



Better Skills
Better Work
Better State



Government of South Australia
Training and Skills Commission

Communique

6 April, 2017

The Training and Skills Commission (TaSC) met on 6 April 2017 at the TAFE SA Tonsley Campus Boardroom.

The second Commission meeting for 2017 confirmed governance arrangements, discussion priority policy items and collateral and confirmed details for the launch of the Commission's *Skills for Future Jobs 2020* series.

Quality of VET Training and Assessment

The Commission considered a paper outlining the current thinking around training and assessment and the quality of VET teaching.

Two main areas of activity that are relevant to this topic include:

- The requirement for all VET practitioners to add two or more units of competency to their existing TAE qualification by 1 April 2019; and
- The review of the TAE Training Package and consideration by ASQA about whether a Diploma should be required for trainers to teach the TAE. A report in response to a Commonwealth discussion paper on the issue of the *Quality of Assessment in VET* is expected to go to the next national meeting of Ministers for consideration.

The Commission supports the notion of increasing the quality of VET teacher training, however is concerned about the time allowed for transition. One of the key considerations is the lack of RTO's in South Australia who have the new TAE qualifications on scope. There are only two and they are based in Queensland.

The Commission will therefore be proposing that an extension of 12 months be considered for the teach-out period, allowing sufficient time for further RTO's to be approved by ASQA to deliver this qualification in South Australia.

TaSC Committees

The Commission has established a number of sub-committees to oversight specific aspects of the Commission's statutory obligations and other areas of policy interest and activity. They include:

- Traineeship and Apprenticeship Committee
- Economic and Social Investment Sub-Committee
- Training Awards Sub-Committee
- Stakeholder Engagement Sub-Committee

The Commission received reports from each of the Chairs.

The Traineeships and Apprenticeships Sub-Committee reported they are formalising a work plan for the year, including work on a review of Guidelines for persons who supervise apprentices or trainees, along with a further review of the Traineeship and Apprenticeship Pathways Schedule (TAPS).

The Economic and Social Investment Sub-Committee will provide a focus (initially) on the production of a policy paper on the Adult Community Education (ACE) sector. It was noted that an external industry representative has agreed to be a member of the sub-committee.

The Training Awards Sub-Committee reported that activity to promote the 2017 awards was well underway and that the sub-committee had facilitated and hosted Individual and Organisational Training Awards workshops on 27 March.

The Stakeholder Engagement Sub-Committee's role is primarily to identify opportunities to improve the Commission's approach to stakeholder engagement, and proposed a range of options for further refining the role of Commission Members in engagement with regional communities in particular.

Defence Teaming Centre

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive of the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) who provided an overview of the strategic direction for DTC. Ms Forster discussed training and employment opportunities in light of the future defence projects to be based in South Australia.

Skills and Employment

The Commission heard from the Manager Skills and Employment Initiatives, Department of State Development the outcomes of WorkReady Jobs First activity approved in 2015-2016.

New rounds of Jobs First and STL projects will commence in May 2017.

The Commission has some concerns about the cost of projects and has requested additional detailed information to assist with discussion and deliberations at a future TaSC meeting.

2020 Series

A key initiative is the development of *Skills for Future Jobs 2020* which seeks to explore the skills and workforce development needs of the state through a *series* of policy papers. This approach is supported by robust economic modelling and an evidence-based assessment of industry growth potential and associated future demand for skills and qualifications. The Writing Group has developed a program of publications, along with a 'lens' through which these papers will be developed.

South Australian Training Awards

The Chair of the Awards Sub-Committee confirmed Commission Members' roles and responsibilities as Chairs of the award judging panels, as well as providing key dates and an update on Award Sponsors. Nominations continue to track well with an anticipated increase in applications for the 2017 awards.

Following the Commission Meeting, Members were provided with a hosted tour of the TAFE SA Tonsley Campus by TAFE SA Educational Managers, followed by an overview of Tonsley as an 'Innovation Precinct' by Renewal SA's Tonsley Precinct Director.

The Commission expresses its thanks to TAFE SA for hosting the Commission Meeting and for providing the tour of its industry-leading facilities.

Upcoming Events:

The Commission will be undertaking a Regional Visit on 18 and 19 May in Port Lincoln.

The Launch of Skills for Future Jobs 2020 Series will be held on Monday 29 May, 10am to 12 noon.

The next Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 June 2017.