Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority

ASQA

VET Sector Strategic Forum Communiqué

August 2026

A meeting of the VET Sector Strategic Forum (VSSF) was convened on 27 August 2026 to provide updates and progress on shared priorities and areas of current regulatory focus.

Update from ASQA

ASQA's CEO, Saxon Rice, provided an update on developments since the previous meeting of the VSSF, including the introduction of ASQA's revised Regulatory Assessment and Monitoring Approach, publication of ASQA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2026-27 and 2026-27 Regulatory Risk Priorities, and discussed ASQA's increased focus on provider governance as an underpinning driver of quality and integrity across the sector. Members noted the 2026-27 Regulatory Risk Priorities reflect enduring risk themes recognised by providers. Members shared positive early observations regarding ASQA's revised Regulatory Assessment and Monitoring Approach, including consistency in regulatory approaches, and highlighted the value of practical case studies to support effective governance practices. The CEO acknowledged members' contribution to ASQA's Principles for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in VET and noted further guidance is to be released in the near future.

2026-27 Regulatory Risk Priorities

ASQA outlined the 2026-27 Regulatory Risk Priorities, which focus on four interconnected areas and discussed priority risks relating to *Provider governance, market conduct and non-genuine operations* –reflecting that risks associated with governance shape the operating environment in which all other risks arise. ASQA reinforced that governance risks are not constrained to non-genuine operators and are relevant to all providers, amplifying delivery and assessment integrity risks, undermining training quality and consistency, and increasing vulnerability to exploitation. Members affirmed the value of case studies, podcasts, videos and bite-sized communications to share examples of good practice – and the importance of opportunities for engagement with the regulator outside of compliance settings to support engagement and build confidence in discussions about governance.

Quality and Integrity in VET

ASQA provided an update on progress against Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council priorities for quality and integrity in the VET sector. This includes work to strengthen information sharing between regulators and jurisdictions, increase transparency of information about provider performance, and improve the utility of Quality Indicator data through a refresh of student and employer surveys. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations provided an overview of this work, noting the surveys are being updated to align with the 2025 Standards, improve the usefulness of data collected, and support provider continuous improvement. Members welcomed the initiative and noted the

importance of ensuring approaches remain practical and relevant across the diverse range of provider operating contexts, ensuring data collected generates meaningful insights.

Members discussed the relationship between transparency, governance and continuous improvement, noting the role open disclosure can play in building confidence in providers and the sector. Members provided views on approaches to increasing transparency and open disclosure, including how providers can be encouraged to publish performance information and continuous improvement activities, and what information would be most valuable for students and employers. Members shared examples of governance and reporting practices, and discussed opportunities to improve access to information regarding provider quality, compliance and regulatory outcomes.

Other Business

Members discussed changes to reporting requirements relating to education agent commissions, and were encouraged to contact ASQA between meetings if operational matters arise.

Attendees

Australian Skills Quality Authority

Chief Executive Officer, Saxon Rice

Executive Director, Transformation and Reform, Katerina Lawler

A/g Executive Director, Integrity and Compliance, Christian Hesse

Adult Learning Australia

Learning Projects Manager, Nicole Innes

Community Education Australia (CEA)

Chief Executive Officer, Russ Hawkins

Enterprise Registered Training Organisation Association

President, Pamela Simon

Independent Higher Education Australia

Chief of Policy, Dr James Hart

Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia

Chief Executive Officer, Felix Pirie

National Indigenous Employment and Training Alliance

Chief Executive Officer, Kylie Penehoe

TAFE Directors Australia

Executive Director, Policy and Governance, Dr Teressa Schmidt

Invited Guests

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

A/g Assistant Secretary, VET Quality and Regulation Branch, Rosie Hunt-Walshe

Director, VET Quality Policy team, Eliza Patrick

Apologies

English Australia

Chief Executive Officer, Ian Aird