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

PRELIMINARIES

1. This implementation plan is made between the Commonwealth of Australia (Commonwealth) and Western Australia 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, Western Australia 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 Western Australian 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. Western Australia will provide to the Commonwealth a traffic light status and activity summary for this policy initiative.

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. After the initial payment, second and subsequent milestone payments will be assessed and processed in the following reporting period.

2. As part of the performance reporting, Western Australia 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), Western Australia 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.

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

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

VET Data Streamlining: Western Australia 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.

Western Australia will:

1) assist in the development of the National VET Data System, and will:
   - provide subject matter experts and expertise in all phases of the development lifecycle of the National VET Data System, including analysis input and design review, development support and go-live
   - assist in testing of the National VET Data System, including User Acceptance Testing
   - actively participate in VDS program governance.

2) transition the Western Australian State Training Authority data systems to the National VET Data System to implement the indirect pathway, and complete integration by 31 December 2028.

3) the following is an indicative timeline of the Western Australian transition approach:
   - Draft detailed planning complete: June 2025
   - Detailed design complete: December 2025
   - WA build complete: October 2026
   - WA integration and User Acceptance Testing complete: June 2027
   - Transition of WA-funded RTOs and all TAFES commences: January 2028
   - WA funded Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) transition complete: December 2028

2) Specify activities that support the VET Information Standard.

Western Australia will:

1) assist the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) as the national data custodian in the development of the VET Information Standard, and will:
   - participate in the design lifecycle, including analysis, input and design review
   - co-design state specific data elements and associated rules if required
   - provide subject matter expertise in all phases of the development lifecycle in design and testing the VET Information Standard
   - actively participate in governance forums and decisions.

2) transition the Western Australian State Training Authority systems and Western Australian TAFE college systems to the VET Information Standard, by 31 December 2028.

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

Western Australia will implement the indirect pathway, where RTOs submit VET Information Standard compliant data to the Western Australian State Training Authority, who will provide that data to the National VET Data System on their behalf using Application Programming Interface (APIs).

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

Western Australia will support RTOs to meet their reporting requirements by submitting VET Information Standard compliant data to the National VET Data System via APIs in accordance with the Data Provision Requirements (DPRs).

Western Australia will support the collection of metadata related to VET Activity Data submitted by RTOs 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.

Western Australia commits to participating in the VDS program delivery governance processes endorsed by Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON) as part of the VDS program reset on 24 April 2024. Western Australia agrees to implement any changes to governance as agreed by SSON over the life of the program. Western Australia commits to providing details of the State specific program governance model and arrangements (for example, project board, governance requirements, and how decisions are made) as part of the project management plan in milestone 2.

6) Specify approach to project management and reporting

Western Australia commits to providing a detailed project management plan as part of milestone 2, which will include details of how it will manage its State-specific VDS transition project using its preferred contemporary, fit-for-purpose program and project governance, and delivery methodology.

Western Australia 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

Western Australia 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

Western Australia 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.

As part of Milestone 2 Project Planning, Western Australia commits to using the evaluation framework to outline how the success of the VDS program as it pertains to their jurisdiction will be measured, how effectiveness will be evaluated, and how findings will be disseminated and actioned.

MILESTONES FOR ENHANCED - VET DATA AND EVIDENCE

The initial payment amount is limited to 10 per cent of the maximum Commonwealth contribution, States will receive up to a further 10 per cent on completion and acceptance of detailed State-specific program management planning artifacts, as outlined in the table below:

Milestone	Evidence	Payment Value (Commonwealth funded)[1] [2]	Commonwealth reporting period
Milestone 1: Initial payment on agreement of bilateral implementation plan (expected by 31 December 2024)	1: Bilateral implementation plan agreed with the Commonwealth	$800,000	N/A - Payment will be made on execution of the implementation plan.
Milestone 2: Completion and acceptance of detailed State-specific program management planning artefacts • 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 • State specific reconciliation report template	2: Commonwealth acceptance of State-specific program management planning artefacts.	$800,000	30 September 2025
Future milestones to be agreed prior to 30 June 2026 (as per clause A136 of the National Skills Agreement) following delivery of the project management plan at Milestone 2.			

[1] First payment to be no more than 10% of maximum Commonwealth contribution

[2] Payment for each 6 monthly payment will be defined in the milestone 2 payment schedule and will be linked to agreed delivery milestones.

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

21 / 11 / 2024

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

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Training and Workforce Development

18/12/ 2024