strategies complement the national reforms and vice versa.

Table 2: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed project elements	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registered Training Organisation Professional Development Calendar. ▪ Funding contract quality assurance audit program to determine compliance with contractual requirements. 	<p>Supports registered training organisations in providing quality training and assessment services, and in the governance of their business.</p> <p>Monitors contract compliance of registered training organisations who meet the current criteria for accessing public funding.</p>
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines to assist registered training organisations in submitting AVETMISS compliant data. ▪ Full AVETMISS data reports submitted quarterly by registered training organisations. 	<p>Supports timeliness and accuracy of data submissions by registered training organisations.</p> <p>Contributes to enhanced national data collections as data is already more readily available.</p>
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NT Department of Business and Employment / NT Department of Education and Training / Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Memorandum of Understanding on Transitions, Skills, Workforce Development and Employment. ▪ Northern Territory Government / Charles Darwin University Partnership Agreement and Northern Territory Government / Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Partnership Agreement. 	<p>Supports government to government information sharing in that the three agencies work collaboratively across the broad employment and training agenda. All parties have agreed to exchange appropriate and relevant information, data and intelligence regarding their respective programs and services.</p> <p>Supports the two public providers and enables the institutions to work in partnership with government agencies, industry and the wider community to deliver education and training programs.</p>
Access and Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Northern Territory Employment Strategy and Territory 2030 Strategy. ▪ Equity Training Grants Program 	<p>Supports workforce development in the Northern Territory, including the attainment of higher level skills by Territorians.</p> <p>Delivers targeted skills training and employment programs to disadvantaged Territorians to increase their ability to obtain employment and/or undertake further training.</p>

Estimated Costs

15. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for structural reform projects to the jurisdiction is \$11.78 million payable in accordance with milestones set out in Part 5, and detailed in Schedule 2 of the NP. Payments linked to training outcomes will be based on achievement of agreed improvements against performance measures in years four and five of the Agreement. All payments are exclusive of GST.
16. The Commonwealth's estimated financial contribution to the Northern Territory's VET structural reform and training (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 3 (a breakdown by state/territory is at Schedule 5 of the National Partnership). The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth. The budget is indicative only and the Northern Territory retains the flexibility to move funds between components as long as outcomes are not affected.
17. Northern Territory financial contributions to skills training and reform are set out in their budget papers.

Table 3: Estimated Commonwealth financial contributions to the Northern Territory

Administered item expenses (\$millions)		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Totals
National Partnership:							
65%	In advance payments 20%	1.81	1.81				3.62
	Structural reform milestones 45%	0.66	0.66	3.90	1.47	1.47	8.16
	Total structural reform payments	2.47	2.47	3.90	1.47	1.47	11.78
35%							
	Training outcomes 35%				2.44	3.88	6.32
Total Reform National Partnership		2.47	2.47	3.90	3.91	5.35	18.10

Note: Figures are subject to rounding.

18. Table 4 represents the estimated Commonwealth financial contributions for VET structural reforms and the proportion of funding that would be withheld if the milestones for projects under the structural reform categories are not met as indicated in clause 51 of the NP.

Table 4: Structural Reform Payments

Outputs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Quality (20%)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State/Territory criteria for access to public subsidy funding and/or complementary strategies • External validation of RTO assessment practices • Publication of RTO quality measures through My Skills (under improved consumer information below) 						
Completion of one project (40%)	0.05	0.05	0.31	0.12	0.12	1.63
Completion of two projects (100%)	0.13	0.13	0.78	0.29	0.29	
Transparency (10%)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced National data collections • Improved and agreed timelines • Improved consumer information • Unique Student Identifier 						
Completion of one project (20%)	0.01	0.01	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.81
Completion of two projects (40%)	0.03	0.03	0.16	0.06	0.06	
Completion of three projects (60%)	0.04	0.04	0.23	0.09	0.09	
Completion of four projects (100%)	0.07	0.07	0.39	0.15	0.15	
Efficiency (10%)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved government to government information sharing • Support public training providers • Review 						
Completion of one project (40%)	0.03	0.03	0.16	0.06	0.06	0.81
Completion of two projects (60%)	0.04	0.04	0.23	0.09	0.09	
Completion of three projects (100%)	0.07	0.07	0.39	0.15	0.15	
Access and equity (60%)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Entitlement • Increase access to ICLs 						
Completion of one project (40%)	0.16	0.16	0.94	0.35	0.35	4.88
Completion of two projects (100%)	0.39	0.39	2.34	0.87	0.87	
Total Structural Reform Payment	0.66	0.66	3.90	1.46	1.46	8.13

