

Statement of Intent

NCVER presents this Statement of Intent in response to Skills Ministers' Statement of Expectations.

It outlines our planned approach to meeting Members' expectations and supporting their priorities, including those under the *National Skills Agreement* and *National Skills Plan*.

NCVER will work closely with Members, officials and stakeholders to renew the organisation to deliver valuable services efficiently, effectively, and sustainably.

Our mission

NCVER's mission is to produce meaningful data and insights on the vocational education and training (VET) system to support Skills Ministers, sector stakeholders and the broader community.

Core objectives

NCVER's objectives as a not-for-profit company are to:

- operate as the national VET data custodian
- prepare impartial analytical and statistical reports and insights
- undertake, coordinate and promote research
- collaborate through sharing data, analysis and insights with VET stakeholders.

Meeting Members' expectations

Custodian of the national VET data

As the custodian of national VET data, NCVER will work with providers, individual jurisdictions and regulators to ensure timely, high-quality, and streamlined data submissions. A new Data Governance Framework can underpin these efforts, working with Members and officials to clarify practices for matters such as data management, quality, privacy, ethics, compliance, and metadata. We will proactively support all our data submitters to provide us with the highest quality raw data with minimal disruption to their business operations.

NCVER is committed to stewarding data through safeguarding its integrity and security for all governments. Through our Cybersecurity, Identity, and Access Management program, we are enhancing our capability to protect systems, applications, and data from cyber threats, aligning with established security frameworks.

We are committed to ensuring that data collection and usage for priority cohorts are carried out with the highest respect for their cultural, ethical, and privacy rights. We are dedicated to transparent, inclusive, and culturally sensitive practices. NCVER is ready to collaborate with Members and their officials to scope and resource this initiative, which will require meaningful and welcome changes to our governance, systems, culture and capabilities.

NCVER will play a critical role in the Enhanced VET Data and Evidence initiative. As a partner in the VET Data Streamlining (VDS) program, we will represent Members' interests during the transition to the new VET Information Standard, increased frequency of data provision, and the Student Training and Activity Reporting System (STARS). Leveraging our expertise, we will support the implementation of the program within our VDS funding envelope and collaborate with Members and regulators to design a future business operating model. We will partner with Members to support changes arising from the VET Data Reform Blueprint and Investment Roadmap.

As the technical foundation of our services, we will maintain and enhance our core data systems. Recognising the critical and ongoing importance of these systems, we will seek additional funding to support essential maintenance and key upgrades. With data and insight timeliness a major priority for Members and stakeholders, we will seek to modernise our data analytics platforms and capability ahead of the STARS implementation.

Delivering timely, robust and engaging insights

NCVER will deliver high-quality and impartial insights into VET activity, apprenticeships and traineeships, funding, student outcomes, and employer experiences. Guided by Member and stakeholder feedback, we aim to produce more engaging and timely outputs by modernising processes, rationalising existing products, and adopting new technologies - within the constraints of available resources.

With data robustness a continuing priority, NCVER will collaborate with Members to improve apprenticeship and traineeship data, methods and reporting. To support evidence-based policy and program improvements, the National Student Outcomes Survey will be expanded to capture insights from more apprenticeship non-completers, providing critical information on reasons for attrition. National surveys will also be reviewed and refined, in collaboration with officials, to better capture the experiences of students and employers - while also ensuring accessibility for digitally disadvantaged cohorts.

Enhancing accessibility remains a priority. We will continue to offer and improve tools such as DataBuilder, VOCSTATS, and the VET Data Explorer, enabling stakeholders to derive tailored insights. In partnership with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other agencies, we will contribute to initiatives such as the Person-Level Integrated Data Asset and the National Disability Data Asset, facilitating deeper understanding of the VET sector's impact.

As a trusted leader in VET research, we will work closely with Members to establish a new approach to identifying, prioritising and commissioning research and analytics that ensures alignment with Member priorities and NCVER's strengths and capacity. We will explore introducing evaluation as a new service offering, enabling Members and stakeholders to better understand the impact of initiatives and identify effective practices. We will actively collaborate and partner with other VET researchers and non-government organisations where opportunities align, with the goal of fostering innovation and promoting excellence within the sector. We will continue to provide our internationally recognised VOCEDplus bibliographic database and VET Knowledge Bank as sector knowledge resources.

Collaboration, engagement and communication

Supporting Members as stewards of the VET system is a core responsibility. We will engage directly with Members to align our services with their priorities, offering tailored briefings, performance updates, and reports to individual Ministers and the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council.

We will strengthen collaboration with Members' officials through regular dialogue with the Skills Senior Officials Network (SSON).

A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will guide our broader collaboration with stakeholders and help ensure our products and services evolve with sector needs. We will engage meaningfully with other VET sector organisations and agencies, including Jobs and Skills Australia, to strengthen service provision, avoid duplication, and share expertise and innovation for the benefit of the sector.

To enhance understanding of the VET sector, we will implement a refreshed Communications Strategy, featuring an annual media plan, a stakeholder-focused approach, and a compelling new organisational narrative. These initiatives will be guided by the findings of an external review and developed in consultation with Members and stakeholders.

Building organisational capability, agility and sustainability

NCVER is committed to investing in its people, processes, and systems to ensure organisational resilience, efficiency and adaptability. External reviews of organisational capability and efficiency, informed by Members, officials, and stakeholders, will identify areas for improvement. Recommendations from these reviews will be shared with Members and implemented, subject to resource availability.

Negotiating new funding contracts with the Australian Government will be critical to meeting Members' expectations. We expect these contracts, including associated funding levels, to support NCVER's capacity and agility to deliver agreed services and projects, sustain core systems, and drive our organisational renewal as a critical part of the VET system architecture. We will work with all Members to review their expectations, make trade-offs, and assess our performance within these contractual frameworks.

NCVER will continue to be governed by the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*, *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* and relevant financial management legislation. We are committed to maintaining robust financial and risk management policies and processes. The NCVER Board will uphold contemporary corporate governance practices, aligned with the Australian Institute of Company Directors Not-for-Profit Governance Principles, while actively engaging with Members, officials and stakeholders to ensure alignment with priorities and accountability.

Next steps

This Statement of Intent represents the foundation for NCVER's organisational renewal and service delivery program. We will continue to collaborate with Members and their officials to refine our priorities, address challenges, and track progress.

Progress will be reported regularly, supported by ongoing dialogue with Members and their officials to proactively address risks, constraints, and opportunities for continuous improvement.

It will guide the development of a new five-year Strategic Plan for the company and strengthen our role as a trusted source of evidence on the VET sector.

The Statement of Intent will be revised and republished following material changes to expectations, contracts or funding arrangements.



John King
Managing Director, NCVER

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