



ASQA STATEMENT OF INTENT

Response to the Minister for Skills and Training's Statement of Expectations

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to provide this Statement of Intent in response to the Hon Andrew Giles MP's Statement of Expectations dated 22 December 2025. This statement outlines how the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) will meet the Minister's expectations while delivering on our statutory mandate and advancing our vision for a high-quality, trusted vocational education and training (VET) sector that supports Australia's productivity and prosperity.

ASQA's purpose is to ensure quality VET so that students, industry, governments and the community have confidence in the integrity of national qualifications. Our powers are articulated under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* (NVTR Act 2011).

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

ASQA's 2025-26 Corporate Plan sets out three strategic objectives that directly align with the Minister's expectations and guide our stewardship of the VET sector:

1. Supporting uplift in sector capability and capacity to deliver high-quality training and assessment
2. Maturing our regulatory approach to provider compliance and conduct, including through differentiated regulation
3. Building an effective, agile, and productive organisation.

These objectives reflect our commitment to being not just a regulator, but a steward of the VET system – working collaboratively with providers, government, and stakeholders to strengthen the sector's capability and reputation.

OUR VISION FOR AUSTRALIA'S VET SECTOR

Our vision is a VET sector that is trusted, high-performing, and responsive to Australia's evolving skills needs – a sector that is inclusive, and where learners can access quality training for initial skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling at every stage of their education and career journey.

We envision a sector that protects students, with strong safeguards against fraudulent providers and poor-quality training. A sector that supports innovation, with regulatory frameworks that enable new approaches to delivery while maintaining quality standards. And a sector that contributes to national productivity, with reduced regulatory burden enabling providers to focus on what matters most – quality training delivery.

ASQA's role as regulator is to enable this vision through smart, proportionate, risk-based regulation that supports quality while protecting integrity. All staff at ASQA play a role in achieving this vision—through the decisions we make, the insights we generate, and the support we provide to a sector that underpins Australia's productivity.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING TRUST

Quality and Integrity

We will support quality across the VET sector by embedding the [2025 Standards for Registered Training Organisations](#) and reinforcing the shift to outcome-focused regulation. Embedding the 2025 Standards includes emphasising outcomes over inputs, focusing on continuous improvement, and provides timely, tailored feedback to providers. Evidence-based assessments will help uplift provider capability while ensuring rigorous oversight where risks to students, industry or integrity are identified.

Targeting Non-Genuine Providers

We will use the full extent of our regulatory powers, including penalties, sanctions, and collaboration with law enforcement and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, to pursue fraudulent and non-genuine providers. Our enhanced intelligence gathering and swift regulatory action will continue to build trust across the sector. We will report to the Minister (bi-annually) on our enforcement, digital innovations and impact on productivity.

Risk Management

We will monitor risks to students and the community, particularly in sectors representing higher risk to community safety, with systems and processes to manage and mitigate these risks while communicating actions and decisions clearly and transparently.

Digital Transformation

Our ongoing digital transformation program will deliver solutions to better equip ASQA to make data-driven risk assessments and access market intelligence, with more efficient use of technology supporting the government's productivity focus. This includes implementation of contemporary IT systems, an enhanced provider portal, secure information exchange with fraud prevention agencies, and safe adoption of artificial intelligence. We will provide regular updates to the Minister on our AI adoption in accordance with the Digital Transformation Agency's Policy for the responsible use of AI in government.

Cost Recovery

We will consult on our updated cost recovery model in 2026 and issue a revised Cost Recovery Implementation Statement that promotes efficiency, improves productivity and transparency, and ensures ASQA operates as a fully cost-recovered agency in line with the Australian Government Charging Framework. An annual review of fees and charges will be undertaken to ensure they remain appropriate, transparent and reflective of service delivery costs.

Evidence-Based Advice

We will draw on the expertise and knowledge of the National Vocational Education and Training Advisory Council to improve our regulatory practice and performance. We will provide high-quality, evidence-based data and advice to the Minister, Skills and Workforce Ministers, and Skills Senior Officials, keeping the Minister informed of matters relevant to VET quality and integrity, ASQA's performance, and productivity impacts.

RISK-BASED AND PROPORTIONATE APPROACHES

Regulatory Reform and Smart Regulation

We are actively pursuing the regulatory reform opportunities outlined in our 1 August 2025 response to the joint letter from the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance. ASQA's regulatory approach is fundamentally aligned with the six principles of the Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework: proportionality, consistency, transparency, accountability, agility, and collaboration.

Our smart regulation approach operates through removing low-value activities, streamlining process, reducing administrative burden and refining our risk-based approach. This approach recognises that not all providers pose the same level of risk or require the same level of regulatory oversight.