19. In accordance with Clause 49 of the NP, and in the event a structural reform project annual milestone is not completed, 25% of the structural reform payment relevant to that project will be payable for completion of the relevant interim milestone. This payment will be subject to evidence of completion of the interim milestone being provided and assessed through the annual performance report and payable at that time.

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

20. The general performance and reporting arrangements are outlined in the NP. Performance and reporting arrangements that are specific to the Northern Territory are included as Attachments to this Implementation Plan.

Structural reform

21. **Attachment A** includes the agreed project milestones for the jurisdictionally flexible outputs of the NP.

Training outcomes

22. The Northern Territory is committed to improving training outcomes in the VET sector. The Northern Territory's specific objectives under the NP are to deliver increases in (clauses 30 to 32 refer):
 - a. qualification completions, to contribute to the national target of 375,000 additional completions nationally over the life of the agreement;
 - b. higher level qualification commencements;
 - c. Indigenous Australians qualifications commencements;
 - d. unit completions (all client groups); and
 - e. trade commencements.
23. **Attachment B** includes the agreed training outcomes targets for the Northern Territory and technical specifications.
24. In accordance with clause 47 of the NP, training outcomes payments will be distributed between the five outcomes targets as follows:

Table 5: Training Outcomes Performance Targets

Outcomes target	Proportion	2015-16 (\$ million)	2016-17 (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)
Aggregate completions	40%	\$.976	\$1.552	\$2.528
Higher level qualification commencements (Cert III and above)	15%	\$.366	\$.582	\$.948
Indigenous commencements (Cert III and above)	15%	\$.366	\$.582	\$.948
Unit completions (all client groups)	15%	\$.366	\$.582	\$.948
Trade commencements	15%	\$.366	\$.582	\$.948
Total	100%	\$2.44	\$3.88	\$6.32

Reporting

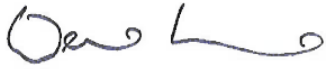
25. The Northern Territory will report annually on the achievement of project milestones (including partial achievement), during the life of the Agreement. Annual performance reports will be submitted to the Commonwealth by 30 April each year.
26. The Northern Territory agrees to provide an annual performance report to the Commonwealth.
27. The final annual performance report will include achievements against milestones over the life of the Agreement.
28. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from the Northern Territory. Such requests should be kept to the minimum for the effective assessment of the project or reform. Requests should not place an undue reporting burden on jurisdictions and portfolio agencies.

Review and Evaluation

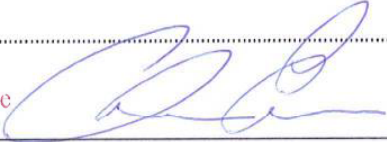
29. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the review of the NP by 31 December 2015 about progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature  Date 31 JUL 2012

[By Northern Territory Minister]

Signature  Date 6/8/12

[By Commonwealth Minister]

ATTACHMENT A: PROJECT MILESTONES

National reforms are outlined in clause 26 on the national structural reforms of the NP, and schedule 2 sets out the relevant milestones and processes for these reforms for this implementation plan.

Jurisdictionally flexible reforms are referred to in clauses 27-29 of the NP and are outlined below.

2012 milestones

OUTPUT	MILESTONE	EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION	INTERIM MILESTONE/S
Quality: Implementation of criteria specific to each state/territory for access to public subsidy funding and complementary strategies (clause 27(a) refers)	Develop Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) guidelines including self-assessment, transparency and quality assurance specifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed Provider Model guidelines. 	Review best practice models in other jurisdictions.
Quality: Development and piloting of independent validation of RTO assessment practices (clause 27(b) refers)	In consultation with relevant industry and providers, research existing models and scope proposed model and validate with industry and selected RTOs with a view of informing a national model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible model scoped and validated with industry and RTOs. 	Participating industry and providers identified and initial discussions held to advise on project and to seek initial feedback.
Access & Equity: Introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place (clause 28(a) refers)	Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) developed in line with Schedule 3 of the NPA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release of priority qualifications. NTSEM included in public provider training delivery contracts. 	Develop guidelines for negotiation and contract management with RTOs accessing NTSEM funding.

