Government Response to University-Industry Collaboration in Teaching and Learning Review

Recommended Actions	Response
1. Accelerate the development and use of the Australian Skills Classification as an **open access national skills taxonomy.**	In response to Action 1, the Australian Government will accelerate the build-out of the Australian Skills Classification, as a part of a $32.5 million microcredentials pilot in the university sector. The expansion of the classification will prioritise occupations within the pilot's field of study and map classification to higher education and VET qualifications.
2. Expedite the reform of the **Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** to facilitate better collaboration between higher education providers, vocational education providers and industry.	Changes to the AQF requires Education and Skills Ministers' agreement. In response to Action 2, the Government is continuing to work with state and territory officials to develop advice for Education and Skills Ministers on all AQF Review recommendations by the end of 2022. The Government has allocated $3.1 million as part of the Job-Ready Graduates package for scoping and technical work to address AQF Review recommendations.
3. Build a **unified credentials platform** to surface current and emerging skill shortages, provide guidance to individuals to make informed learning decisions, link to quality micro-credentials and act as a bridge to labour market opportunities.	The Government is establishing both a National Credentials Platform and a Microcredentials Marketplace. In response to Action 3, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment will explore the closer integration of these initiatives with other platforms across the higher education, VET and employment systems, including linking to labour market data as well as other government services such as the National Careers Institute.
4. Providers and industry to build a stronger culture of partnership in the delivery of **industry-focused micro-credentials** – accelerated through targeted investment fund.	In response to the Action 1 and 4, the Government has committed $32.5 million between 2021-22 to 2024-25 to support higher education providers to design and deliver microcredentials with industry. This support will be provided through grant funding to education providers and will extend FEE-HELP to support students with the costs of study. The Department will test the market in the first half of next year, with the first offerings aimed to launch in the second half of 2022. The trial will enable the Government to review how it can best support innovation in microcredentials which are industry-focussed, underpinned by rich skill descriptors, and support digital badging and credit recognition.
5. Roll out a flexible **higher education cadetship program** combining an employment contract and a learning program.	The Government is supportive of models of learning that closely respond to the needs of industry and provide students with the best experience to be job ready. In response to Action 5, the Department is exploring options for a cadetship model of learning in the higher education system, drawing on learnings from current Cadetship and Advanced Apprenticeship pilots (Women in STEM and Industry 4.0).
6. Enhance higher education's **engagement with industry** through the NPILF and the National Strategy on Work-Integrated Learning.	The Government is providing more than $900 million in industry-engagement funding to universities over the next four years through the NPILF. Consistent with Action 6, the Department is working with universities to implement NPILF pilot plans which will focus on expanding WIL opportunities, industry engagement and STEM offerings. The outcomes from the pilot will inform further development of these initiatives and support for industry engagement in higher education.
7. Build stronger partnerships between higher education, vocational education, and schools, including the introduction of a **cross-sectoral teaching and learning innovation fund**.	The Government supports development of partnerships and pathways between the education and training sectors for the benefit of Australian learners and industry. In response to Action 7, the Department is exploring options to encourage stronger cross-sectoral partnerships. The Department is already supporting greater partnerships across the sector through measures such as reform of the AQF, digital credentials platforms, NPILF and advanced apprenticeship pilots.