



# **TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA (TDA)**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**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 2024.

## 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 2024 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 the public providers' important role in meeting Australia's need for increased productivity, participation and workforce skills. TAFEs and dual sector universities also have an important role in serving their communities, especially across regional, rural and remote Australia.

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

- Promote closer links with universities
- Lead advocacy for improved outcomes for students, both domestically and internationally
- Facilitate opportunities for professional development, growth, collaboration and partnerships.

## **TDA Vision**

TAFEs and dual sector universities are recognised as a pre-eminent providers of tertiary education in Australia and as a global standard in vocational education and training.

## **TDA Mission**

To champion TDA members by enhancing their reputation and brand, leading policy thinking, influencing decision-makers, and advising and supporting TAFEs and dual sector universities.

## National Board Members in 2024

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

**Christine Robertson** | Interim Board Member (*appointed November 2022*) | Interim CEO | Canberra Institute of Technology

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

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

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

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

**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 2024

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



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

Throughout 2024 TDA had the privilege of engaging extensively with TDA members and with key stakeholders, including government and industry bodies such as Jobs and Skills Australia, and Jobs and Skills Councils.

With the support of TDA members, TDA advocated extensively for the role of the public provider being at the heart of vocational education and training and pivotal to the future of tertiary education.

Fundamental to that positioning was the extremely successful TDA Convention 2024 in May in Sydney, themed TAFE at the Heart. Registrations for TDA Convention 2024 were nearly 40% higher than TDA Convention 2022. This demonstrated the importance stakeholders have placed on the central role of TAFE in meeting skills needs of Australia. Both the Commonwealth and NSW Skills and Training Ministers presented, along with key leaders in the sector such as Barney Glover the Commissioner for Jobs and Skills Australia.

The importance of TDA Convention 2024 was evident in the announcement by the Minister for Skills and Training of the pilot for TAFE self-accreditation. TAFE self-accreditation has been a long fought for advocacy position of TDA, so this announcement was warmly received. Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) acted on the Minister's announcement and three TDA members were selected to be part of the pilot for ASQA delegation of course accreditation, which began by the end of the year.

During 2024 TDA had two other successful advocacy outcomes. Firstly, in partnership with TDA's National Enrolled Nurse Advisory Committee, TDA continued its pursuit of inclusion of the Enrolled Nurse in the calculation of care minutes in aged care facilities. From October 2024 aged care facilities could have 10% of their Registered Nurse care minutes undertaken by an Enrolled Nurse.

The second key outcome concerned the role of TAFEs in higher education delivery. Announced in the 2024 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook was the allocation of additional Commonwealth Supported Places for TAFE. This was a welcomed development.

TDA has reinforced the government position on the opportunity that exists for less advantaged students through fee-free TAFE. The TDA Monday Newsletter has been a major source for sharing the student stories of success through fee-free TAFE.

TDA has also been an active supporter for other parts of the skills eco-system. For example, TDA has helped the Jobs and Skills Councils reach and hear the TAFE voice. TDA participates in many of the Jobs and Skills Australia studies.

TDA has supported the implementation of the National Skills Agreement. TAFE Centres of Excellence are a core part of the agreement and TDA has communicated as they have been established and supported their early development. For example, TDA has helped its members establish national networks, such as the Canberra Institute of Technology's electric vehicle TAFE Centre of Excellence network.

One of TDA's major deliverables has been facilitating national networks. It is the national collaboration that occurs through these networks and the discussions of shared challenges that is vital for TAFEs. This is now an accepted way for many members of TAFEs to work and provides a strong base should the National TAFE Network progress in 2025.

These networks are also an important source for government agencies to consult on their policies. For example, TDA invited the Department of Workplace Relations and Employment (DEWR) to engage with senior leaders who make up the Workplace Attraction and Retention Network, on the VET workforce blueprint. Separately, TDA participated in the VET workforce blueprint steering committee.

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. 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 every Monday morning.

From a sustainability point of view TDA has operated fiscally responsibly. In achieving that outcome, TDA thanks the small TDA secretariat, of four people (equating to just over three full time equivalent staff). 2024 was a very busy year for the team as it included the very successful TDA Convention 2024.

TDA extends its appreciation to its 2024 Corporate Affiliates of Technology One, Ready Tech, D2L, My eQuals, Adobe, MYOB. Without their contributions TDA could not have achieved such a sustainable 2024 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**

## Member Services

### Member communications and engagement

TDA maintained its communications with members, government, partners and stakeholders in 2024 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 1,280 new subscribers in 2024 taking the total to over 6,500 subscribers. The TDA newsletter is distributed to members and non-members including TAFE and industry leaders, international partners and government policymakers every Monday morning. It provides thought-provoking content on developments in the tertiary education sector. It shares TDA members' 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 gained 1,526 new followers on [LinkedIn](#) throughout 2024 taking the total to over 7,000 followers and used the site to engage with a broad range of stakeholders.

