



TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA (TDA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**TAFE
DIRECTORS
AUSTRALIA**

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#POWEROFTAFE

Introduction

This Annual Report reflects the activities and achievements of TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2023.

About TAFE Directors Australia (TDA)

TDA is the national peak body, incorporated in 1998, to represent Australia's public Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and the TAFE divisions of dual sector universities.

The national TAFE network of public providers delivers a comprehensive and integrated range of tertiary education for individuals, businesses, and communities across Australia. This comprehensive offering is focused on vocational education and training (VET), embracing all Australian industries, apprenticeship training to service critical demand areas, the full suite of Australian Qualification Framework levels as qualifications, skill sets and foundation skills. Ten of the 28 TDA member institutes also provide higher education services alongside VET, while a further six TDA members are TAFE divisions of dual sector universities.

TAFEs operate in [metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations](#), providing vocational and higher education programs and services which occurs on TDA member campuses, smaller training locations, through online learning, in workplaces, in secondary schools and in offshore international economies.

In focusing on its students, TDA members enable students' education and training aspirations and equip them for their career ambitions as part of entry level acquisition of qualifications, life-long learning and re-skilling. TAFE students can be youthful, mature, from international locations, migrants, regionally located, diverse. During 2023 TDA members have sought to foster opportunities for all students to participate in learning with particular attention to access, equity and inclusion through Fee-Free TAFE enrolments.

TDA's core business is to support its members with policy and advocacy for TAFEs' important role in meeting Australia's need for increased productivity, participation and workforce skills. TAFEs also have an important role in serving their communities, especially across regional, rural and remote Australia where other education bodies do not operate.

Our purpose is to:

- Provide services for members to meet current and emerging priorities
- Position TAFE nationally as the major provider of high-quality skills and vocational education and training
- Advance technical and further education policy to support industry growth in Australia

- Lead advocacy for improved outcomes for students, both domestically and internationally
- Facilitate opportunities for growth, collaboration and partnerships in national and international settings.

TDA Vision

TAFE is recognised as a pre-eminent provider of tertiary education in Australia and as a global standard in vocational education and training.

TDA Mission

To champion TAFE institutes by enhancing their reputation and brand, leading policy thinking, influencing decision-makers, and advising and supporting TAFEs.

National Board Members in 2023

Mary Faraone | Chair (*re-appointed as Chair in June 2022*) | CEO | Holmesglen Institute

Christine Robertson | Interim Board Member (*appointed November 2022 while Leanne Cover on extended leave*) | Interim CEO | Canberra Institute of Technology

David Coltman | Deputy Chair (*re-appointed June 2022*) | CEO | TAFE SA

Mary Campbell | Board Member (*re-appointed June 2022 until June 2023*) | CEO | TAFE Queensland

John Tucker | Board Member (*appointed July 2023*) | CEO | TAFE Queensland

Grant Dreher | Board Member (*re-appointed June 2022*) | CEO | TasTAFE

Terry Durant | Board Member (*re-appointed June 2022 until August 2023*) | Managing Director | South Metropolitan TAFE, WA

Joanne Payne | Board Member (*appointed September 2023*) | Managing Director | Central Regional TAFE, WA

Sam Jacob | Board Member (*re-appointed June 2022 until January 2023*) | Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and VET | Charles Darwin University, NT

Michael Hamilton | Board Member (*appointed February 2023*) | Pro Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive TAFE | Charles Darwin University, NT

Stephen Brady | Board Member (*re-appointed June 2022*) | Managing Director | TAFE NSW

Executive staff in 2023

Jenny Dodd | CEO TDA | (*August 2021 – current*)

Report from TDA Chair and CEO - Mary Faraone and Jenny Dodd

During 2023 TDA delivered on its strategic objectives and achieved significant outcomes. TDA advocated for the central role of TAFE in both vocational and higher education, led and supported an increasing number of TAFE networks, and facilitated opportunities for members to gain expert advice and intelligence on developments in tertiary education.

The year began with TDA members looking forward to the introduction or continuation of fee-free TAFE. This was a very welcomed initiative, which saw our members working together to share operational approaches and lessons learned. The establishment of this important new TDA network demonstrated how the national networks that TDA facilitated can support the implementation of policy. All other national networks were also vital support for TDA's advocacy positions.

