



# Statement of Intent

This Statement of Intent responds to the Statement of Expectations signed by the Minister for Skills and Training on 18 July 2023.

## Role and operating environment

The Australian Skills Quality Authority is the national regulator for Australia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. Our purpose is to ensure quality VET so that students, industry, governments, and the community can have confidence in the integrity of national qualifications issued by training providers.

We operate independently and objectively in performing regulatory functions and exercising powers as set out in the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011*, the *Education for Overseas Students Act 2000* and the VET Quality Framework.

We operate in accordance with the broader governance and performance expectations of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Public Service Act 1999* and the Regulator Performance Guide.

Within an evolving operating environment, we remain committed to continuously improving our regulatory approach, building trust in our regulatory capability, and demonstrating our organisational values in all that we do.

## Government priorities

We are committed to supporting the delivery of quality VET and focused on the Government's intent to ensure integrity within the sector and to elevate the calibre, perceptions, and status of VET, domestically and internationally.

## Safeguarding student welfare and the quality of VET

We will safeguard student welfare and not tolerate provider practices that are at the expense of students' ability to gain the required competencies. This includes behaviour that compromises student well-being, exploits or places students at risk, and we will remove those providers from the sector.

We will support the quality of VET by:

- undertaking the full range of our regulatory activities transparently and effectively
- proactively monitoring the sector to identify and respond swiftly and effectively to risks
- actively engaging with law enforcement and other regulators, particularly where student safety or wellbeing is at risk

- continuing to examine our structure, functions, and powers to identify opportunities to strengthen our ability to ensure integrity in the sector, and
- working with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and Department of Education to identify broader mechanisms to develop and protect integrity in the sector.

## **Fostering a world-class VET sector through regulatory action**

We will foster a world-class VET sector by:

- only granting registration or renewal of registration where we are satisfied of both the suitability of people involved in running and managing RTOs and the RTO's capability and commitment to quality VET
- identifying providers who do not comply with the law or regulatory standards and using our regulatory tools to promptly return them to compliance or remove them from the sector
- supporting and enabling the continuous improvement of the sector to deliver excellence in training outcomes and enable self-evaluation and improvement within RTOs in a way that makes ASQA regulation valued for what it contributes to RTOs, industry stakeholders and learners
- applying strategies to reduce the regulatory burden for high-performing RTOs with a history of strong compliance and to increase regulatory action for those RTOs considered as higher risk demonstrating regulatory best practice in all that we do, and
- ensuring our regulation is efficient, effective and transparent.

We will promote community confidence in the sector by working with DEWR and other key stakeholders to enable greater levels of transparency and information about the performance of the sector and individual providers.

Our regulatory approach will remain risk based, agile and responsive, to ensure we can:

- adopt a whole-of-sector perspective
- employ a mix of education, compliance and enforcement tools to support continuous improvement of the VET sector and act on risks
- regularly review and adjust our priorities and practices to reflect changes in the sector, and
- respond to government policy objectives and reforms agreed by the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council.

## **Collaborating with other agencies to enhance the quality of VET and support students**

We will work closely and cooperatively with DEWR and the Department of Education to implement Government reforms focused on ensuring quality and integrity in the VET sector and ensure the regulations that we are responsible for implementing are fit for purpose.

We will strengthen our working relationships with VET stakeholders, including other VET regulators, state and territory officials and departments, other Commonwealth and industry

agencies, Jobs and Skills Australia, Jobs and Skills Council and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

We will collaborate with other regulators and law enforcement through data and information sharing to improve provider compliance and community confidence in the VET sector.

In all engagement, our primary focus will be on the outcomes for, and well-being of students and the quality of VET.

## **Driving ASQA's performance through the leadership of the CEO**

Best practice regulation requires ethical, accountable leadership and supported and capable staff.

We will continue to focus on building staff wellbeing, morale and capability to support a high-performance culture. Through our 2023-25 Workforce Plan and in alignment with the APS Workforce Strategy, we will pursue improved outcomes and value for all stakeholders through our recruitment, retention and development of skilled and capable staff.

We will utilise the experience and knowledge of the National Vocational Education and Training Advisory Council to improve our regulatory practice and performance and ensure the provision of high-quality advice to the Minister and Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council.

## **Accountability and transparency**

We are accountable to the Government and the Parliament for our performance.

We will keep the Minister informed through clear and timely reporting about our performance, including emerging trends, risks or issues that may affect the integrity or reputation of the sector, and issues relevant to the successful operation of our functions.

The Minister's Statement of Expectations and this Statement of Intent will be published on our website and referenced in future corporate plans and annual reports, which are also published on [www.transparency.gov.au](http://www.transparency.gov.au)



**Saxon Rice**  
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