



Statement of Intent

This Statement of Intent responds to the Statement of Expectations signed by the Minister for Skills and Training on 6 March 2025.

Role and operating environment

The Australian Skills Quality Authority is the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector. VET contributes significantly to Australia's economic, employment and social outcomes. Workers qualified through VET pathways play a key role in supplying applied learning and practical skills for roles that continue to be in demand and some are in persistent shortage across Australia.

A high performing, reputable and trustworthy VET sector is critical to supporting the five-year National Skills Agreement between the Commonwealth and states and territories that will provide the skills needed for a modern economy. This means that ASQA's role as the national regulator of the VET sector is critical to ensuring that VET standards are met and providers are capable and committed to meet their obligations.

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* (NVETR Act), 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*, as well as the Regulator Performance Resource Management Guide.

We remain committed to continuously improving our regulatory practice, building trust in our regulatory capability, and demonstrating our organisational values in all that we do, as we work collaboratively and in stewardship with VET stakeholders to implement ongoing reforms.

A strong high-quality sector

ASQA welcomes the emphasis on a standards-based regulatory framework that promotes quality, flexibility, and innovation. We commit to the effective implementation of the revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), which focus on quality of outcomes for students and industry. ASQA recognises the key role the revised Standards will have in elevating VET quality and integrity.

We will prioritise ongoing engagement and collaboration with the sector to ensure a smooth transition. This includes providing comprehensive guidance and support, enabling the sector to understand the changes, review their operations, and maintain compliance while continuously improving. We are committed to managing non-compliance proportionately, applying essential safeguards while minimising regulatory burden.

We will leverage the revised Standards to mature our approach to provider risk to reflect the diverse governance, quality, culture, and self-assurance capability of the sector.

We acknowledge that the successful implementation of the revised Standards requires significant maturing of approach across the VET system and are committed to working in partnership with stakeholders to enhance provider capability, build regulatory performance, capability and culture, and ultimately, to continue to build trust and confidence in Australia's regulatory settings. We commit to measuring and sharing the effectiveness of our work in implementing the revised Standards to ensure positive outcomes for learners, industry and the economy.

Integrity in the sector

We acknowledge the critical threat posed by non-genuine providers and bad-faith operators and recognise the profound damage this can have, including to create unfair competition, exploit vulnerable individuals, jeopardise public safety and undermine sector integrity.

We will continue to deliver on the Government's investment in our integrity program, which has enabled the establishment of an Integrity Unit and Tip-off line – increasing our intelligence, analytic and investigative capacity to respond to VET integrity risks.

In order to protect the public and the integrity of the VET sector, ASQA will undertake an ongoing program of regulatory action against non-genuine providers, bad-faith operators and professional facilitators who seek to undermine the integrity of the VET sector and exploit Australia's visa system and where necessary, the qualifications they issued.

Regulatory practice

ASQA will continue to apply best practice regulation. We will employ an appropriate mix of education, compliance, performance assessments and monitoring and enforcement tools to support continuous improvement, while proactively preventing, managing, and addressing key risks. Regular reviews and adjustments of our priorities and practices will be undertaken to align with evolving social, technological, and commercial contexts, ensuring our regulatory approach remains agile and responsive, including to emerging issues and matters of importance to the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council (SWMC).

We recognise Government's investment in our digital and data capability and will leverage this investment to improve our regulatory efficiency and service delivery. Our holistic, outcomes-focused approach will prioritise systemic improvements and ensure that our technology solutions align with our strategic objectives while remaining adaptable to evolving policy, legislation, and sector requirements.

As our data and intelligence capability matures, we will continue to enhance our ability to identify emerging risks, track sector trends, and support real-time decision-making - enabling earlier intervention, more targeted regulatory action, better protection of student interests and greater confidence in the sector.

Collaboration and stewardship

We will work collaboratively within the VET and tertiary system and particularly with key stakeholders responsible for the quality, reputation and effective regulation of the VET sector. We will harness opportunities for collaboration and collective stewardship of the sector with its peak bodies.

In particular, we will work alongside the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the Department of Education to support ongoing policy development and reform to facilitate a more harmonised approach between VET and higher education and support the development and introduction of new measures that further strengthen our ability to take action to:

- deter and remove non-genuine or unscrupulous RTOs
- apply greater scrutiny to new RTOs seeking to enter the VET sector, and
- ensure the integrity of individual qualifications and statements of attainment.

We will continue to strengthen our working relationships across government, including other VET regulators, state and territory officials and departments, other Commonwealth and industry agencies, Jobs and Skills Australia, Jobs and Skills Councils and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. Our continued collaboration with state and territory governments remains vital to effective regulation and delivery of shared outcomes under the

National Skills Agreement, and we are strengthening these partnerships to ensure local insights inform national regulatory responses.

We will also continue to actively participate, alongside other government and law enforcement agencies, in multi-jurisdictional intelligence-sharing and coordinated responses through initiatives such as Operation Inglenook and the Fraud Fusion Taskforce.

We recognise and will progress opportunities, in alignment with DEWR, to engage with our international counterparts to deepen our understanding of respective regulatory environments, risks and approaches to best practice regulation.

Our primary focus is protecting the well-being of, and ensuring quality outcomes for, the students of Australian VET.

Driving ASQA's performance through the leadership of the CEO

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

We are proud of our regulatory innovation and improved organisational capability in recent years and will continue to build on these by embedding adaptive regulatory approaches that anticipate change, harness digital advancements, and reflect the evolving nature of the VET sector.

We will continue to focus on building staff well-being, morale and capability to support a high-performance, values-driven culture. Through our 2025-28 Workforce Plan and in alignment with the APS Workforce Strategy, we will pursue improved outcomes and value for all stakeholders through the effective 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 to provide high-quality, evidence-based data and advice to the Minister, and to the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council, on addressing risk in the sector.

We will measure our success through clear performance measures which are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect the current environment. These include increasing the percentage of providers compliant with the revised Standards for RTOs and demonstrating effective self-assurance practices.

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 reflected in our corporate plans and annual reports, which are also published on www.transparency.gov.au.



Saxon Rice
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Skills Quality Authority

27 May 2025