From an advocacy perspective, TDA supported its members to contribute to the development of the National Skills Agreement (NSA). The centrality of the public provider in the NSA released at the end of the year was very well received.

Other major areas where TDA provided policy leadership and advocacy related to submissions on the draft RTO Standards, feedback into the Qualification Reform Design Group, and membership of the VET workforce blueprint consultation and foundation skills committees.

TDA worked closely with the newly formed Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) and Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC). In relation to JSA, TDA was active in several of their capacity studies, provided leadership on panels at their symposium, and established networks that supported their priorities such as focusing on skills to deliver a net zero emissions economy. In relation to JSCs, TDA invited all new CEOs to join TAFE CEOs and Managing Directors at the TDA CEO dialogue in August where the opportunity for both TAFEs and JSCs to share perspectives was established.

TDA undertook extensive advocacy work with the Universities Accord committee. This included facilitating two meetings between members of the Accord committee and TDA members and making three submissions. Two of these submissions were made public and outlined TDA and its members' visions for a tertiary education sector. The third submission related to the importance of self-accreditation for TAFEs (a pivotal advocacy piece to achieve greater responsiveness to industry and parity with higher education) and how TAFE self-accreditation might be implemented. Through this process TDA worked hard to establish new relationships across the university sector, including with the peak bodies.

TDA conducted two online conferences in 2023, one focusing on access and equity and the other on a more harmonised tertiary education sector, which were extremely successful. These online mini conferences were complemented by a robust series of monthly webinars, *TAFETalks*, all aimed at facilitating opportunities for members to collaborate, demonstrate good practice and innovation, and share knowledge.

Supplementing these events, TDA developed a series of case studies of the work of its members. There were a series of case studies during the period from Reconciliation Day until NAIDOC week about First Nations students and their successes through TDA members. Additionally, there were a series of case studies on industry partnerships and tertiary education pathways. All were aimed at demonstrating the centrality of TAFE to local economies and communities.

TDA gave a lot of attention to making sure that CEO members were kept up-to-date, including through an extensive CEO Bulletin every month. However, the central piece of TDA communication with all its members and stakeholders is thought leadership and information provided through the TDA Monday Newsletter. TDA is committed to delivering this newsletter to over 5,300 subscribers every Monday morning.

From a sustainability point of view TDA has operated fiscally responsibly. In achieving that outcome, the enormous efforts of the small TDA secretariat of less than four full time equivalent staff are acknowledged. TDA also thanks its Corporate Affiliates without whose contributions TDA could not have achieved the successful 2023 outcome.

TDA also thanks the TDA Board and all CEOs and Managing Directors for their support and guidance. TDA's goal is to support the national network of TAFEs and dual sector universities and to advocate on their behalf effectively.

Mary Faraone

TDA Board Chair

Jenny Dodd

TDA Chief Executive Officer

Member Services

Member communications and engagement

TDA maintained its communications with members, partners and stakeholders in 2023 through a variety of platforms including the weekly [TDA newsletter](#), [website](#), [submissions](#), [media releases](#), monthly CEO Bulletins and social media.

The weekly [TDA newsletter](#) continued to have a high rate of engagement including 1,500 new subscribers in 2023 taking the total to over 5,300 subscribers. The newsletter is distributed to members and non-members including TAFE and industry leaders, international partners and government policymakers. It provides thought-provoking content on developments in the tertiary education sector. It shares TDA's and TAFE's national and international ventures, and updates members on the latest industry news, government policies, training reviews and upcoming events. It also provides a vehicle to showcase the great and diverse work of TDA members to a wider audience.

TDA also continued to increase its engagement through its professional networking and social media channels. TDA made over 200 new connections on [LinkedIn](#) throughout 2023 and used the site to engage with a broad range of stakeholders. TDA also engages through its [Facebook page](#) and on [Twitter](#).

Throughout 2023, TDA further consolidated its website content, and continued to add stories which highlight TAFE partnerships with industry as well as information on TDA policy networks and upcoming TDA events.

In the lead up to NAIDOC Week (2-9 July 2023), TDA curated a series of 12 stories profiling First Nations people's leadership in TAFE's to recognise and celebrate the vital work that members nationwide do with First Nations students and communities. TDA Members in every state and territory of Australia contributed to this [First Nations story collection](#).