<p>Access & Equity: Supporting the expansion of the Commonwealth's ICLs scheme (clause 28(b) refers)</p>	<p>Income Contingent Loan (ICL) scheme agreed with Commonwealth for implementation in line with Schedule 4 of the NPA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative requirements identified and advice received if legislative changes required. • Approach agreed with Commonwealth on funding and administration for state subsidised Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications. • Public providers agree to offer ICLs. 	<p>Develop adjustable pricing model for qualification levels to manage student contributions.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Improvements in government to government information exchange (clause 29(a) refers)</p>	<p>Structure of information sharing model agreed by National Senior Officials Committee (NSOC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing model scope agreed and developed with timeline for implementation as per this implementation plan. • Progress to be reported to DIISRTE through the Annual Report for the National Partnership. 	<p>Discussions commenced with Commonwealth and other jurisdictions as appropriate to develop structured proposal.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important functions (clause 29(b) refers)</p>	<p>In consultation with public providers, identify the initial support they need to implement reforms while continuing to provide existing services including those outlined in 29(b) of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial support requirements identified and implemented. 	<p>Discussions held with public providers to provide detailed information about the reforms and discuss their role in implementation, and obtain initial feedback.</p>

2013 milestones

OUTPUT	MILESTONE	EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION	INTERIM MILESTONE/S
<p>Quality: Implementation of criteria specific to each state/territory for access to public subsidy funding and complementary strategies (clause 27(a) refers)</p>	<p>Trial Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) and online data submission platform developed to improve quality and range of information provided by providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract released for development of online data submission system and system developed. • EPM self-assessment process communicated to trial providers. • EPM trial conducted. 	<p>Tender review and award process for online data submission system commenced.</p>
<p>Quality: Development and piloting of independent validation of RTO assessment practices (clause 27(b) refers)</p>	<p>Develop a pilot model for independent validation of RTO assessment practices, taking into account the view of informing a national model. Identify industry areas and RTOs to participate in pilot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Territory pilot model developed. • Participating industry areas and RTOs finalised. 	<p>Consult with relevant industry and providers to obtain commitment to participate in development of the model.</p>
<p>Access & Equity: Introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place (clause 28(a) refers)</p>	<p>Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) implemented in public providers as per schedule 3 of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public providers participating in NTSEM and in quarterly management meeting. • NTSEM negotiations with providers for 2014 delivery. 	<p>Develop weighted price system for disadvantaged students.</p>

<p>Access & Equity: Supporting the expansion of the Commonwealth's ICLs scheme (clause 28(b) refers)</p>	<p>Approved providers prepare and are ready for Income Contingent Loan (ICL) implementation in the Northern Territory as per schedule 4 of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public providers undergone or undergoing application process to deliver ICLs in NT. Legislative changes commenced if applicable. 	<p>Work with public providers to ensure application process is commenced and support is provided as necessary.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Improvements in government to government information exchange (clause 29(a) refers)</p>	<p>Northern Territory and Commonwealth collect data, analyse and exchange data as agreed in the model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing model scope agreed and developed with timeline for implementation as per this implementation plan. Progress to be reported to DIISRTE through the Annual Report for the National Partnership. 	<p>Northern Territory data collected and ready for analysis and then sharing with the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important functions (clause 29(b) refers)</p>	<p>Undertake an impact analysis of reforms on public providers and on their existing service delivery, including those outlined in 29(b) of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact analysis completed in partnership with public providers and additional areas of required support identified. 	<p>Impact analysis commenced.</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>Terms of reference for Review of the Agreement agreed by 30 April 2013, as per clause 57.</p>		

