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 a number of 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 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.

Tasmania commits to providing a detailed Project Management Plan as part of Milestone 2, which will include 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.

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.

As part of Milestone 2 project planning, Tasmania 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.

Enhanced VET Data and Evidence - Funding arrangements

Details of funding	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29 $**
Commonwealth contribution	$1,200,000	TBA	TBA	TBA

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	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	31 March 2026
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.			

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

4 /12/ 2025

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

The Honourable Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Skills and Jobs

4 /12/ 2025