During 2023, TDA continued to consult regularly with members to shape TDA's position on a range of national policy areas using a variety of strategies including:

- representation on numerous key external committees and forums to provide a TAFE voice (for example, senate enquiries, government committees and reviews, stakeholder liaison groups and so on). Regular reports to the TDA Board supported TDA collaboration with stakeholders and TDA's engagement on the Commonwealth's implementation of VET reform processes.
- TDA CEO delivered presentations at numerous events at which TDA was able to add its voice to promote TAFE and the Australian VET sector more broadly.

The table below includes a sample of some of the Commonwealth committees and advisory groups that TDA participated in on a regular basis during 2023 on behalf of its members.

Name of Committee/Advisory Group	Commonwealth Department/Agency
Ministerial Foundation Skills Advisory Group	Department of Employment and Workplace relations (DEWR)
Australian Universities Accord Steering Committee	Department of Education
National VET Completions Taskforce	Government of South Australia
VET Workforce Blueprint Steering Group	DEWR
ASQA Provider Roundtable	Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
VET Data Streamlining External Reference Group (EURG)	DEWR
National Training Register NTR) VET Users Reference Group	DEWR
VSL Provider Reference Group	DEWR
Education VISA Consultative Committee (EVCC)	Department of Home Affairs
International Education Stakeholder Forum	Department of Education
USI External Reference Group Meeting	Office of Student Identifiers Registrar

Engaging through policy networks

As part of its service to members, TDA convenes or participates in a number of networks, communities of practice and user groups which assist collaboration across the national TAFE network.

These various policy networks continue to be a successful model in bringing in TAFE expertise to the advocacy process and for engaging in the ongoing Commonwealth VET reform agenda. Equally, network members are able to benefit from collaboration and connections across jurisdictions and appreciate the opportunity to influence the national policy agenda. The activities of these networks throughout 2023 are summarised below.

Fee-Free TAFE Network

Following the government’s announcement on 1 September 2022 of 180,000 fee-free TAFE places over the next year, and at the request of its members, TDA convened the Fee-Free TAFE network to facilitate the exchange of ideas, strategies and lessons learned across the national TAFE network to ensure successful implementation and uptake of fee-free TAFE.

Throughout 2023, and with the announcement of further fee-free TAFE places, this network provided a valuable forum for members to support each other through implementation challenges across jurisdictions and resolve issues collectively. The network informed and supported TDA's public policy and advocacy positions relating to fee-free TAFE, which was hugely successful, particularly in providing specific equity cohorts with access to the education and training that they need to obtain well-paid, secure jobs and in bolstering enrolments in areas of national skills priorities.

Workforce Attraction & Retention Network

The Workforce Attraction and Retention Network was convened at the same time as the Fee-Free TAFE network to ensure TAFEs had the necessary workforce in place to support implementation of fee-free TAFE places. In early 2023, the network shared successful strategies to recruit and retain industry professionals, particularly for qualifications where TAFEs are experiencing educator shortages.

The network also informed and supported TDA's public policy and advocacy positions with the Commonwealth including in relation to:

- the barriers posed by the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment; and
- the development of the VET Workforce Blueprint, led by DEWR which aimed to identify effective strategies for attraction, retention, career development and succession planning to support and grow a quality VET workforce.

TDA Policy Network on VET Quality, Regulation and Compliance (QRC)

The TDA Policy Network on VET Quality, Regulation and Compliance (QRC) aims to improve the quality and relevance of TDA member programs by establishing and maintaining supportive regulatory conversations. The QRC pursues regulation reform which supports excellence and innovation. The collective expertise within this national network provides a powerful source of input into TDA's broader public policy and advocacy platform on issues related to quality, regulation and compliance.

In 2023, the QRC provided input on ongoing Commonwealth VET reform initiatives including the revision to the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), qualification design reform, VET data streamlining as well as continued advocacy to ASQA regarding the impact of regulatory approaches on TAFEs. QRC members worked together to reduce duplication of effort across the national TAFE network in terms of training package transitions. This included the implementation of a joint approach to extension applications to ASQA which was coordinated by TAFE Queensland.

QRC members presented to the Qualifications Reform Design Committee in November 2023 regarding the impact on students and TAFE operations of the huge volume of training package transitions over the past few years and provided solutions for qualification design going forward.