2014 milestones

OUTPUT	MILESTONE	EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION	INTERIM MILESTONE/S
Quality: Implementation of criteria specific to each state/territory for access to public subsidy funding and complementary strategies (clause 27(a) refers)	Online data submission system implemented and Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online data submission system implemented. EPM reviewed and improvements identified. 	Scope of EPM review completed.
Quality: Development and piloting of independent validation of RTO assessment practices (clause 27(b) refers)	Undertake the Northern Territory pilot of independent validation of RTO assessment practices with a view to information a national model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot for independent validation of RTO assessments conducted. 	Pilot commenced.
Access & Equity: Introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place (clause 28(a) refers)	Monitor and review Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) and plan for expansion including reform of payment system as per schedule 3 of the NP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract released for development of contract management and payment system. Public provider delivery of NTSEM and performance review completed. 	Scope project to develop contract management and payment system including weighted pricing system for disadvantaged students.
Access & Equity: Supporting the expansion of the Commonwealth's ICLs scheme (clause 28(b) refers)	Income Contingent Loans (ICL) implemented in the Northern Territory as per schedule 4 of the NP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICLs available in NT through public providers. 	Work with public providers to complete application process and to establish joint agency/provider operational requirements.

<p>Efficiency: Improvements in government to government information exchange (clause 29(a) refers)</p>	<p>Northern Territory and Commonwealth collect data, analyse and exchange data as agreed in the model. Review and evaluate information sharing model. Continuous review of information exchange in conjunction with the Commonwealth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of agreed data between NT and the Commonwealth. • Review and evaluation of model completed. • Results of the review of information exchange to be reported to DISSRTE through the Annual Report for the NP. 	<p>Review and evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness of information sharing model commenced.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important functions (clause 29(b) refers)</p>	<p>Makes changes as identified in impact analysis to continue to support public providers in reforms and ongoing service delivery. Review public provider activity based costing model to enable them to continue to meet community service obligations including those outlined in 29(b) of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public providers continue to deliver on reforms in conjunction with government, and maintain service delivery levels. • Activity based funding model reviewed. 	<p>Activity based funding model review commenced.</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>Participation in consultations to contribute to the review of the National Partnership as outlined in Part 6 of the NP.</p>		

2015 milestones

OUTPUT	MILESTONE	EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION	INTERIM MILESTONE/S
<p>Quality: Implementation of criteria specific to each state/territory for access to public subsidy funding and complementary strategies (clause 27(a) refers)</p>	<p>Expand reviewed and improved Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) to private sector RTOs. Monitor implementation of online data submission system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPM expanded to additional providers. Outcomes of monitoring of online data submission system documented and recommendations made for updates if required. 	<p>Review criteria for access to public funds.</p>
<p>Quality: Development and piloting of independent validation of RTO assessment practices (clause 27(b) refers)</p>	<p>Evaluation of the pilot undertaken and completed and report prepared to inform the development of a national model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation report prepared. Improvements in model identified. 	<p>Evaluation of the pilot commenced.</p>
<p>Access & Equity: Introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place (clause 28(a) refers)</p>	<p>Expand and strengthen Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) to private providers as per schedule 3 of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of private providers in NTSEM. Contract management and payment system in place. 	<p>Support private providers to assist them to be ready to participate in NTSEM.</p>
<p>Access & Equity: Supporting the expansion of the Commonwealth's ICLs scheme (clause 28(b) refers)</p>	<p>Income Contingent Loans (ICLs) operation reviewed in line with schedule 4 of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICLs available in NT through public providers. Review completed and implemented. Preparations complete for expansion of ICLs to private providers 	<p>Monitor take-up and cost of ICLs to inform the development of guidelines for the expansion of ICLs to private providers.</p>

<p>Efficiency: Improvements in government to government information exchange (clause 29(a) refers)</p>	<p>Northern Territory and Commonwealth collect data, analyse and exchange data as agreed in the model including any refinements resulting from the review. Continuous review of information exchange in conjunction with the Commonwealth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised data model implemented. • Agreed data shared between NT and the Commonwealth. • Evidence of improvements in the quality and quantity of government to government information exchange to be reported to DIISRTE through the Annual Report for the NP. 	<p>Mechanism for implementing identified changes/refinements to model commenced in conjunction with the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important functions (clause 29(b) refers)</p>	<p>In conjunction with public providers, monitor activity to ensure they can operate effectively in the new environment. Implement changes to public provider activity based costing model to enable them to continue to meet community service obligations including those outlined in 29(b) of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public providers supported to undertake organisation systems changes required. • Public providers supported to minimise impact of increased private provider competition. • Revised activity based costing model implemented. • Public providers continue to meet community service obligations. 	<p>Consultation with public providers on impact of increased competition.</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>Review completed by 31 December 2015 as per clauses 54-58 of the NP.</p>		

