Multilateral Implementation Plan – National TAFE Network

PRELIMINARIES

1) This implementation plan is made between the Commonwealth of Australia (Commonwealth), and the States in accordance with clause A122 of the 2024–2028 National Skills Agreement (the NSA) and should be read in conjunction with the NSA.
2) The NSA requires the Parties to establish a National TAFE Network to foster collaboration between teachers and TAFE administrators and public training providers ('the initiative').
3) 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).
4) This implementation plan will commence on 1 January 2025 or once the Commonwealth and one other Party sign it, whichever is later, and will terminate 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.
5) This implementation plan, and any schedules and appendices, may be amended by the written agreement of relevant Parties.
6) In all public materials relating to NSA policy initiatives, the States will acknowledge the Commonwealth's contribution with the following statement: The National TAFE Network is a joint initiative between the Commonwealth Government and participating State and Territory Governments.

VISION

7) The National TAFE Network will support delivery of nation-leading, high quality training outcomes for Australian learners and industry and drive innovative and collaborative initiatives to support TAFE teachers and administrators to achieve these outcomes.
8) The network will drive excellence in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment supporting teachers, learners and industry and bolstering support for TAFE to continue delivering the dual outcomes of excellence and accessibility.
9) It will promote research to enhance TAFE outcomes nationally, encouraging a collaborative research approach to strengthen the VET sector and share best practices for systematic improvements.
10) The network will harness the collective capacity of TAFEs across the nation, including TAFE Centres of Excellence, to deliver contemporary and innovative training in critical industries, reduce duplication and increase efficiencies.
11) The National TAFE Network reflects shared commitments of the Parties to pursue networked and cooperative TAFE reform under the NSA.

PRINCIPLES

12) The National TAFE Network will harness the collective capacity of Australia's public training providers, to become a vibrant, collaborative and agile network and an operational enabler for collaboration.
13) The National TAFE Network will be TAFE led and will operate on the following principles:
    a. Learners are the ultimate beneficiaries of the National TAFE Network;

b. The National TAFE Network will be a key mechanism for the VET Workforce Blueprint to embed TAFE workforce leadership as a key activity;
c. TAFE teachers and administrators will lead and contribute to National TAFE Network projects, activities and functions;
d. TAFE representatives are members of the National TAFE Network Committee;
e. National TAFE Network priorities reflect TAFEs perspectives; and
f. TAFEs may develop project proposals for consideration by the National TAFE Network Committee.

14) The National TAFE Network will support individual and collective TAFE pursuits, enabling TAFE, its public mission, and its role at the heart of a quality VET system to deliver a skilled workforce and contribute to social cohesion and inclusion.

15) TAFE learners will benefit from the National TAFE Network through access to:

a. More responsive and flexible training driven by improvements in pedagogy, teaching and learning practices developed, promoted and shared across the network.

b. High-quality learning resources produced by the National TAFE Network and by TAFE Centres of Excellence that are promoted and shared across the network.

16) The National TAFE Network does not replace the role of government officials or agencies in managing the State-funded VET system or the role of individual TAFE providers satisfying regulations for the vocational education and training sector.

17) The National TAFE Network will have no legal status, nor will it own the assets or value created through it.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TAFE NETWORK (REFER CLAUSE A117 TO A123 OF THE NSA)

18) The objective of this implementation plan is to deliver the National TAFE Network as per clauses A117-A123 of the NSA.

19) The Parties will work collaboratively to:

a. Deliver on the intent of the National TAFE Network as set out under the NSA and its role as an enabling mechanism that supports other NSA policy initiatives and VET reforms
b. Deliver on the objectives of this implementation plan
c. Contribute funding for core and scalable investment under the National TAFE Network as outlined in this implementation plan
d. Identify and escalate issues that may affect the successful operation of the National TAFE Network in a timely manner
e. Support dispute resolution consistent with this implementation plan
f. Evaluate the outcomes of the National TAFE Network.