Throughout 2024, TDA 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 (7-14 July 2024), TDA curated a series of 14 stories profiling First Nations people's leadership in TAFEs 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 2024, 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 2024 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 Implementation Committee	Department of Education
National Aged Care Advisory Committee (CEO is a member)	Department of Health
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
Various working groups led by Jobs and Skills Australia such as AI, Early Childhood Education and Care	Jobs and Skills Australia
Various strategic committees including FSO strategic advisory group	Jobs and Skills Councils
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 benefit from collaboration and connections across jurisdictions and appreciate the opportunity to influence the national policy agenda.

The activities of these networks throughout 2024 are summarised as follows:

## **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.

Originally established for a six-month period following the government's announcement on 1 September 2022 of fee-free TAFE places, the network has proven to be very valuable, leading to its extension throughout 2023 and into 2024.

With agreement of network members, TDA retired this network at its 3 September 2024 meeting, recognising that the intended goals and outcomes had been met. Although the formal network meetings are no longer scheduled, TDA encourages ongoing informal collaboration between members and sharing of Fee-Free TAFE success stories to publish in the TDA newsletter, website or LinkedIn channel.

## **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. Throughout 2024, the network informed and supported TDA's public policy and advocacy positions with the Commonwealth in relation to:

- the barriers posed by the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- the development of the VET Workforce Blueprint being led by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the aim of which is to identify effective strategies for attraction, retention, career development and succession planning to support and grow a quality VET workforce
- the Jobs and Skills Councils VET workforce projects.

The network also shared information on successful strategies to recruit and retain industry professionals, particularly for qualifications where TAFEs are experiencing educator shortages, and started work on mapping shared professional development resources and pathway programs to develop TAFE leadership capabilities.

## **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 2024, the QRC provided input into ongoing Commonwealth VET reform initiatives including the revision to the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), qualification design reform, VET data streamlining, and provided feedback into the new user interface and functionality of the Training.gov.au website. In addition, the group established key contacts within ASQA for TAFEs to liaise with directly when regulator advice is required, and continued advocacy to ASQA regarding the impact of regulatory approaches on TAFEs. Two members of the network (from TAFE Queensland and TAFE SA) represented TAFE on ASQA's Stakeholder Liaison Group to inform implementation of the revised standards.

QRC members continued to work together to reduce duplication of effort across the national TAFE network in terms of training package transitions, including application of training package extensions to ASQA, coordinated by TAFE Queensland.

One of the QRC members also represented TDA on the technical reference committee formed by DEWR for implementation of the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

A Community of Practice on TAFE Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), formed as an initiative from the QRC network in 2023, met a number of times throughout 2024 to discuss the impact and use of generative AI across TAFEs. Discussions addressed issues such as reducing the administrative load on teachers, use of AI tools, the impact of AI on authenticity in assessments, and institutional policies and practices around AI. Due to the ongoing importance, opportunities and issues relating to AI in education and industry, at its final meeting for 2024, the TAFE Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Community of Practice agreed to formalise itself as a separate network, electing a Chair and Co-chair. The Terms of Reference for this new network will be finalised in 2025, and outcomes reported on separately in the 2025 annual report.

### **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.

As a result of NENAC's advocacy throughout 2023 and 2024, adjustments were made to the aged care workforce 'minutes of care' guidelines to recognise that 10% of the Registered Nurse target (4.4 mins) could be delivered by an Enrolled Nurse. This was an important outcome as Enrolled Nurses were overlooked in Federally mandated care minutes guidelines

for residents in aged care, which impacted the aged care workforce composition, as well as employment and placement opportunities for enrolled nurse students and graduates. This small adjustment recognises the important role of Enrolled Nurses in aged care and reverses the unintended consequences of the care minutes mandate.

Throughout 2024, NENAC members contributed to the following National committees, engaging actively, and in turn, informing the advocacy activities of TDA and the network:

- National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN)
- Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group (NMSRG)
- National Nursing Workforce Strategy Advisory Group (SAG)
- Coalition of National Nursing & Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO)
- NMBA Review of EN Standards for Practice Regulatory Advisory Group (RAG)

As recognised experts in Enrolled Nurse Education and practice, NENAC members also actively participated in research and consultation activities relating to the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care resource: *Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce - Scope of Practice Review*.

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. The network also discussed pathways into nursing for registered Aboriginal Health Workers, with the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP).

### **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 was initially convened to provide educational leadership in aged care through policy and strategy advice, however, in 2024, it expanded its scope to include disability and other related industries.

Members continued to share models of best practice nationally and engage extensively with external stakeholders Ability First and the Jobs and Skills Council, 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.

