



Tertiary Education Harmonisation

As part of the 2024–25 Budget, the Government is delivering on reforms recommended by the Australian Universities Accord, including taking action to drive harmonisation between the higher education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) sectors.

The Accord found that barriers between VET and higher education need to be broken down to ensure a more seamless and aligned tertiary education system.

How will this initiative work?

The Australian Government will work to:

- facilitate better student pathways between VET and higher education, including through updating the Australian Qualifications Framework Qualifications Pathways Policy
- develop a standard approach to credit recognition arrangements, making it cheaper and more efficient for students to become qualified
- build better data by aligning VET and higher education data sets to better understand student pathways between the sectors and inform future measures to continue to address the invisible barriers between VET and higher education
- commence work to develop a National Skills Taxonomy to make it easier to design higher education and VET qualifications that meet the needs of business and industry
- improve the regulatory approach for dual-sector providers, jointly led by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), and
- consider applications from TAFEs to become self-accrediting organisations in higher education, and exploring delegation of VET course accreditation to selected TAFEs.

This work will commence in the Department of Education and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Why is it important?

This measure commences an ongoing process of tertiary harmonisation, recognising the importance to Australia's skills formation of VET and higher education working more closely together.

The Albanese Government has set an overall tertiary education attainment target of 80 per cent of working aged people by 2050.

Nine in ten jobs in the future will require post-school qualifications. To meet Australia's future skills needs, equity, quality and alignment of the entire tertiary system needs to be improved.

Both the VET and higher education sectors play an equal role in delivering quality education and training that meets the needs of students and develops the skills needed by industry.

Better alignment between the two sectors will enable both to do this more effectively.

Who will benefit?

Historically, First Nations Australians, students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds and female students more commonly use VET to higher education pathways.

Improving pathways and credit arrangements will make it easier for students to broaden their pathways and build towards a higher education qualification.

How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$27.7 million over 4 years to 2027-28.