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE WHICH INVOLVES ALL PARTIES (REFER CLAUSE A122(B) OF THE NSA)

20) The National TAFE Network is intended to be operationalised and utilised for the benefit of learners, TAFEs and industry. The governance arrangements in this implementation plan are intended to give parties assurance of funding commitments to meet the policy intention of the National TAFE Network and federal financial relations obligations of transparency and public accountability; as well as offer a mechanism for resolving issues as they arise.

21) Governance of the National TAFE Network comprises:

a. the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council (SWMC)

b. the Skills Senior Officials' Network (SSON)
c. a National TAFE Network Committee

22) Roles and responsibilities of each of these bodies is outlined below:

SKILLS AND WORKFORCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

23) SWMC will provide overarching leadership for the establishment and the implementation of the National TAFE Network. It will do this by:

a. setting national priorities for the VET system
b. endorsing a strategic plan for 2025-2028 and annual workplans for the National TAFE Network by a majority of participating jurisdictions
c. reviewing progress on establishment and operation of the National TAFE Network annually (or more regularly if required), providing direction through the SSON
d. ensuring the objectives of this implementation plan are met, consistent with reporting requirements set out under Part 7 of the NSA.

SKILLS SENIOR OFFICIALS' NETWORK

24) The SSON will provide strategic oversight of the National TAFE Network. It will do this by:

a. establishing the Terms of Reference for the National TAFE Network Committee, to be agreed by a majority of participating jurisdictions
b. commissioning the development of the National TAFE Network policy and operational framework and being responsible for endorsing it by a majority of participating jurisdictions
c. commissioning a strategic plan for 2025-2028 and annual workplans for the National TAFE Network, to be agreed by a majority of participating jurisdictions
d. providing visibility to the National TAFE Network Committee on VET system matters that may be relevant to, or have an impact on, the National TAFE Network
e. monitoring and evaluating outcomes of the National TAFE Network
f. commission a review of the National TAFE Network operational arrangements (clause 62)
g. supporting dispute resolution as required.

NATIONAL TAFE NETWORK COMMITTEE

25) A National TAFE Network Committee will be established to:

a. implement and operate the National TAFE Network within the approved Terms of Reference
b. guide the direction of the National TAFE Network
c. draw on the perspectives of the diverse membership that it represents
d. develop an annual workplan for the activities of the National TAFE Network
e. develop an overarching strategic plan for 2025-2028 to guide the development of annual workplans
f. develop National TAFE Network policy and operational frameworks
g. oversee the operation of the central coordination function
h. oversee an evaluation of the National TAFE Network and report on the outcome to the SSON.

26) The Terms of Reference for the National TAFE Network Committee will set out operational matters including membership and chairing arrangements.

THE OPERATIONAL APPROACH FOR THE NATIONAL TAFE NETWORK (REFER CLAUSE A122(A) OF THE NSA)

27) The National TAFE Network Committee will develop policy and operational frameworks that guide the operations of the National TAFE Network. The frameworks will set out:

    a. the policy context for how the National TAFE Network will respond to
        i. its functions as set out in the National Skills Agreement
        ii. other policy initiatives in the National Skills Agreement
        iii. relevant recommendation and actions in the VET Workforce Blueprint
    b. how the National TAFE Network will address national priorities as agreed to by parties in the National Skills Agreement, through the SWMC and the SSON
    c. how the National TAFE Network Committee and the National TAFE Network Coordinator will consult with TAFEs and ensure diverse perspectives are represented
    d. guidance on the annual workplan process
    e. principles and protocols for sharing curriculum, course materials and other products and resources produced by the National TAFE Network
    f. evaluation arrangements and performance indicators for evaluating the impact of the National TAFE Network
    g. other areas as advised by the SSON.

28) The National TAFE Network Committee will provide guidance to the coordination mechanism on the functions it needs to perform and oversee its operation.

29) The National TAFE Network Committee will act as a representative body ensuring the views of all participating jurisdictions and their TAFEs are adequately represented. This includes, but is not limited to:

    a. regional and metropolitan institutes and campuses
    b. large and small institutes and jurisdictions
    c. specialist and dual-sector institutes.