TAFEHEP prioritised three critical focus areas during 2024: developing a deeper understanding of the Commonwealth Government's Universities Accord report and its implications for members; sharing amongst network members responding to TEQSA's requirement to develop a Generative Artificial Intelligence Action Plan; and articulating a student-centred approach in support policies as a response to the Ministerial Direction (Higher Education Provider Amendment Support for Students Policy Guidelines 2023).

### **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 2024, members shared developments on the Accord, National Skills Agreement and policy directives impacting international student enrolments. They also participated in presentations from TEQSA and ASQA and shared member practices relating to operating in a dual sector university, particularly streamlining the regulatory burden on dual sectors providers.

### **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 2024 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. They responded to policy changes in international education including Ministerial Directives 107 and 111. They also advocated for consistency in application of English requirements for TAFE and University courses.

2024 was a very busy year for this network with numerous policy changes to international students.

### **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 2024, the council achieved an important outcome, with the development of shared resources to support the implementation of the new Allied Health Assistance (AHA) Training Package. This work commenced in 2023, as the council developed protocols on 'how to' share and benchmark core aspects of AHA training content. While some informal sharing occurred prompted by the Council connections, initial co-development work on the Certificate IV qualification by TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland can be used to inform other future collaborative resource development projects between jurisdictions.

### **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.

In 2024, the network firmly established itself, meeting quarterly and supporting TAFE SA's successful application to establish a TAFE Centre of Excellence in Early Education and Care. Members attended HumanAbility forums nationally, contributing to Jobs and Skills Council (HumanAbility) projects and initiatives, and the Chair represented the network as a member of the National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG).

### **Foundation Skills Network**

The national Foundation Skills Network was convened in the second half of 2023 and held five meetings during 2024, sharing ideas and developing practical strategies to improve access to and quality of foundation skills training. The network discussed the complexity of improving foundation skills across the Australian population and the important role that TAFEs play in not only delivering skills training but also by providing a community space that with a range of options for people to seek assistance and improve their foundation skills.

There has been continued 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). This includes the commencement of the redesigned Skills for Education and Employment Program (SEE), funding allocated to foundation skills through the National Skills Agreement, and continued work on the JSA Foundation Skills Study.

The network has informed TDA advocacy on the development of the Australian Foundation Skills Strategy, through the Foundation Skills Advisory Group and the Foundation Skills Study Steering Committee.



## **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.

In 2023 and 2024 the network focused on product sharing and joint product development activities between TAFEs. This work included understanding the barriers that could impact upon this goal and developing strategies to overcome them. 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. During 2024 all Jobs and Skills Councils presented on their plans for learning resource development and projects.

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 2024, the network shared capability development practices with a focus on: educator digital skills; AI in VET; implementing revised standards for RTOs; supervision arrangements for regulatory compliance; and integration of non-accredited foundation skills into vocational training.

One of the NVEDN members also represented TDA on the technical reference committee formed by DEWR for implementation of the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

### **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 2024 the network met bi-monthly, sharing best practice for accessible immersive technology development, developed a vendor catalogue, and shared knowledge, expertise and advice amongst TAFE members nationally.

### **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 2024, TDA ran monthly *TAFETalks* on a diverse range of topics including overcoming skills gaps, impact of AI on TAFE compliance and operations, ASQA's new regulatory approach, impact of last two decades of VET policy on TAFE, GenAI in TAFE learning and teaching, digital fluency in vocational education and delivering the National Skills Passport.

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 10 May 2024**

TDA also held its CEO and Senior Leaders Dialogue in Sydney on the 10 May. The dialogue was planned to coincide with the TDA Annual General Meeting and directly following the TDA Convention 2024 as most TDA member CEOs were already on site for the convention.

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 a facilitated discussion on the Commonwealth Government's VET reform agenda, including the National Skills Agreement, the TAFE Centres of Excellence and the National TAFE Network.

As a result of discussions at this CEO dialogue, TDA prepared a proposal for DEWR on how TDA could support the National TAFE Network.

### **TDA CONVENTION 2024: TAFE at the Heart**

The TDA Convention 2024 took place in Sydney from 8-9 May 2024. The convention was preceded by site visits to TAFE NSW's Ultimo and Meadowbank campuses on 7 May. The convention was extremely well attended, with a total of 591 registrations from TDA members and non-members.

Interest in sponsorship and exhibition opportunities at the TDA Convention 2024 continued to be strong with uptake of sponsorship packages from the majority of TDA's corporate affiliates as well as from other businesses with an interest in TAFE and VET.