2016 milestones

OUTPUT	MILESTONE	EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION	INTERIM MILESTONE/S
Quality: Implementation of criteria specific to each state/territory for access to public subsidy funding and complementary strategies (clause 27(a) refers)	Endorsed Provider Model (EPM) applied to funding allocations where appropriate, as part of day-to-day requirements. Make changes to online data submission system as per outcomes of monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPM guidelines implemented more broadly across program areas. Online data submission system updated and rolled out. 	Review EPM guidelines for potential application to other funding programs.
Quality: Development and piloting of independent validation of RTO assessment practices (clause 27(b) refers)	Participate in design of potential national external validation of assessment model with a view to integrating model into total VET system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes of Northern Territory pilot transmitted to and considered in developing the national model. 	Northern Territory evaluation outcomes available ready for finalisation and input into national model.
Access & Equity: Introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place (clause 28(a) refers)	Northern Territory Student Entitlement Model (NTSEM) integrated into total VET system as per schedule 3 of the NP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of private providers in NTSEM. Performance management of contract management and payment system. 	Have NTSEM ready to be integrated into broader VET system as deemed appropriate.
Access & Equity: Supporting the expansion of the Commonwealth's ICLs scheme (clause 28(b) refers)	Income Contingent Loans (ICLs) integrated into total VET system as far as possible in line with schedule 4 of the NP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private providers offering ICLs and funding provided to private providers for diploma and advanced diploma level qualifications. 	Support private providers to assist them to be ready to offer ICLs and have been pre-approved for funding.

<p>Efficiency: Improvements in government to government information exchange (clause 29(a) refers)</p>	<p>Northern Territory and Commonwealth collect data, analyse and exchange data as agreed in the model including any refinements.</p> <p>Implement any recommendations of the Review of the National Partnership which may impact on the usefulness of the information sharing model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of agreed data between NT and the Commonwealth. • Evidence of improvements in the quality and quantity of government to government information exchange to be reported to DIISRTE through the Annual Report for the NP. 	<p>Mechanism to implement recommendations from the Review of the National Partnership established in conjunction with the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Efficiency: Strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important functions (clause 29(b) refers)</p>	<p>In conjunction with public providers, monitor activity to ensure they can operate effectively in the new environment.</p> <p>Continue to review public provider activity based costing model to enable them to continue to meet community service obligations in those outlined in 29(b) of the NP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public providers supported to undertake organisation systems changes required. • Public providers supported to minimise impact of increased private provider competition. • Public providers continue to meet community service obligations 	<p>Public providers identify impact of increased competition.</p>

