



Trade Training Centres in Schools Program Independent Review – Frequently asked Questions

1. Why did the Government conduct an independent review into the Trade Training Centres (TTCs) in Schools Program (the Program)?

The Government reviewed all TTCs that were operating in 2012 to determine whether the training being delivered was relevant and met industry, employer and student needs.

The outcomes of the review has given the Government options for improving vocational training and VET delivered to secondary students and has provided advice on future use of the facilities, including strengthening engagement with industry where appropriate.

In total, \$1.4 billion has been expended through the Program since 2009. As funding rounds have now ceased, the Government needs to ensure the return from this expenditure is maximised.

2. What did the independent review into the TTC Program assess?

The review of operational TTCs assessed:

- effective use of the TTC
- training provided, particularly in terms of industry and employer engagement
- whether training outcomes are meeting industry and employer needs.

The review also examined whether the Program is meeting its aim of addressing national skills shortages in traditional trades, emerging industries and eligible qualifications. It also explored the effectiveness of links between TTCs and local business, industry and communities.

3. Does the independent review into the TTC Program mean my TTC is at risk of being closed?

No. All approved TTCs and Trades Skills Centres will continue to operate in accordance with their Funding Agreements, noting that all facilities have a designated use period of 20 years.

4. What did TTCs need to do for this review? Did this review mean more red tape for schools?

The Australian Government is committed to reducing the administrative burden on schools. As such, the majority of work related to the review was conducted using existing departmental records including activity reports, Program guidelines, funding proposals, funding agreements and other reports. Some TTCs were contacted as part of the review.

From 11 July to 15 August 2014, VETiS staff associated with the Program were invited to provide feedback to inform the review. Participation was voluntary and responses were confidential.

The independent reviewer undertook some site visits to operational TTC facilities to help establish models of best practice and to understand the practicality of providing training on the ground. TTC site visits were coordinated in advance through the schools' relevant state or territory education authority.



5. How many TTCs were subject to this review?

The review examined TTCs which were operating in 2012 and provided an annual activity report. In 2012 this totalled 219 TTCs.

6. Why did the review involve TTCs operational in 2012 only?

The majority of these TTCs have now had one or two full academic years of operation and provided a statistically significant data set.

7. Who conducted the review?

Ms Patricia Scott was engaged to undertake the review. Ms Scott has extensive policy, advisory and implementation experience as a senior policy adviser and former Departmental Secretary.

8. When did the independent review begin?

The independent reviewer was undertaken between May and October of 2014.

9. When were the outcomes of the independent review into the TTC Program made available?

The review was published on the Department of Education and Training website on 3 February 2015.