ASQA will proactively implement legislative developments and pursue amendments as required to ensure our powers remain contemporary, effective and aligned with any regulatory reform objectives.

Active Use of Regulatory Tools

We will actively use our regulatory tools and powers to ensure compliance, quality and integrity of the VET sector, modelling regulatory best practice in decision-making policies and processes. Our decisions will be evidence-based and proportionate, procedurally fair and transparent, and clearly communicated.

COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Government Partnerships

ASQA recognises that effective regulation requires strong partnerships across government. We will continue to engage and collaborate with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) to improve quality and respond to integrity issues in domestic and international VET sectors. We will continue to work with the Department of Education, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, and the Australian Tertiary Education Commission on international education, tertiary harmonisation, and relevant cross-sector matters. We will also explore opportunities to collaborate with other regulators to address false and misleading advertising of VET outcomes, protect students, and contribute to improving the perception of the sector.

ASQA will continue to work closely with security and intelligence partner agencies to meet community expectations for strong inter-agency collaboration, applying a 'no wrong door' approach. We will continue to intelligence sharing and data use to safeguard students, protect the community and uphold the integrity of the VET sector.

Sector Collaboration

ASQA is committed to working collaboratively with the VET sector and its stakeholders. We will continue to share information and work with other VET stakeholders, including 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. We recognise that collaboration is about building shared understanding, developing collective capability, and working toward common goals for sector improvement.

International Engagement

We will consider the international regulatory operating context and engage with regulatory bodies relevant to our role, functions, and environment. This includes delivering on our program of work to advance outcomes in relation to the Australia-India Education and Skills Council priorities and progressively maturing our approach to regulating Australian VET delivered offshore.

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

As ASQA's CEO, I am committed to building staff well-being, morale, and capability to support a high-performance culture. Our approach includes implementing our Workforce Plan with strategies aligned to our organisational values, continuous improvement of workforce capabilities including in the use of artificial intelligence, and diversity and inclusion strategies that build an inclusive workplace, promote improved productivity, and reflect the Australian community we serve.

I will report to the Minister in six months on the impact of ASQA's wellbeing and capability-building activities, detailing outcomes that support greater productivity across the organisation, and maintain bi-annual reporting on these matters.

I am committed to ensuring robust corporate governance by continuously strengthening ASQA's enterprise risk management and compliance arrangements, audit and fraud control frameworks. Integrity will remain central to our financial stewardship, procurement practices, decision-making processes and performance reporting.

We are also focused on strengthening our digital and data capabilities to drive regulatory efficiency, working in partnership with DEWR to protect against cyberthreats and data breaches, and maintaining robust ICT governance, risk management, and assurance frameworks.

ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING PERFORMANCE

ASQA is committed to transparent reporting on our performance and progress against the Minister's expectations. Consistent with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), we will integrate this Statement of Intent into our 2026-27 Corporate Plan development process, ensuring the Minister's expectations are embedded. Progress will be reported in our 2025-26 Annual Report, including clear articulation of outcomes achieved and challenges encountered.

We will maintain regular engagement with the Minister's office and DEWR, providing timely updates on significant matters. We will publish Key Performance Indicators and service standards that demonstrate our progress, including specific measures related to implementation of the 2025 Standards, use of regulatory powers, productivity improvements, stakeholder satisfaction, and organisational capability.

SUPPORTING ASQA'S SUCCESS

We acknowledge the Minister's commitment to providing an enabling environment for ASQA to meet these expectations. We value the Minister's undertaking to keep us informed of policy direction and priorities, and to support our engagement with other portfolio ministers and state and territory skills ministers. This collaborative approach is essential to ensuring ASQA can effectively deliver on our mandate while remaining responsive to the government's evolving priorities for the VET sector.

CONCLUSION

This Statement of Intent outlines ASQA's commitment to meeting the Minister's expectations while delivering on our statutory mandate and advancing our vision for the VET sector under the PGPA Act and the NVR Act. We have entered a critical period for VET regulation, with implementation of the 2025 Standards for RTOs, advancement of our smart regulation agenda, digital transformation, and strengthened action against non-genuine providers. Through these concurrent programs of work, we will drive improved quality and integrity outcomes while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden and supporting productivity growth.

I am confident that ASQA has the capability, commitment, and collaborative approach needed to meet the Minister's expectations and contribute to the government's priorities for a strong VET system that places skills at the centre of our national agenda.

I look forward to working with the Minister, DEWR, and all our stakeholders to achieve these important objectives.



Saxon Rice

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Skills Quality Authority
18 February 2026