ATTACHMENT A – APPENDIX A: NT OTHER PROJECTS/MILESTONES

<p>Integrated Initiative</p> <p>NP7 To support the objective of the NP, the Commonwealth and the States will continue to explore a number of reform activities through mechanisms such as the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment or other advisory groups.</p> <p>NP8A To the extent that the following measures are incorporated in Jurisdiction Implementation Plans:</p> <p>(a) Improve linkages between registered training organisations, employment service providers, employers and Centrelink at a Territory level to improve outcomes.</p> <p><i>Policy and Program Alignment</i></p> <p>NP11 <i>Language, literacy and numeracy</i></p> <p>Subject to agreement on VET structural reform and training performance, the parties may consider ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Commonwealth programs for language, literacy and numeracy for job seekers and related state programs, to improve language, literacy and numeracy outcomes.</p>		<p><i>The Territory is committed to undertake and to fund Action Learning that seeks to:</i></p> <p>Deliver on the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) priority to ‘identify best practice in wrap-around service delivery for at risk cohorts’.</p> <p>Explore, propose and trial a model of wrap-around service delivery that can be implemented in the NT for at risk jobseekers, specifically Indigenous and recently arrived migrants in the NT. The proposed model will take into consideration the Remote Jobs and Communities Program to be introduced in 2013 and the NT will enter into discussions with the Commonwealth LLNP team and relevant employment policy areas to ensure consistency with existing programs in the NT as far as possible.</p> <p>Propose systemic changes building on the ‘wrap-around service’ modalities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to improve VET delivery and engagement that support improved employment outcomes for these cohorts ii. that include appropriate ‘foundation skill’ development that meets business and industry expectations iii. which can be applied in other related settings iv. that model effective linkages between registered training organisations, service providers, Centrelink, employers, job seekers and community peak bodies as appropriate. v. As part of ‘Foundation Skills’ development and the wrap-around service model, identify mechanisms that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Commonwealth programs for language, literacy and numeracy for job seekers and for NT programs to support improved outcomes for be Indigenous Territorians and recently arrived migrants to the NT. vi. Efficiency and effectiveness improvements will explore optimum LLN funding arrangements, including opportunity for jurisdictions to leverage Commonwealth funding that support better outcomes. 			
Milestones	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Integrated project plan developed	Wrap-around service (WAS) model proposed and trialled, including foundation skills and LLN model	Model in place and being monitored	Testing outputs and measuring early outcomes	Refined WAS model implemented
	Obtain stakeholder engagement and commitment	Stakeholder satisfaction and continued commitment	Model adopted by stakeholders	Model adjustment	Lessons learnt and shared
	Confirm, outputs, outcomes & evaluation methodology	Progress on developing outputs	Monitoring outputs	Ongoing application	Evaluation of WAS model including foundation skills and LLN
	First annual report to SCOTESE	Second annual report to SCOTESE	Third annual report to SCOTESE	Fourth annual report to SCOTESE	Final annual report to SCOTESE

VET Quality

NP7 To support the objective of the NP, the Commonwealth and the States will continue to explore a number of reform activities through mechanisms such as the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) or other advisory groups.

SCOTESE Project Plan 2012-13 – Priority Issue 1

1.3 Development of the VET workforce

The Territory will develop a VET workforce development strategy.

Deliver on the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) priority of ‘ensuring high quality tertiary education and training through strengthening of regulatory arrangements in the tertiary education and training sectors and promoting a sustainable and competitive international education sector’.

Scope, research, develop and implement a vocational education and training workforce development strategy for the Northern Territory to increase the quality of VET provision and to support the education needs of the VET workforce, taking into account activities and initiatives concurrently occurring at the national level.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Milestones	Desktop research completed.	Consultant appointed to develop strategy.	Implementation of strategy continues.	Review progress of implementation of strategy.	Ongoing implementation and monitoring of progress.
	Steering committee established.	Strategy developed.	National activities and initiatives monitored to assess impact on NT strategy.	Implement outcomes of review as appropriate.	
	Consultant tender brief developed.	Implementation plan developed and implementation of strategy commenced.		Ongoing implementation.	

ATTACHMENT B: TRAINING OUTCOMES TARGETS

This Attachment specifies the training outcomes targets for the Northern Territory under the NP.

Training outcome 1: Aggregate qualification completions (2.6%)

	Aggregate completions	Completions above baseline	Target (cumulative above baseline)
Baseline (average 2008 and 2009)	3,691		
2012	3,991	300	300
2013	4,097	406	706
2014	4,205	514	1,220
2015	4,316	625	1,846
2016	4,430	739	2,585

Annual completion targets above the baseline are as indicated above, calculated on a cumulative basis, and contribute to achievement of the total target. Achievement of the total target of 2,585 will be measured taking into account collective total activity over the five year period, and not measured solely on annual achievement of targets.

Training outcome 2: Commencements (Certificate III and above) (1.95%)

	Aggregate completions	Completions above baseline	Target (cumulative above baseline)
Baseline (average 2008 and 2009)	8,954		
2012	9,488	535	535
2013	9,673	720	1254
2014	9,862	909	2163
2015	10,055	1101	3264
2016	10,251	1297	4561

Annual commencement targets above the baseline are as indicated above, calculated on a cumulative basis, and contribute to achievement of the total target. Achievement of the total target of 4,561 will be measured taking into account collective total activity over the five year period, and not measured solely on annual achievement of targets.

