

Media Release –

2030 Vision For Australia's Skills Training System

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For Immediate Release

Australia's skills training system needs to be transformed so that it reflects the needs of a dynamic economy and students can embark on lifelong learning. This transformation needs to put students at the heart of the skills training system. That's the ambition set out in a [new policy statement](#) released by the [Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia](#) (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the skills training, higher education, and international education sectors.

"The significance of this ambitious vision can be found in the fact that government data referenced in the [ITECA State Of The Sector Report](#) shows that independent Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) support 87.1% of the 4.3 million students in skills training, including more than half of the apprentices and trainees," said [Troy Williams](#), ITECA Chief Executive.

The [policy statement](#) sets five key areas for reform that seek to improve outcomes for students, employers and taxpayers. However, it is the overarching theme of the policy statement that is important.

"As governments embark on policy reform, it is imperative that they **put students at the heart of the skills training system**. Reforms should be student-centric and back the informed decisions of students to study with the provider of their choice whether this be an independent RTO or a public provider," Mr Williams said.

The [policy statement](#) references the fact that it will be Australia's independent RTOs that will do the heavy lifting in delivering the skills training that helps students achieve their life and career goals. Independent providers support 87.1% of all students in skills training, including 70.9% of Diploma (and higher) enrolments, and 69.4% of Certificate IV enrolments. Of note is the fact that independent providers support 75.7% of indigenous students in skills training. According to ITECA, the Australian, state and territory governments need to do more to back students that choose to study with independent providers.

"As technology continues to reshape industries and automation becomes more prevalent, the demand for adaptable and future-proof skills intensifies. Australia's skills training system must rise to the challenge by empowering individuals with the knowledge and expertise needed to select the program and provider that will allow them to thrive in a time of constant change," Mr Williams said.

The [policy statement](#) is student-centric in nature and seeks to create an environment in which students are able to make informed decisions about the study options to help them achieve their life and career goals.

"We need to place students at the heart of skills training funding policy, allowing a student to access a government-funded place in a priority skills area with the quality provider of their choice," Mr Williams said.

The [2023 Vision For Skills Training](#) has a strong focus on red tape reduction.

"The Australian, state and territory governments need to streamline mandatory compliance and activity reporting in skills training based on the 'report once, use many times' principle, allowing RTOs to focus on student outcomes and not government red tape," Mr Williams said.

Also included in the [policy statement](#) are ITECA's ambitions for alignment between the skills training and higher education systems.

"We need governments to support an integrated tertiary education system, in which the skills training and higher education systems operate as one but retain their separate strengths and identities," Mr Williams said.

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www.StudentsAtTheHeart.au

2030 Vision For Skills Training

Putting students at the heart of the skills training system

The skills training system is the key to Australia's long-term economic sustainability. The system needs to be transformed so that it reflects the needs of a dynamic economy and students can embark on lifelong learning. This transformation needs to put students at the heart of the skills training system.

As technology continues to reshape industries and automation becomes more prevalent, the demand for adaptable and future-proof skills intensifies. Australia's skills training system must rise to the challenge by empowering individuals with the knowledge and expertise needed to select the program and provider that will allow them to thrive in a time of constant change.

Putting Students At The Heart Of The Skills Training System

As governments embark on policy reform, it is imperative that they put **students at the heart** of the skills training system. Reforms should be student centric and back the informed decisions of students to study with the provider of their choice whether this be an independent RTO or public provider.

It will be Australia's independent RTOs that will do the heading lifting in delivering the skills training that helps students achieve their life and career goals. Independent providers support 87.1% of all students in skills training, including 70.9% of Diploma (and higher) enrolments, 69.4% of Certificate IV enrolments and the majority of apprentices and trainees.

Government reform to skills training should be agnostic on provider type, as supporting students to study with independent or public skills training providers ensures a diverse and innovative skills training sector that's adaptive to the nation's needs.

The Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA) has set out a vision for a dynamic and innovative skills training system the nation needs. This requires transformation through the following reforms that put **students at the heart** of the skills training system:

- Place students at the heart of skills training funding policy, allowing a student to access a government-funded place in a priority skills area with the quality provider of their choice.
- Implement a three-year cycle for state / territory government skills funding contracts, promoting competition, and allowing new quality RTOs to deliver in underserved skills areas and regions.
- Streamline mandatory compliance and activity reporting in skills training based on the 'report once, use many times' principle, allowing RTOs to focus on student outcomes and not government red tape.
- End the student loan tax on VET Student Loans, relieving the financial burden on students and promoting equitable access to skills training.
- Support an integrated tertiary education system, in which the skills training and higher education systems operate as one but retain their separate strengths and identities.



2030 Vision Statements —

Download the full suite of statements at:
www.StudentsAtTheHeart.au

LEADERSHIP  EXCELLENCE  PROFESSIONALISM



The Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA) is the peak body representing independent providers in the skills training, higher education, and international education sectors.

ITECA members are united, informed, and influential. They provide leadership, strategy, advocacy and support. With a collaborative approach and confidence in the future, they set our agenda, fund our activities and directly benefit from the results.

Independent providers support more than 87% of the 4.3 million students in skills training programs, 10% of the 1.6 million students in higher education award programs, and 55% of the 0.7 million international tertiary education student enrolments.

ITECA Membership – It's a great time to get involved.

www.iteca.edu.au

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