Independent Review of the Vocational Education and Training Sector in Western Australia

Terms of Reference

In 2012, Western Australia signed up to the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. The National Partnership is a Commonwealth-State funding agreement that outlines a range of significant national reforms designed to create a more accessible and equitable training system, focusing on improved quality and responsiveness to individuals and industry.

Central to these reforms is the introduction in January 2014 of a student entitlement model in Western Australia leading to a more competitive VET market.

Reforms under the National Partnership will provide skills that Australian businesses and individuals need to succeed in a rapidly changing economy and these changes present both risks and opportunities for the sector.

In the context of these reforms, the Minister for Training and Workforce Development has initiated this review to provide advice on the impact of these reforms and recommendations on:

1. A model for the most appropriate level of autonomy for metropolitan and regional State Training Providers including:
   a) The capacity of State Training Providers to operate in the new purchasing environment of the entitlement model;
   b) The appropriate level of accountability and responsibility for the State Training Providers to operate in the new purchasing environment;
   c) The appropriate level of commercial activity, specialisation through centres of excellence, and competition and how to achieve this;
   d) How to ensure the state’s training needs are best met and that areas of training that are less commercially attractive are still catered for;
   e) The value of single desk marketing, as conducted by Education and Training International, within the proposed model;
   f) The role and functions the Department of Training and Workforce Development will have in supporting the proposed model; and
   g) Any legislative reform required to deliver the proposed model.
2. Strategies to support the growth of regional State Training Providers in a more open market, including:

   a) the potential for partnerships between regional and metropolitan State Training Providers; and

   b) Opportunities for partnerships between State Training Providers, industry, universities and private training providers.

3. A framework for streamlined information flows from industry and the VET sector to the Minister, including:

   a) the role of Industry Training Councils, State Training Board, Training Accreditation Council and the Department of Training and Workforce Development in provision of information and how this advice is provided.

**Project Management**

The review will report directly to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development and be supported by the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

**Duration of Inquiry**

The Inquiry shall present its report and recommendations to the Minister by 30 April 2014.

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