30) Within three months of its establishment, the National TAFE Network Committee will report back to SSON detailing progress on the establishment of National TAFE Network.

ANNUAL WORKPLAN

31) The National TAFE Network Committee will be responsible for developing an annual workplan and reporting on its progress.

32) The annual workplan will be guided by the National TAFE Network strategic plan 2025-2028 and outline the activities of the National TAFE Network, States and parties or entities responsible for delivering on its components, relevant timeframes and outputs/outcomes to be delivered. The SSON will agree the workplan.

33) The annual workplan will adhere to National TAFE Network policy and operational frameworks and the Principles set out in the Preliminaries of this implementation plan.

34) The SSON provides guidance to the National TAFE Network Committee on national priorities and other matters relevant to the development of the annual workplan.

35) A progress report on the annual workplan will be submitted to SSON for endorsement twice per year (six month and final), and will include advice on:

    a. Progress made against National TAFE Network priorities
    b. Progress made against annual workplan projects
    c. Key achievements and outcomes

d. Any issues relating to delivery or the operation of the National TAFE Network about which SSON should be made aware.

ANNUAL WORKPLAN PROCESS

36) The annual workplan process commences with the SSON commissioning the National TAFE Network Committee to develop the strategic plan for 2025-2028 and the annual workplan.

37) The SSON supports the National TAFE Network Committee to determine priorities for the annual workplan. Priorities are also expected to reflect the perspectives of TAFEs.

38) States run their own process for developing budgeted project proposals for their core and scalable investment with TAFEs and submit them to the National TAFE Network Committee.

39) Project proposals must adhere to:

a. National TAFE Network priorities
b. National TAFE Network policy and operational frameworks
c. the Principles set out in the Preliminaries of this implementation plan.

40) The National TAFE Network Committee will engage with States and TAFEs early in this project development process to identify opportunities for collaboration between TAFEs and to mitigate duplication.

41) The National TAFE Network Committee develops the National TAFE Network workplan based on the project proposals and recommendations for the SSON.

42) The SSON considers and agrees the National TAFE Network annual workplan, to be agreed by a majority of participating jurisdictions.

43) SWMC endorses the National TAFE Network annual workplan, by a majority of participating jurisdictions.

FUNDING MODEL

44) Clauses A118 to A120 of the NSA outline the financial arrangements for the National TAFE Network, including the financial contribution from the Commonwealth (clause A118, Table 8 of the NSA), the requirement for matched contributions for the States (clause A119 of the NSA), and the provision of coordination funding by the Commonwealth (clause A120 and the NSA).

45) This implementation plan outlines a funding model to direct the application of funding provided for the National TAFE Network under the NSA. There are three components to the funding model:

a. Core investment
b. Scalable investment
c. Coordination support.

CORE INVESTMENT

46) Core investment funding will support the essential functions of the National TAFE Network including:

a. a collaborative platform
b. operational staff
c. evaluation of impact
d. funding to supplement the operation of a coordination mechanism, if required, such as providing a mechanism through which other stakeholders can engage with the NTN.

47) All states will contribute to these essential functions by providing a minimum contribution of 5 per cent of the value set out for their individual state allocation as set out in Table 8 of Clause A118 of the NSA. The Commonwealth will match this investment.

48) States will set out details of what will be delivered for this funding component in project proposals.

Scalable Investment

49) Scalable investments fund activities and functions that form the National TAFE Network annual workplan including:

    a. communities of practice organised around specific topics
    b. developing new curriculum and course materials
    c. where appropriate sharing existing curriculum and course materials
    d. piloting new or innovative approaches in teaching and learning practice
    e. the development and support of the TAFE workforce and education practice.

50) States will determine their level of scalable investment through the annual workplan process and in line with National TAFE Network policy framework and the Principles set out in the Preliminaries of this implementation plan. The Commonwealth will match a State's scalable investment.