The convention program proceeded over two full days with a comprehensive range of plenary and breakout sessions. Highly regarded sessions (according to delegate feedback) included:

- Lessons for Australia from the European Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVE) with Boudewijn Grievink, Program Manager Internationalisation Katapult, Netherlands
- Insights from the Jobs and Skills Australia Commissioner
- Workforce insights and skills in demand: a discussion with CEOs of Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs) from a range of industry sectors addressing workforce planning, Australia's skill needs, their responses to qualification design reform, and the importance of collaborative efforts with TAFE to address the skills gap.
- Team Australia Skillaroos and their WorldSkills journey
- Keynote speaker: International perspectives on tertiary education with David Hughes, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, UK

TDA Convention 2024 attracted a delegation of 30 Chinese officials who attended the convention program, dinner and networking event as well as the Sino-Australian VET Forum which was held on the afternoon of 9 May. TAFEs interested in pursuing or continuing partnerships with Chinese colleges had the opportunity to meet with officials face to face in Sydney.

Overall, feedback on the event was extremely positive. There were 42 plenary speakers (including the Sino-Australia VET Forum) and 63 workshop presenters.

### TDA policy submissions in 2024

TDA's [policy submissions](#) are available to download on the TDA website. 2024 policy submissions are listed below.

Submission title	Submitted to	Date
<a href="#">Australian Skills Guarantee: Setting targets for Major ICT Projects »</a>	Department of Employment Workplace Relations	November 2024
<a href="#">Draft International Education &amp; Skills Strategic Framework »</a>	Department of Education	June 2024
<a href="#">Cost of Living »</a>	Parliament of Australia	27 March 2024
<a href="#">National Skills Passport Submission »</a>	Department of Education	15 February 2024

## TDA media releases in 2024

TDA's [media releases](#) are available to download on the TDA website. 2024 media releases are listed below.

Date	Title
19 December 2024	<a href="#">TAFEs welcome federal government's change to visa processing for international students »</a>
2 December 2024	<a href="#">Australia's TAFEs have a vital role to play in national review of R&amp;D »</a>
15 August 2024	<a href="#">TDA welcomes new Jobs and Skills Australia Deputy Commissioners »</a>
29 June 2024	<a href="#">TDA welcomes new federal ministers for skills, training and employment »</a>
13 May 2024	<a href="#">China and Australia forge stronger partnerships on vocational education and training, 10 May 2024 »</a>
8 May 2024	<a href="#">TAFE welcomes federal government's measures to boost construction workforce »</a>
25 February 2024	<a href="#">TDA welcomes expanded role for TAFEs proposed in Universities Accord Final Report »</a>
10 February 2024	<a href="#">TAFEs welcome new head of Jobs and Skills Australia »</a>
7 February 2024	<a href="#">TAFEs welcome steps to enhance integrity of vocational training »</a>

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

The strategic priorities for TAFE Directors Australia for 2024 were drawn from the [TDA 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan](#). TDA's 2024 actions and performance against the strategic objectives 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 the 2024 TDA convention in Sydney.
- TDA members met under the leadership of the National Board to discuss and develop collaborative ways of working and sharing through TAFE Centres of Excellence (TCoE) models. A subcommittee of the National Board was formed along with four working groups to determine and agree on issues and opportunities relating: to protocols; legal and branding; technology; and curriculum and policy. TDA has worked with the relevant TCoEs as they have been implemented, connecting the centres nationally to existing TDA TAFE networks. TDA has also formed a new TAFE Centre of Excellence Leadership network which will commence in 2025.
- 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 growing role in higher education, 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. Continued engagement with Jobs and Skills Councils was a focus for TDA in 2024 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 2024**

### **TDA staff in 2024**

Jenny Dodd | Chief Executive Officer

Lyndal Manson | Director, Governance, Policy & Projects (until September, 2024)

Teressa Schmidt | Director, Governance, Policy & Projects (from November, 2024)

Lucy Marchant | Senior Manager, Policy & Projects 1.5 days per week (from February 2024 until December 2024)

Palak Bhatia | IT, Communications and Business Manager

### **Contractors**

TDA contractors in 2024 included:

Andrea Newton | Bookkeeper

Bob Bowden | Media Contact and Communications

Paula Johnston | Communication

GI Computing | IT services

## **Association Information**

TAFE Directors Australia

Postal: Suite 147, 8 JAMISON CENTRE Macquarie ACT 2614 | Address: C218 Canberra Institute of Technology 35 Vowels Cres Bruce ACT 2617 | Email [memberservices@tda.edu.au](mailto:memberservices@tda.edu.au)

Website | [www.tda.edu.au](http://www.tda.edu.au)

## TDA Corporate Affiliates

TDA acknowledges significant support from our [corporate affiliates in 2024](#) including:

- Adobe
- D2L
- Learning Vault (until October 2024)
- 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 Corporate Affiliates as at May 2025



## TDA Members