From discussions in the QRC, a community of practice on TAFE Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) was also formed. This group met a number of times in 2023 and discussed the impact and use of generative AI across TAFEs. Discussions covered issues such as reducing the administrative load on teachers, use of AI tools, the impact of authenticity on assessments, and institutional policies and practices around AI.

National Enrolled Nursing Advisory Council (NENAC)

TDA established the [National Enrolled Nursing Advisory Council](#) (NENAC) in August 2020 to act as the peak body within Australia to represent TAFEs in all state and territories that offer enrolled nursing programs. NENAC provides strategic comment and advice to both regulatory and core nursing and midwifery organisations on relevant policy and strategy matters relating to enrolled nurses.

In 2023, NENAC advocated strongly on the important role of Enrolled Nurses in the aged care workforce mix noting the unintended consequences of the Federally mandated care minutes for aged care facilities which meant that some aged care providers were no longer employing Enrolled Nurses (EN) or accepting them for placements. Throughout NENAC wrote to and met with a large number of stakeholders in the health and human services sector on this and other workforce issues affecting ENs. These included the under-utilisation of the EN scope of practice, the importance of the Diploma of Nursing for access/equity and pathways for some student cohorts, issues with the training package and assessment burden while on placements, and qualification reform.

NENAC was represented on a number of committees in 2023 including the National Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group, the National Nursing Workforce Strategy Advisory Group and the Regulatory Advisory Group Review of the EN Standards for Practice. NENAC also became a member of the Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO). NENAC met with the Congress of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery (CATSINaM) to discuss the Diploma of Nursing pathway for First Nations peoples and increase the number of First Nations nurses teaching in these programs.

TAFE Aged Care Taskforce (TACT)

The TAFE Aged Care Taskforce (TACT) was formally convened in July 2021 and 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.

In 2023, members shared lessons and best practice on training package transitions, traineeships, student engagement strategies and innovative teaching and learning initiatives. The network saw high levels of engagement of its members with key industry stakeholders (community organisations, government agencies, not for profit bodies and private companies) at a state and national level including the Home Care Workforce Support Program (HCWSP), and the newly established Jobs and Skills Council for health and human services, HumanAbility.

TAFE Higher Education Provider (TAFEHEP) Network

The TAFE Higher Education Provider (TAFEHEP) Network brings together TAFE providers of higher education across Australia. Its aim is to promote collegiality, collaboration and sharing of knowledge about the development, delivery and administration of higher education programs. There are currently ten TAFE Institutes registered as non-university higher education providers (NUHEP) in Australia, that sit alongside the TAFE Divisions of the six dual sector universities that are also members of TDA.

During 2023, the TAFEHEP network had several productive sessions including engagement with TEQSA on streamlining of administration between TEQSA and ASQA. 2023 also saw an increase in collaborative activity between members. Over the year members discussed benchmarking, governance structures, policies on assessment, admission and academic integrity, with a focus on generative artificial intelligence and the challenges this poses for higher education operations. Members of this group also provided case studies into TDA's submissions to the Universities Accord, especially related to advocacy for Commonwealth Supported Places for students choosing TAFE as a their higher education provider.

Dual Sector Network

The TDA Dual Sector Network brings together all six of TDA's dual sector university members which deliver both vocational and higher education in the same institution. During 2023, members shared knowledge and information on matters specific to operating in a dual sector university, with a particular focus on streamlining the regulatory burden on dual sectors providers through dialogue with TEQSA and ASQA. The Dual Sector Network also provided input into TDA's advocacy on key reviews and consultations including the Australian Universities Accord.

Australian TAFE International Network (ATIN)

The purpose of ATIN is to share information and promote exchanges on international activities, both onshore and offshore, across VET and higher education. It also provides a platform for engagement with government for advocacy of TAFE positions from a policy perspective. The network also shares international market updates, circulates business opportunities and promotes cooperation within the network.

In 2023, ATIN responded to policy changes in international education including changes to the ESOS Act, student visas and working rights, PRISMS modernisation and increased integrity measures in the international education sector as a result of the Nixon review and the migration review. ATIN members welcomed the integrity measures announced by the Minister for Education to address the longstanding issues with concurrent confirmation of enrolments, transparent agent commissions and onshore student poaching.

ATIN members engaged via TDA with relevant Commonwealth departments and agencies on operational and regulatory issues (e.g. ASQA, Department of Education, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade) and informed TDA's advocacy for TAFE positioning in the international space.