51) States will set out details of what will be delivered for this funding component in project proposals.

Matched Funding

52) Clause A91 of the NSA refers to matched funding with details to be provided within implementation plans. State contributions may be supported by a new appropriation, reprioritisation of VET funding or, if agreed with the Commonwealth, committed expenditure that relates to the specific policy initiative.

53) Parties agree that Commonwealth recognition of matched funding contributions by States, as defined in Clause A91 of NSA, will be determined through the annual workplan and project proposal cycle as defined in Clauses 27-67 of this implementation plan.

Coordination Support

54) Clause A120 of the NSA provides that the Commonwealth will allocate $6.77 million over five years to support the coordination of the National TAFE Network. This is referred to as coordination support funding.

55) The coordination support funding will be provided by the Commonwealth and does not require matched funding from States.

56) The SSON will nominate a State to oversee and commission the coordination support funding on behalf of the National TAFE Network in consultation with participating jurisdictions.

57) The State will set out details of what will be delivered for this funding, on behalf of the National TAFE Network, in project proposals.

COORDINATION MECHANISM (REFER CLAUSE A122(C) OF THE NSA)

58) The National TAFE Network and the National TAFE Network Committee will be supported by a central coordination team led by the National TAFE Network Coordinator.

    a. The team is operational in focus and is not part of the National TAFE Network governance arrangements.

b. The National TAFE Network Coordinator is an ex-officio member of the National TAFE Network Committee. They are not considered a member for decision-making or voting purposes.

59) The central coordination team will perform the following functions:

a. Secretariat responsibilities for the National TAFE Network Committee;
b. Supports the day-to-day operations of the National TAFE Network Committee including the coordination of actions across the National TAFE Network;
c. Acts as the 'front door' for the National TAFE Network engagement mechanism and triages requests for engagement to operational staff located in states;
d. Tracks progress on National TAFE Network annual workplan projects;
e. Supports the coordination of communities of practice;
f. Supports the dissemination of National TAFE Network outputs and knowledge including establishing shared templates and processes (where appropriate).

60) Coordination of the National TAFE Network activities and functions will also be supported in each jurisdiction to maximise the benefits and take account of existing activity. The combination of a central coordination team and operational staff form a hub and spoke coordination model.

61) States will set out how they will operationalise their spoke coordination model in their jurisdiction through their core investment project proposals.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

62) There will be a review of the National TAFE Network operational arrangements undertaken after the first 12 months of operations, or by 30 June 2026, whichever is the earliest.

63) The review will be commissioned by the SSON and consider the implementation plan, policy and operational frameworks and the view of key stakeholders including TAFEs.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

64) Any National TAFE Network Member may give notice to other relevant National TAFE Network Member of a dispute.

65) The National TAFE Network Committee will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance. If a dispute cannot be resolved by the National TAFE Network Committee it may be escalated to the Senior Skills Officials Network.

66) States or the Commonwealth may give notice to other relevant States (or the Commonwealth) of a dispute under this implementation plan.

67) Officials of relevant States/Commonwealth will attempt to resolve any dispute under this implementation plan in the first instance. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers, and if necessary, to the SWMC.

REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

REPORTING TO THE COMMONWEALTH

68) The reporting requirements set out in this section relate to performance reporting by States for the purpose of payments by the Commonwealth to States under clauses A118 to A120 of the NSA.

69) 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.

70) States will provide to the Commonwealth a traffic light status and activity summary on all policy initiatives.

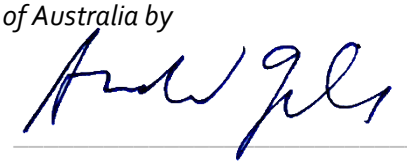
71) The Commonwealth will provide templates for the purposes of reporting.

PAYMENTS, COORDINATION SUPPORT AND MATCHED FUNDING

72) Payments, coordination support and matched funding requirements for each jurisdiction appear within the applicable State Bilateral Appendix.

