
TAFE AGED CARE TASKFORCE (TACT) TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety places high priority on improving the skills and attributes of carers and professionals in aged care. Success is likely shaped by bringing a workforce development perspective to lifting the overall capability of the care workforce, including the use of solid career pathways. New approaches to skills development and education are also key to success.

These are key responses that Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes can develop in conjunction with industry partners. The TAFE Aged Care Taskforce (TACT) is being formed so TAFEs as a network can contribute to this important work.

Purpose

TACT brings together specialised educationalists from across Australia's national network of publicly owned TAFE institutes and university TAFE divisions. The taskforce provides educational leadership in aged care through policy and strategy advice, underpinned by existing and emerging workforce skills needs which is expected to be made available as part of the Government's response to the commission's recommendations.

The public education sector plays a pivotal role in attracting students to the care industry through high quality training for the aged care workforce. This taskforce establishes a new mechanism for collaboration between key aged care stakeholders with the formation of a consolidated representative group of public education providers.

The standard of aged care education and training directly impacts the quality of care delivered to older Australians. This taskforce promotes contemporary better practice, advocates for systemic improvements and leverages its reach and scale to partner as a key enabler of aged care quality reform.

Members will apply a collegial approach to build on shared experiences, reduce duplication and amplify the effectiveness of the public education system to respond to the education and training needs of the aged care sectors.

Terms of Reference

1. Provide strategic advice and recommendations on:
 - key policy issues relating to aged care workforce development, including regulation, accreditation and education
 - workforce development issues impacting on aged care workers
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- policies, regulation and funding in VET and Higher Education that impact on aged care education
 - opportunities to embed better practice approaches to educational delivery, models of care and research in aged care
2. Provide advice to relevant bodies engaged in Aged Care workforce development relating to leading practice education, training design and workforce development. e.g. Aged Care Workforce Industry Council, Human Services Skills Organisation, Aged Care Services and associated Industry Reference Committees, the Australian Industry and Skills Committee, Commonwealth and State government departments and agencies, and any bodies yet to be established as a result of the findings and recommendations of the Aged Care Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
 3. Provide a forum for discussion regarding matters which affect aged care education and practice.
 4. Inform and contribute to national VET reform agendas, including formal industry arrangements through the Human Services Skills Organisation (HSSO) and the Skills Service Organisation (SSO) and through the review and development of training packages for aged care, ageing, and related health and disability qualifications where appropriate.
 5. Support industry, employers and businesses to engage with aged care educators to promote pathways and programs.
 6. Provide responses where relevant to reports and reviews on aged care education including the findings and recommendations of the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
 7. Raise the profile of aged care work as a career of choice.
 8. Receive reports from members who are representing the TACT or TDA on committees and to provide those members with feedback or a collective view on matters raised.

Membership

Membership is open to all interested TAFE institutes (including from dual sector universities). Members are asked to have good understanding of the delivery and regulatory requirements in aged care. Members must be authorised to represent their institution in operational and strategic decision making.

Meetings

The TACT will meet bi-monthly. In addition:

- the TACT will look to operate over the period it takes to respond to the findings of the Royal Commission and while collaboration across TAFEs produce ongoing benefits to TAFEs and the aged care workforce

- the chair operates for an initial period of two (2) years and rotate after this period if the TACT continues
- the taskforce will meet through video conferencing
- the taskforce will liaise with relevant persons/organisations as required
- TACT acknowledges that all operational decisions remain with TAFEs
- Minutes will be reported, actions tabled and decisions (about feedback and advocacy) made by majority agreement

Quorum

A quorum for the meeting shall consist of half the members, plus one.