

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFE welcomes Employment White Paper recommendations

Australia's TAFE sector welcomes the positive initiatives that will further drive skills creation and workforce capacity that are a central part of the federal government's Employment White Paper.

The White Paper's focus on priority sectors of the economy, on the role of TAFE in helping to develop economy-wide skills and qualifications, and on the need to engage learners across the breadth of their careers are particularly important.

The fast-tracked funding of \$31 million for six TAFE Centres of Excellence as part of the National Skills Agreement is very welcome at a time when Australia needs to focus on high needs areas of the economy, such as emissions reductions, the care sector and digitisation.

These centres will be innovation hubs where TAFEs, industry, Jobs and Skills Councils and universities will combine to deliver cutting edge training and upskilling to students, both for their current occupations, as well as for the careers of the future.

TAFE also welcomes the advent of new higher apprenticeships at the Bachelor degree level that will be delivered through TAFE.

"This is a landmark development with the capacity to transform the way that formal learning and on-the-job work experience are combined at the degree level," the CEO of TAFE Directors Australia, Jenny Dodd said.

"The apprenticeship pathway is well established and recognised in the trades, and there is now the opportunity to apply this model to deliver formal training combined with employment at a higher level.

"The TAFE sector is particularly pleased that it will be at the forefront of delivering, independently, a new work-based learning model at the bachelor level. The work and learn model is core to TAFE and we welcome the expansion of TAFE expertise to apply it to higher skills levels," Ms Dodd said.

TAFE also welcomes the initiative to investigate a national skills passport, as a positive step in enabling learners to progress through their careers with ready access to a trusted portal where credentials can be shared with employers.

TDA looks forward to participating in the design process and ensuring that there is careful consideration of the needs of learners and employers.

It will be critical that the passport can be relied on to show evidence of completed qualifications, micro credentials, skillsets and licences, as well as accurately reflecting recognition of prior learning (RPL).

TAFEs across the country welcome the opportunity to work with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of last year's Jobs and Skills Summit can now be fully realised through the Employment White Paper.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also non-university higher education providers.