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

26/2/2025

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Steve Whan MP

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

/ /

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

The Honourable Gayle Tierney MLC

Minister for Skills and TAFE

/ /

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

The Honourable Rosslyn (Ros) Bates MP

Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Training and Workforce Development

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Blair Boyer MP

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

/ /

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Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

7/3/2025

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Minister for Skills and TAFE

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Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

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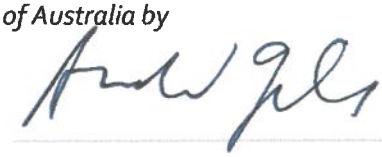
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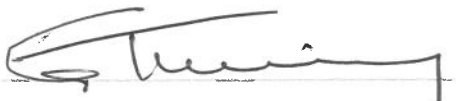
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Minister for Skills and TAFE

27/2/25

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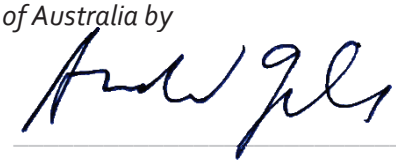
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Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

/ /

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

The Honourable Gayle Tierney MLC

Minister for Skills and TAFE

/ /

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



The Honourable Rosslyn (Ros) Bates MP

Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

23/12/2025

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Training and Workforce Development

/ /

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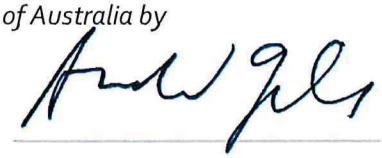
The Honourable Blair Boyer MP

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Minister for Skills and TAFE

/ /

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

The Honourable Rosslyn (Ros) Bates MP

Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by*



The Honourable Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA

Minister for Skills and TAFE

/ /

28 OCT 2025

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by*

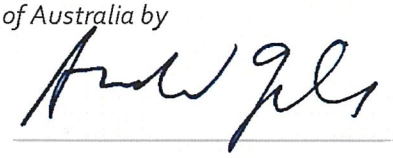
The Honourable Blair Boyer MP

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

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Minister for Skills and TAFE

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Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

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The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Training and Workforce Development

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by*



The Honourable Blair Boyer MP

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

28/3/2025

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



The Honourable Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills and Jobs

6 / 12 / 2025

Signed *for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by*

The Honourable Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by*

The Honourable Jo Hersey

Minister for Education and Training

/ /

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

The Honourable Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills and Training

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by*



The Honourable Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

11 / 3 / 25

Signed *for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by*

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Minister for Education and Training

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Minister for Skills and Training

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The Honourable Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

/ /

Signed *for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by*

The Honourable Jo Hersey

Minister for Education and Training

/ /

APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS

In this implementation plan, unless otherwise specified, words and phrases are to be interpreted as follows:

Term	Definition
TAFE	TAFEs and other public training providers are referred to in this implementation plan collectively as TAFEs and include: ACT Canberra Institute of Technology NSW Technical and Further Education Commission (TAFE NSW) NT Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Charles Darwin University Qld Central Queensland University TAFE Queensland SA TAFE SA Tas TasTAFE Vic Chisholm Institute Holmesglen Institute Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education Gordon Institute of TAFE William Angliss Institute of TAFE Melbourne Polytechnic Bendigo Kangan Institute Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE Wodonga Institute of TAFE South West Institute of TAFE Box Hill Institute Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Swinburne University of Technology Victoria University

	Federation University Australia WA North Metropolitan TAFE South Metropolitan TAFE North Regional TAFE Central Regional TAFE South Regional TAFE.
Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON)	The Skills Senior Officials' Network (SSON) works collaboratively to consider and provide advice on strategic and operational matters within the VET sector to support governments and the SWMC to achieve agreed objectives, outcomes and priorities, including those set out in the National Skills Agreement.
Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council (SWMC)	The Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council (SWMC) provides a forum for national cooperation and stewardship of the VET system and on the intersection of skills and training policy with workforce issues.
States	State and Territory Governments are referred to in this implementation plan collectively as States.