National Advisory Council for Allied Health

The National Advisory Council for Allied Health was convened in mid-2022 under the leadership of TAFE NSW to provide a national mechanism for VET in allied health to engage strategically with stakeholder groups. Allied health is a large segment of the health and human services workforce, with growing demand for VET trained Allied Health workers.

In 2023, the Council continued its engagement with key industry and education stakeholders in the allied health space including the Council Chair's participation in HumanAbility's Inaugural National Forum on 21-22 November 2023. The Council also worked towards national industry endorsed Allied Health Assistance (AHA) training resources which are co-designed and co-produced with industry. Council members facilitated a workshop at the National Allied Health Conference (NAHC) focused on developing nationally endorsed Allied Health Assistant training resources with the TAFE sector.

In 2023, the Council commenced work on 'how to' share and benchmark core aspects of AHA training content. While some informal sharing occurred prompted by the Council connections, the co-development work on the Certificate IV qualification by TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland is contributing to the Council's understanding of the formalised institution-to-institution processes likely to be required to achieve this goal.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

In 2023, TDA convened a bi-annual forum on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) to provide input on Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority's (ACECQA) national workforce strategy. The group also used the forums to share good practice and discuss common challenges/solutions in the ECEC space, including training package content and implementation. Given the government focus on ECEC, this group provided important input into national studies and initiatives including engagement in ACECQA, HumanAbility and the Jobs and Skills Australia Early Childhood Education and Care capacity study.

Foundation Skills Network

The national Foundation Skills Network was convened in the second half of 2023 for an initial period of 12 months. This was in response to the renewed focus of the Australian Government in supporting adults in Australia to increase their literacy, numeracy, digital literacy (LLND), and employability skills (known collectively as foundation skills) and other initiatives announced in the Federal budget.

The network met twice in 2023 and discussed progress on changes to foundation skills included in the 2023-24 budget and the redesigned Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) foundation skills program.

Network members informed TDA advocacy on the Foundation Skills Advisory Group (of which TDA is a member) convened to oversee the development and redesign of the government's Foundation Skills policy and programs and in other relevant national forums and workstreams including the Jobs and Skills Australia Foundation Skills study.

TAFE Australia Product Network

In 2023, the TAFE Australia Product Network was established to foster external engagement and advocate for the expertise within TAFEs to be used for training product design and development.

The focus of this network in 2023 was on how TAFEs could jointly design and develop training products. TAFE Queensland and TAFE NSW jointly agreed to pilot the development of an allied health qualification. Secondary aims of this network are to engage with Jobs and Skills Councils on their plans for learning resources and assessment development, with government on proposed design and development of common learning material and future collaborations with universities and industry.

This network also had oversight for the TAFE Australia Shared Catalogue (TASC) and considered feedback from the TASC user group to improve the functioning of the shared catalogue.

The TASC is a searchable database that provides information on training products and units of competency that TAFEs have developed or have in production. TDA Members can use TASC to search and find which TAFEs have completed assessment and learning resources for qualifications, skill sets and units of competency. TASC contains each contributing TDA members' list of completed training products and those currently being developed. This is a very practical service to TDA members which has resulted from successful cross jurisdictional collaboration.

National VET Educator Development Network (NVEDN)

The National VET Educator Development Network (NVEDN) is a member-led group from TAFE institutes across Australia established to drive and maintain a positive and energetic approach to VET educator development. The intent is to foster a strong TAFE sector and achieve positive student outcomes. The NVEDN operates as a community of practice which:

- provides a national forum to share information, practice and strategy
- facilitates cooperation and collaboration between TAFE Institutes
- promotes and supports positive change management and reform initiatives.

In 2023 the NVEDN convened informal working parties on digital capability, learning communities for vocational teachers and industry currency. The NVEDN also socialised the professional standards for VET educators within their own institutions which the group had collaboratively developed in 2022.

TAFE Immersive Learning Network (TILN)

The TAFE Immersive Learning Network (TILN) was established to assist in:

- Aligning immersive technology strategies
- Sharing best practices and showcasing work
- Exploring privacy, access, equity and ethical issues related to XR training
- Reviewing and evaluating the latest XR technologies

In 2023, the TILN shared knowledge, expertise and advice for members in the early stages of planning to pilot the use of immersive technologies. In August 2023, the group led a *TAFETalks* webinar on the use of immersive technologies to enhance learning.

