

## Learning Creates Australia Submission to the Accord Terms of Reference

Learning Creates Australia commends this review of the Australian Universities Accord and recognises the appropriateness of the Terms of Reference to achieve better outcomes for students through a stronger, more integrated tertiary sector that equally values the vocational and academic knowledge Australia needs for the future.

We commend the panel's seven identified priorities and see the opportunity to provide the essential enabling reform to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

The 2019 Review of the AQF (Noonan Review) recommended a more flexible design framework. It proposed that in undertaking qualifications the development of knowledge, skills and capabilities be recognised in ways that serve the interface between senior secondary and both sectors in the tertiary system.

There is an opportunity to deliver on the Accord's priorities through the enabling reform of the AQF.

To meet Australia's knowledge and skills needs we will require this integrated qualification and accompanying credentialing system. Schools, TAFE institutions, universities, employers, private providers and industry groups all acknowledge that the current qualifications system falls short in signalling what knowledge, skills and capabilities students have acquired and what Australia's workforce urgently needs - now and in the immediate future.

It is widely appreciated that in confronting the key issues of access and opportunity currently underrepresented groups face significant barriers to tertiary education. A strengthened standards based AQF as a common framework that incorporates vocational and higher education sectors, promises the most effective means to recognise the broader and deeper knowledge skills and capabilities of a diverse student population.

The 2021 Dawkins and Bean Review has recommended that reform of the AQF be expedited to "facilitate better collaboration between higher education providers, vocational education providers and industry". There is also widespread support for strengthening the connections between the world of work and schools.

The Noonan Review recommended that the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education be incorporated more explicitly in the AQF, as a distinct qualification type.

Two additional major federal reviews, the Shergold and Joyce reviews, provide further reinforcing recommendations in relation to the AQF.

### Learning Creates Australia

Established in 2020 Learning Creates Australia is an alliance of people and organisations working together to create a unified and equitable senior secondary recognition system.

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