



**(1a)** The DEWR plays a national role in the governance, financing, and overarching policy development for the Australian VET system, working cooperatively with state and territory skills departments. Three areas overseen by DEWR are: 1. Skills and Training; 2. Employment 3. Workplace Relations

**(1b)** **State and territory training authorities** are responsible for the operation of the VET system within their state or territory. Each training authority participates in the formulation of national policy, planning and objectives, and promotes and implements agreed policies and priorities within the state or territory, supported by statutory advisory and regulatory bodies.

**(2)** **Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council (SWMC)** is made up of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for the skills portfolio. The SWMC provides an advisory mechanism for national cooperation across the VET system and on the intersection of skills and training policy with workforce issues.

**(3)** **Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)** was established by legislation through a new **Jobs and Skills Australia Act 2022**.

JSA is a secondary statutory authority independent of government but administered by DEWR and fully funded by the Australian Government. It provides independent advice to DEWR and SWMC on current, emerging, and future workforce, skills, and training needs.

JSA works closely with ten (10) Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs) to:

- Support the effective operation of JSCs by providing baseline, whole-of-economy data and insights on current, emerging and future skills needs, data on VET system activity and performance.
- Integrate the sector-specific insights generated by JSCs into its analysis and advice and rely on feedback from JSCs as key users to continuously improve its data products.
- Work closely with relevant JSCs when tasked with conducting deep-dive capacity studies into priority sectors.

**(4)** **Jobs and Skills Council (JSCs)** are established under the **Corporations Act 2001**.

10 JSCs were established through an open tender process by DEWR.

DEWR identified the number of JSCs to be established (10), the name of each JSC and the eligibility requirements before bid opening (based on industry groupings from the National Skills Commission at the time). National Skills Commission has now been abolished with the passage of the Jobs and Skills Australia.

Organisations bid for the implementation of each JSC. The JSC, once awarded, operates as not-for-profit. An independent voice that is industry-led. JSCs have strong governance arrangements in place to support a high level of industry engagement for the sectors within their remit.

**Key functions:** (i) Workforce Planning, (ii) **Training product** Development, (iii) Industry Stewardship, (iv) Implementation, Promotion and Monitoring. (**Training products** include training packages and accredited courses).

**(5a)** **Training packages** specify the knowledge and skills required by individuals to perform effectively in the workplace, expressed in **units of competency**. Training packages also detail how units of competency can be packaged into nationally recognised and portable qualifications that comply with the AQF.

Training packages are used for a range of purposes, but predominantly:

- by training providers, to design training curriculum
- by employers, to assist with workforce design, development, and structure.

**(5b)** **Accredited courses** are developed when a training need is not covered by a training package (but may be developed to meet the needs of emerging or specialist industries) and a course needs to be nationally recognised.

Accreditation means a course which has been independently assessed by ASQA or a state regulator and meets the [Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021](#) and [Australian Qualification Framework](#).

**(6)** **VET regulators** are independent bodies responsible for the registration and audit of registered training organisations (RTOs), and the accreditation of courses in the VET sector.

ASQA is the national VET regulator. It is responsible for regulating approximately 90% of Australian VET providers<sup>1</sup>. ASQA's regulation of Australia's VET sector is supported by the VET Quality Framework (VQF). ASQA is also subject to the [National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Regulations 2011](#).

**(7)** **Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)**

Regardless of the provider, an organisation must be registered as a RTO with ASQA to deliver and assess nationally recognised training and issue nationally recognised qualifications and statements of attainment, as well as apply for government funding to provide VET services. There are approximately 4000 RTOs in Australia.

**(8)** **Well-qualified trainers and assessors** play a vital role in educating and skilling Australia's workforce. The requirements for trainers and assessors delivering nationally recognised training at an RTO are set out in the Standards for RTOs.

**(9)** **VET students**

In 2022, 4.5 million students<sup>1</sup> were enrolled in VET. They included:

**2.1 million** students enrolled in nationally recognised programs  
**3.0 million** students enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program.

**(10)** **The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)**

NCVER is the national professional body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian vocational education and training (VET) sector.