

Appendix A: Bilateral Implementation Plan – National Skills Agreement Policy Initiatives

PRELIMINARIES

1. This implementation plan is made between the Commonwealth of Australia (Commonwealth) and Tasmania under the 2024–2028 National Skills Agreement (the NSA) and should be read in conjunction with the NSA and the NSA Bilateral Implementation Plan Guidance.
2. Once executed, this implementation plan and any updates agreed with the Commonwealth, will be appended to the NSA and will be published on the Commonwealth’s Federal Financial Relations website (<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>).
3. This implementation plan is expected to expire on 31 December 2028 (in line with the NSA), or on completion of the initiative, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones.
4. In all public materials relating to the policy initiatives, Tasmania will acknowledge the Commonwealth’s contribution with the following statement: The Enhanced VET Data and Evidence policy initiative is a joint initiative between the Australian Government and Tasmanian Government.

REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

Reporting

1. Performance reporting will be due by 31 March and 30 September each year until the cessation of this implementation plan, or the final payment is processed.
2. Tasmania will provide to the Commonwealth a traffic light status and activity summary on all policy initiatives.
3. The Commonwealth will provide templates for the purposes of reporting.

Payments

1. The Commonwealth will make payment subject to performance reporting demonstrating the relevant milestone has been met.
2. As part of the performance reporting, Tasmania will provide evidence of what has been delivered in the reporting period. Payments will be processed once performance reports have been assessed and accepted.
3. Where a payment is due at a reporting period (31 March and/or 30 September), Tasmania will complete the relevant section of the reporting template and provide the evidence required as agreed in the Milestones and Payments associated with this Implementation Plan.
4. Under A92 of the NSA, if a State is unable to expend any Commonwealth funding provided for policy initiative milestone payments, the Commonwealth may reduce a future payment by an amount equivalent to the unspent funds.

ENHANCED VET DATA AND EVIDENCE (Clause A130 to A140 of the NSA)

The Enhanced VET Data and Evidence policy initiative includes three key measures. The following relates to the VET Data Streamlining (VDS) program only.

VET Data Streamlining:

Tasmania opts-in to the VDS program and commits to:

- completing transition to the National VET Data System by 31 December 2028; and
- transitioning State Training Authority and TAFE data systems to the VET Information Standard by 31 December 2028.

1) Specify activities that support the VDS program.

Tasmania will:

- 1) Assist in the development of the national VET data system by:
 - providing subject matter experts and expertise in all phases of the development of the National Vet Data System, including analysis input and design review, development support and go-live.
 - co-developing state specific validation and business rules, reference data, metadata requirements, and business processes to support the Vet Data System implementation.
 - assisting in the testing of the National VET Data System, including User Acceptance Testing.
 - actively participating in the VET Data System program governance.
- 2) Transition relevant State Training Authority systems and business processes to the National Data System to implement the indirect pathways and complete integration by 31 December 2028.
- 3) The below is an indicative timeline of the Tasmanian transition:
 - complete a state-specific transition plan and schedule as part of the VET Data System Milestone 2 by 31 March 2026.
 - complete integration and User Acceptance Testing by 30 September 2027.
 - complete build by 12 December 2027.
 - commence transition of Tasmanian Government funded Registered Training Organisations (RTO), and TasTAFE by 1 January 2028.
 - complete transition of Tasmanian Government funded RTOs by 31 December 2028.

2) Specify activities that support the VET Information Standard.

Tasmania will:

- 1) Assist the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) as the national data custodian in the development of the VET Information Standard by:
 - participating in the design lifecycle, including analysis, input and design review.
 - co-designing data analysis, data elements and associated rules specific to Tasmania.
 - providing subject matter expertise in all phases of the development lifecycle in design and testing the VET Information Standard.
 - actively participating in governance forums and decisions.
- 2) Transition to the Tasmanian State Training Authority system and TAFE systems to the VET Information Standard, if approved by Skills Ministers, by 31 December 2028.

- 3) Specify the State's reporting pathway for the purpose of collecting VET Activity Data (clause A138b refers).

Tasmania will implement the indirect pathway for the collection of VET Activity Data.
Tasmania will submit VET Information Standard compliant data to the National VET Data System on the RTOs behalf using Application Programming Interface (APIs).

- 4) Specify the State's collection and submission processes.

Tasmania commits to:

- supporting RTOs to submit VET Activity Data progressively to the National VET Data System, as agreed under the Data Provisioning Requirements (DPRs).

Tasmania will support the collection of metadata related to VET Activity to the National VET Data System, to enable States to monitor compliance with State specific contracts and regulators to monitor compliance with the Data Provisioning Requirements (DPRs).

- 5) Specify activities to support inclusive and robust governance.

Tasmania commits to participating in the VET Data System program delivery governance processes endorsed by Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON) as part of the VET Data System program reset on 24 April 2024.

Tasmania agrees to implement any changes to governance as agreed by SSON over the life of the program.

Tasmania has provided details of the state specific program governance model and arrangements in Section 6 of the approved Project Management Plan (delivered at Milestone 2, March 2026). This Plan details the management framework for the program throughout its lifecycle and defines the processes by which the program will be directed, controlled and held to account.

The VDS transition program will use existing governance arrangements, aligned with departmental Project Management Frameworks and consistent with broader Tasmanian Government requirements.

The Project Sponsor (Tasmania's senior skills official) will provide executive oversight of the VDS transition and represent the Tasmanian Government in national program governance via the Skills Senior Officials Network (SSON). This will ensure alignment between state implementation planning and national reform objectives.

- 6) Specify approach to project management and reporting.

