



Transition Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The nature of work globally is changing. Australia's capacity to grow, compete and thrive in a global economy is even more dependent on employers and individuals being able to access the right skills at the right time.

Australian, State and Territory Skills Ministers have agreed to implement improved industry engagement arrangements for vocational education and training (VET). The new arrangements are expected to empower industry to provide strategic leadership on skills and workforce challenges, and provide the tools, resources, responsibility and accountability for ensuring the VET system meets employer needs. It also will ensure that learners are equipped with the skills they need to succeed across a broad range of career pathways.

The new industry engagement arrangements includes:

- responsibility for training package development transitioning from Skills Service Organisations and Industry Reference Committees to new industry-based clusters
- broadening the responsibilities of industry-based clusters to include:
 - Workforce planning across whole of economy skills needs - through data, evidence, and research – to identify current and emerging skills needs for their industry sectors to support strategic workforce planning.
 - Skills standard development – developing and updating national qualifications, including by reference to the training package prioritisation framework.
 - Strengthened role in collaboration to improve training delivery and assessment, including working with Registered Training Organisations and employers to monitor training outcomes, improve resource development, promoting careers and encouraging work placements.
 - Industry stewardship – providing strategic advice to ministers and the National Skills Commission on skills and workforce needs, and the effectiveness of VET system policies and standards.

- training products to be approved by an independent body.

Scope of Work

The Transition Advisory Group (Advisory Group) will provide expert advice to support implementation of the new industry engagement arrangements. The Advisory Group will advise by end July 2021 on:

- governance of the industry-based clusters , including principles for advisory and technical engagement and management structures;
- fostering capacity and capability within and between the clusters to take a whole of economy approach to workforce planning;
- approaches for stakeholder consultation and engagement by the clusters, including for small business, and embedding collaboration between clusters to support a flexible training system with improved speed to market;
- functions and decision-making framework of the training package approval body
- establishing a performance framework, including ideas for Key Performance Indicators, data and reporting;
- establishing effective and regular feedback channels between the approval body, clusters, industry, employers and RTOs to drive continuous improvement and collaboration in training design, implementation and delivery;
- transitioning from the current system of Industry Reference Committees, Skills Organisation pilots, Skills Service Organisations and the Australian Industry Skills Committee, as well as the intersections with qualifications and training package reform; and
- support required by industry to maximise their participation in the reforms.

Out-of-Scope

The suite of documents that comprise the Training Package Organising Framework.

Administrative arrangements for the establishment and management of industry-based clusters including funding and grant/contractual arrangements to mitigate potential future probity issues.

Membership

Membership of the Advisory Group will include a representative from:

- the Australian Government (Chair)
- two (2) state or territory members from Senior Skills Officials Network
- the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- the Australian Industry Group

- the Business Council of Australia
- the Australian Council of Trade Unions
- a small business representative
- an independent VET expert.

Governance and Timeframes

The Advisory Group will meet as required until July 2021. Meetings will be in person or via MS Teams. The Advisory Group will have no decision-making powers.

The Advisory Group will be supported by the Australian Government.