TDA events

TAFETalks

TAFETalks provide a virtual platform for TAFE staff and other interested stakeholders to come together, to share, learn, be inspired and to create connections across institutes, jurisdictions and other stakeholders on current issues and priorities related to vocational education and training.

During 2023, TDA ran monthly *TAFETalks* on a diverse range of topics including the establishment of Jobs and Skills Australia, ChatGPT and the impact on academic integrity, women's leadership, closing the digital skills gap, the European skills ecosystem, clean energy, using immersive technologies to enhance learning, the evolution of digital credentials, creativity and digital fluency in the GenAI era, and student engagement strategies.

These webinars were extremely well attended and provided a means for TDA members to stay connected with current issues and with each other. At each *TAFETalks* session, one or more TDA members provide practical examples on the topic. TDA Corporate Affiliates were sponsors of individual events and in many instances provided thought leadership.



CEO Dialogue 17-18 August 2023

TDA hosted a CEO dialogue for its members in Melbourne to align with the national WorldSkills competition. CEO dialogues provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and issues of national significance for TAFE senior executives and TDA. Importantly, they provide the opportunity for CEOs to provide strategic direction to TDA, to discuss TDA member advocacy priorities and for TDA to hear first-hand the impacts of government policy and reform processes.

During this event, TDA member CEOs participated in an open dialogue with the CEOs of Jobs and Skills Councils and senior representatives from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Online events

In lieu of a face to face convention in 2023, TDA held two online conferences for its members as outlined below.

TAFE Opens Doors: A focused discussion on access and equity

TDA hosted a virtual conference, [*TAFE Opens Doors: A focused discussion on access and equity*](#), on 31 May 2023 which focused on the important themes of access, inclusion and equity in TAFE. The event attracted 725 registrations.

TAFE Opens Doors provided TDA members with an opportunity to engage with experts and peers in the field, and to showcase the best practices and learnings of TAFE in promoting access, equity, and inclusion. The topics covered were diverse, including sessions on women, money and work, getting the most out of disability action plans, mental illness in the student population and the importance of embedding accessibility within ICT products.

Linkages: One tertiary system

TDA hosted its second virtual conference, [*Linkages: One Tertiary Education System*](#), on 18 October 2023. The online conference was opened by The Hon Brendan O'Connor, MP, Minister for Skills and Training and explored linkages between VET and higher education, and the opportunities and challenges for further harmonisation.

The program included perspectives from the Hon Jenny Macklin, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, University of Melbourne and Australian Universities Accord Panel Member on VET-HE harmonisation. Professor Sally Kift, President of Australian Learning and Teaching Fellows, and Megan Lilly, Executive Director of Ai Group discussed the Australian Qualifications Framework reform. Breakout sessions looked deeper into the practicalities of harmonisation including transitions and pathways between VET and higher education. The event generated a lot of interest with 989 registrations.

TDA policy submissions in 2023

TDA's [policy submissions](#) are available to download on the TDA website. 2023 policy submissions are listed below.

Submission title	Submitted to	Date
TDA Response to Universities Accord Interim Report»	Department of Education	1 September 2023
Future Directions for Apprenticeship Support Services »	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	22 May 20223
TDA Response to Australian Universities Accord Panel Discussion Paper »	Australian Universities Accord	6 April 2023
Inquiry into the Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023 »	Parliament of Australia	5 April 2023
Qualification Reform TDA Survey Responses »	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	27 March 2023
Inquiry into the Perceptions and Status of Vocational Education and Training »	Parliament of Australia	1 March 2023
Future Delivery of Foundation Skills Training in Remote Australia »	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	9 February 2023
TDA Response to JSA Discussion Paper January 2023 »	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	9 February 2023
Revised RTO Standards »	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	30 January 2023

TDA media releases in 2023

TDA's [media releases](#) are available to download on the TDA website. 2023 media releases are listed below.