Tasmania's approved Project Management Plan and Project Planning Roadmap (delivered at Milestone 2, March 2026) includes details of how Tasmania will manage its state-specific VET Data System transition project using its preferred contemporary, fit-for-purpose program and project governance, and delivery methodology.

The VDS transition in Tasmania will be planned and delivered in a manner to ensure national reform objectives are progressed without introducing undue risk to the new state-specific Skills Connect system for training contract management, grants administration, RTO payments and reporting, which is being implemented concurrently to this initiative.

Through active participation in national governance, standards development and testing activities, Tasmania will contribute to the design and implementation of the VDS program while progressing state readiness in a staged, proportionate and risk-managed manner.

Reporting

Tasmania's Project Management Plan (Section 10) outlines a schedule of regular review and update of key project artefacts and details the alignment of specific reporting elements with biannual Performance Reporting under the National Skills Agreement. Reporting and milestones for the VDS Program are also outlined in Section 16 (Annex A) of the Project Management Plan.

Tasmania further commits to:

- participating in the Commonwealth VDS program delivery program and project management forums and working groups.
- collaborating on VET Data Streamlining program wide risk management activities with all partners including risk identification, mitigation and treatments.
- providing regular industry standard status reporting to the Commonwealth VDS Program Management Office in line with the agreed format and frequency, as agreed by the VDS Steering Group.

Gate Reviews

Tasmania commits to actively participating in the VDS program Gate Review process endorsed by SSON on 24 April 2024 as part of the VDS governance reset. These are:

- Gate 1 – Governance Review.
- Gate 2 – Go Live Review.
- Gate 3 – Mid-point Review.
- Gate 4 – Delivery and Operational Transfer.
- Gate 5 – Program Closure.

Enhanced VET Data and Evidence - evaluation arrangements

Tasmania will support the development of a VET Data Streamlining Evaluation framework, for consideration by SSON, which will provide a consistent methodology for all jurisdictions to use to evaluate the success of the VDS program. The Evaluation arrangements will be robust and appropriate to the design and scale of the VET Data Streamlining program.

Through the Project Management Plan, Tasmania commits to using the evaluation framework to outline how the success of the VDS program as it pertains to the state will be measured, how effectiveness will be evaluated, and how findings will be disseminated and actioned.

Enhanced VET Data and Evidence - Funding arrangements

Details of funding	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total
Commonwealth contribution	\$1,200,000	\$3,600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$6,000,000

MILESTONES FOR ENHANCED - VET DATA AND EVIDENCE

Milestone	Evidence	Payment Value (Commonwealth funded)	Commonwealth reporting period
Milestone 1: Initial payment on agreement of bilateral implementation plan.	Bilateral implementation plan agreed with Commonwealth.	\$600,000 (Paid)	N/A
Milestone 2: Completion and acceptance of Tasmanian program management planning artefacts.	Commonwealth acceptance of Tasmanian program management planning artefacts, as signed off by the relevant Tasmanian Senior Skills Official, including: • VET Data and Streamlining Roadmap • Project Management Plan • Detailed Project Schedule • Resource / Procurement Plan • Risk Management Plan and Key Risks • Payment Schedule • Agreed Delivery Payment Milestones • Reconciliation Report Template	\$600,000 (Paid)	31 March 2026
Milestone 3: Submission of Draft Design documentation and Commonwealth acceptance that Tasmania (TAS) has progressed early delivery of the VET DATA transition, including validation of the implementation approach and key impacts.	Report signed by the relevant Tasmanian senior skills official that provides an update on: • Draft Design documentation detailing the design of TAS System and its integration with STARS • validation of the delivery approach for implementation of the VET Data transition • assessment of the VET Information Standard (VIS), Data Provision Requirements (DPRs) and indirect pathway impacts, including policy,	\$2,400,000	30 September 2026

	system, operational and resourcing considerations • mobilisation of resources and procurement activities to support delivery		
Milestone 4: Commonwealth acceptance that TAS has commenced implementation of the VET Data transition, including integration activities underway and initial implementation of the pilot delivery readiness.	Report signed by the relevant Tasmanian senior skills official that provides: • progress toward Student Training Activity Reporting System (STARS) integration testing, including integration and testing activities underway • establishment and initial implementation of the pilot transition approach for targeted RTOs, including sequencing with Skills Connect implementation and assessment of delivery approach, dependencies and readiness considerations • implementation of pilot preparation activities, including stakeholder engagement, planning and sequencing to support transition. • the Delivery Readiness report for pilot phase	\$1,200,000	31 March 2027
Milestone 5: Initiation of Pilot Phase & Post-Pilot Development where TAS has progressed implementation of the VET Data transition, including pilot and testing activities demonstrating outcomes to support transition	Report signed by the relevant Tasmanian senior skills official that provides: • an update on the pilot testing activities and the Post-Pilot Development phase, demonstrating that system functionality was tested against the Design documentation, and issues resolved	\$600,000	30 September 2027

	• draft state specific business rules for RTOs VIS submissions to Skills Tasmania, • progress status on pilot cohort test and data submissions activities, including initial outcomes, with issues identified and managed		
Milestone 6: TAS has completed transition to the VET Data System, including full implementation and project closure.	Report signed by the relevant Tasmanian senior skills official that provides: • transition of funded RTOs • final pilot outcomes • completion of integration capability, validations, reporting configuration and VIS enablement. • Project closure report, endorsed through TAS project governance, confirming that all agreed project deliverables have been completed or transitioned, and the project has been formally closed.	\$600,000	31 December 2028

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this implementation plan as follows:

Signed *for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by*



The Honourable Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Skills and Training

30 / 6 / 2026

Signed *for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*



The Honourable Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Skills and Jobs

19 / 6 / 2026