

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFEs welcome steps to enhance integrity of vocational training

The TAFE sector today welcomed steps to strengthen safeguards for vocational education and training students flowing from legislation introduced into the federal parliament.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) Chief Executive Officer Jenny Dodd said TAFEs strongly support measures aimed at enhancing integrity in the VET sector by stepping up compliance and enforcement.

“We welcome these steps to identify and remove non-genuine training providers who do harm to students, as well as to Australia’s reputation for quality vocational education and training.

“We owe it to all students undertaking VET that they will not be misled or exploited in their endeavours to start their careers or gain vital skills for the future,” Ms Dodd said.

The new legislation, the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment (Strengthening Quality and Integrity in Vocational Education and Training No. 1) Bill 2024*, will give the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) greater powers to identify and remove unscrupulous training providers and set higher standards for entry to the VET market.

It follows a number of reviews of the VET system over the past decade that have identified a range of unethical and illegal activities by a minority of training providers, the most recent being the Nixon review.

The new legislation will see the registration of training providers automatically lapse where they have not delivered training and/or assessment for 12 months – so-called ‘dormant’ providers. It will also prevent providers from expanding course offering if they have been operating for less than two years.

The Bill gives the Minister broad power to determine that a registered training organisation (RTO) or a class of RTOs should not be registered in the event of “unsustainable influxes into the VET sector”, that could be associated with exploitative behaviour.

Ms Dodd said the changes build on steps that have been taken over the past year to enhance integrity in the VET sector and support the work of Australia’s world-leading TAFEs to develop and deliver skills for the future.

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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.