Title	Date
TAFEs welcome landmark National Skills Agreement »	17 October 2023
TDA announces partnership with Learning Vault »	9 October 2023
TAFEs ready to step up to the clean energy workforce challenge »	4 October 2023
TAFE welcomes Employment White Paper recommendations »	25 September 2023
TAFE Directors Australia enters educational partnership with Adobe »	25 July 2023
TDA expands education partnership through new corporate affiliate, MYOB »	17 April 2023
TAFE Directors Australia enters strategic partnership with My eQuals »	21 March 2023

Performance against TDA's Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

The strategic priorities for TAFE Directors Australia for 2021 were drawn from the [TDA 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan](#). TDA's strategic objectives for 2022 are outlined below.

Objective 1. Provide policy leadership and advocacy on behalf of our members

- TDA continued to provide strong policy direction through the weekly newsletter, media commentary, website, publications, policy submissions, monthly *TAFETalks* webinars and two online conferences.
- TDA engaged and liaised extensively across the government and education sector to present a positive narrative on the role of TAFE as pivotal part of the tertiary education sector and in meeting national skills needs (for example in the context of TAFE's central role in the National Skills Agreement, ongoing Commonwealth VET reform and other initiatives supporting increased quality and integrity in the sector and the role of TAFE in supporting equity cohorts).
- TDA provided policy leadership and advocacy related to submissions on the draft RTO Standards, feedback into the Qualification Reform Design Group, and membership of the VET Workforce Blueprint consultation and Foundation Skills committees.

- TDA worked with TAFE staff through its policy networks to generate momentum for change and continues to strengthen the use of VET data to support policy positions and the articulation of the TAFE value proposition, evident in its public submissions and commentary.

Objective 2. Provide expert support, advice and insights for our members

- Through the TDA National Board, TAFE CEOs, policy networks and TAFE staff, TDA provided policy advice and national context to support TAFE operations.
- TDA has seen increased engagement from TAFE members in policy networks and provided thought leadership to its members through events such as *TAFETalks*.
- TDA has seen an increased appetite across the membership to work together, share resources to reduce costs, learn from each other and develop leading best practice
- TDA established and supported a number of new national policy networks to support the emerging priorities of members and government.

Objective 3. Enhance collaboration and alliance building domestically and internationally

- TDA has enhanced collaboration and alliance building between different TAFEs and jurisdictions through its national networks, each enabling TDA members to share ideas, discuss issues and encourage partnerships
- TDA established strong working relationships with federal ministers, and with Commonwealth departments and agencies such as the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Department of Education, Department of Home Affairs; Australian Skills Quality Authority and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.
- TDA and TAFEs also work with industry representative bodies to enhance the effectiveness of VET through their feedback on regulatory and operational issues. Engagement with the newly established Jobs and Skills Councils was a focus for TDA in 2023 to ensure TAFE was positioned strongly to engage in these bodies moving forward.
- Through its Australian TAFE International Network and participation in several international education-related forums, TDA has supported international collaboration that builds the reputation of TAFEs and opens opportunities for institute-to-institute exchange.

TDA National Secretariat in 2023

TDA staff

TDA staff in 2023 included:

Jenny Dodd | Chief Executive Officer

Lyndal Manson | Director, Governance, Policy & Projects

Melinda Fischer | Senior Business and IT Manager (until July 2023)

Camilla Seymour | Senior Communications and Events Manager (joined June 2023 for fixed term until November 2023)

Palak Bhatia | IT, Communications and Business Manager

Contractors

TDA contractors in 2022 included:

Andrea Newton | Chief Accountant

Bob Bowden | Media Contact and Communications

David Riordan | International Education

Paula Johnston | Communication

Association Information

TAFE Directors Australia

Postal | GPO Box 826 | CANBERRA ACT 2601 Location | 37 Constitution Avenue | REID ACT 2612 Email | memberservices@tda.edu.au

Website | www.tda.edu.au

TDA Corporate Affiliates

TDA acknowledges significant support from our [corporate affiliates in 2023](#) including:

- Adobe
- Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- D2L
- Learning Vault
- MyeQuals
- MYOB
- ReadyTech
- TechnologyOne

As an Australian national representative organisation, TDA has a national and global reach. By partnering with TDA, corporate affiliates benefit from TDA's national and international brand and profile, and gain access to the Australian and global vocational education and training sector and to the sector's leadership. At the same time, TDA and its members gain industry contacts and insights to the latest trends and developments in industry locally and globally.

Corporate affiliates and TDA work together for the promotion and skilling of a global workforce with productive capabilities that meet local industry needs and that contribute to global logistic supply chains.



TDA Members