Training outcome 3: Commencements by Indigenous Australians (Certificate III and above) (2.3%)

	Aggregate completions	Completions above baseline	Target (cumulative above baseline)
Baseline (average 2008 and 2009)	2,169		
2012	2,322	153	153
2013	2,375	206	359
2014	2,430	261	620
2015	2,486	317	937
2016	2,543	374	1310

Annual commencement targets above the baseline are as indicated above, calculated on a cumulative basis, and contribute to achievement of the total target. Achievement of the total target of 1,310 will be measured taking into account collective total activity over the five year period, and not measured solely on annual achievement of targets.

Training outcome 4: Unit Completions (total client groups) (1.52%)

	Aggregate completions	Completions above baseline	Target (cumulative above baseline)
Baseline (average 2008 and 2009)	103,041		
2012	107,805	4,764	4,764
2013	109,442	6,401	11,165
2014	111,103	8,062	19,227
2015	112,790	9,749	28,976
2016	114,502	11,461	40,437

Annual completion targets above the baseline are as indicated above, calculated on a cumulative basis, and contribute to achievement of the total target. Achievement of the total target of 40,437 will be measured taking into account collective total activity over the five year period, and not measured solely on annual achievement of targets.

Training outcome 5: Trade Commencements (2.6%)

	Aggregate commencements	Commencements above baseline	Target (cumulative above baseline)
Baseline (average 2008 and 2009)	773		
2012	836	63	63
2013	858	85	148
2014	881	108	256
2015	904	131	387
2016	928	155	541

Annual commencement targets above the baseline are as indicated above, calculated on a cumulative basis, and contribute to achievement of the total target. Achievement of the total target of 541 will be measured taking into account collective total activity over the five year period, and not measured solely on annual achievement of targets.

Technical specifications

	AVETMISS specifications	Primary data source	Secondary data source (if primary unavailable)
Target 1	VET Provider Collection Release 6.1 Data Elements Definition Edition 2.1	<p>NCVER VocStats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database: Students and Courses – Qualification Completions <p>Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - average of all 2008 and 2009 Certificate I and above completions <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achievements against target are the sum of all Certificate I and above completions <p>Unrounded growth rate is 2.6425%</p>	AVETMISS state based data
Target 2	VET Provider Collection Release 6.1 Data Elements Definition Edition 2.1	<p>NCVER VocStats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database: Students and Courses – Course Enrolments <p>Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - average of the 2008 and 2009 Certificate III and above commencements - includes Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achievements against target are the sum of all Certificate III and above commencements - achievements measures are Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Unrounded growth rate is 1.9519%</p>	AVETMISS state based data

<p>Target 3</p>	<p>VET Provider Collection Release 6.1 Data Elements Definition Edition 2.1</p>	<p>NCVER VocStats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database: Students and Courses – Course Enrolments - Baseline, targets and achievements consist of Indigenous Status Identifiers 1, 2 & 3 <p>Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - average of the 2008 and 2009 Indigenous Certificate III and above commencements - includes Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achievements against target are the sum of all Indigenous Certificate III and above commencements - achievements measures are Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Unrounded growth rate is 2.2972%</p>	<p>AVETMISS state based data</p>
<p>Target 4</p>	<p>VET Provider Collection Release 6.1 Data Elements Definition Edition 2.1</p>	<p>NCVER VocStats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database: Students and Courses – Course Enrolments - Successful outcomes for baseline, targets and achievements consist of Outcomes Identifiers 20 (Pass), 51 (RPL – Granted) & 53 (RCC – Granted) <p>Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - average of the 2008 and 2009 successful outcomes - includes Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Achievements</p>	<p>AVETMISS state based data</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achievements against target are the sum of all successful outcomes - achievements measures are Government Subsidised (National Fund Source 11, 13 & 15) and Fee for Service (National Fund Source 20 & 30) <p>Unrounded growth rate is 1.51807%</p>	
Target 5	Apprentice and Trainee Collection Release 6.0 Data Elements Definition Edition 2.1	<p>NCVER VocStats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade Commencements refers to trade status of traditional trades and training contract status of commencement - calendar year refers to the sum of reporting periods Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep & Oct6-Dec each year <p>Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database: Apprentices and Trainees – September 2011 - average of calendar years 2008 and 2009 Trade Commencements <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achievements against target are the sum of all Trade Commencements <p>Unrounded growth rate is 2.6425%</p> <p><i>Note: Assessment of achievement of commencements in any given year should take account of the previous years' final commencement figures (due to the natural lag registering training contracts).</i></p>	AVETMISS state based data