Training Accreditation Council

Strategic Plan

1 January 2025 – 30 June 2028

Introduction

The Training Accreditation Council (the Council) provides a contemporary, client-focused regulatory service for the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Western Australia (WA). As a state-based regulatory authority, the Council oversees the VET provider market to ensure quality outcomes and continuous improvement within the sector, and responsiveness to State priorities and risks.

The Council is an independent statutory body and its role is to assure the quality of services delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) registered with the Council and ensure that approved accredited courses meet national Standards.

This Strategic Plan (the Plan) outlines the functions, responsibilities and regulatory approach of the Council as defined by the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996*, the *Standards for VET Regulators 2015* and the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015*. The Plan also demonstrates how the Council will manage its responsibilities in relation to the VET Quality Reforms supported by all Australian Governments, including the revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations (revised Standards) that will be implemented during the life of the Plan.

The Plan sets out the Council's key strategic priorities, expected outcomes and strategies that will be applied throughout the period. The Plan will be reviewed annually with progress reported in the Council's annual report to the Western Australian Parliament.

Functions and responsibilities

The Council operates within a national VET regulatory framework defined in standards, guidelines and policies aimed at achieving national consistency in the registration and monitoring of RTOs and accredited courses.

The Council regulates those providers that deliver nationally recognised training to domestic students in WA, or that operate only in WA and Victoria. RTOs operating in multiple jurisdictions and/or deliver to international students are regulated by the national VET regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

The Council's regulatory approach is designed to support RTO business improvement, compliant practices and deliver high-quality VET outcomes. Clear communication, transparent,

fair and equitable business practices, and accessible educational support and guidance are integral to the Council's regulatory approach.

The Council is committed to supporting the implementation of the national VET Quality Reforms and will ensure a strong focus on the quality assurance and continuous improvement of RTOs, and the application of student well-being strategies, as defined in the revised Standards.

The Council's primary responsibilities are as follows:

Registration	RTOs are registered by the Council in accordance with the VET regulatory framework. The Council assures the quality of training and assessment provided by RTOs, strengthening public confidence in VET in Western Australia.
Course Accreditation	Courses are accredited by the Council in accordance with the national framework for VET course accreditation. Accredited courses address industry, enterprise and the community skill requirements where they are not covered by national training packages.
Education and Guidance	The Council proactively supports the VET sector through its Education Program, providing specialised and practical professional development opportunities and guidance materials. The Council's Education Program aims to build RTO and VET practitioner capability to meet regulatory obligations and improve RTO quality assurance systems including continuous improvement.
Key VET Stakeholder	The Council undertakes a critical role in working collaboratively and extensively with State and National governments, VET regulators and other stakeholders on VET policy and regulatory matters. This strategic engagement informs and influences current and future directions of the VET sector and ensures state-based regulatory issues are prioritised.

Regulatory approach

The Council operates in accordance with the *Standards for VET Regulators 2015* and applies a regulatory approach that is transparent and responsive to the level of risk that may impact the quality of VET outcomes.

The TAC Risk Framework underpins the Council's regulatory approach and ensures its responses are evidence-based, targeted and proportionate. This approach enables the Council to direct its focus and resources to RTOs or industry sectors deemed to pose the highest risk to quality outcomes.

The Council's regulatory approach balances the need for robust regulatory oversight and risk management, with the requirement for the efficient operation of training providers and reduced regulatory burden.

The introduction of the revised Standards provides an opportunity for the Council to review its regulatory approach and risk management practices to ensure they remain fit for purpose and will continue to support the development of a skilled workforce in Western Australia.

The revised Standards have an outcomes-based focus, expand the range of requirements RTOs must meet to obtain and maintain registration, and place greater emphasis on quality, continuous improvement and student well-being in the context of an individual RTO's operating environment. The Council has taken all these factors into consideration in the development of the Plan.

The Council develops and publishes a biennial Regulatory Strategy that defines areas of focus that pose the highest risk to quality VET and the planned regulatory actions to monitor and minimise those risks. A key feature of the Strategy is the Council's commitment to an education program to encourage and promote compliance, continuous improvement and support quality outcomes.

Training Accreditation Council Strategic Direction

VISION	PURPOSE	VALUES
Vocational education and training in Western Australia is valued and trusted.	The Training Accreditation Council is a contemporary, client-focused regulator of vocational education and training (VET) in Western Australia. The Council assures the quality of the VET sector, leads continuous improvement and responds to state-based priorities and risks.	**Integrity** We are honest, accountable and transparent. **Respect** We are fair and equitable. We listen and care. **Excellence** We continuously improve. We innovate and lead by example. **Commitment** We are responsive and collaborate with others. We are reliable and consistent.

The Council has identified four strategic priorities to meet its regulatory requirements through its own good governance, and with a focus on the compliance, quality assurance and continuous improvement of individual RTOs, and applied systemically across the VET sector.

The Council's overall strategic direction recognises the need for specific strategies to support the introduction and implementation of the revised Standards.

Priority 1 **Regulate the Western Australian vocational education and training sector.**	
Outcome	1.1 Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) are compliant with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (the Standards).
Strategies	1.1.1 Monitor and manage the quality, compliance and continuous improvement processes of RTOs against the Standards (2015 and the revised Standards). 1.1.2 Manage complaints about the performance of RTOs. 1.1.3 Apply a risk based regulatory approach that is informed by the needs of industry and other relevant stakeholders. 1.1.4 Support RTOs in the transition to the revised Standards for Registered Training Organisations.
Outcome	1.2 Accredited courses are compliant with the Standards for Accredited Courses 2021.
Strategies	1.2.1 Ensure the accreditation process supports the efficient establishment and monitoring of accredited courses while meeting the national Standards. 1.2.2 Provide course accreditation services that meet the needs of industry and other relevant stakeholders. 1.2.3 Provide support to course developers and course owners for the accreditation of courses. 1.2.4 Analyse changes in training product design, its impact on accreditation and establish processes to deal with these as required.

	Priority 2 **Enable the effective operation of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)**
Outcome	2.1 Consistent, fair and transparent processes are applied.
Strategies	2.1.1 Maintain the integrity of the vocational education and training (VET) sector through lawful, consistent and responsive registration and accreditation decisions. 2.1.2 Apply fair, equitable and transparent processes and procedures in support of Council decisions. 2.1.3 Refine audit processes to ensure alignment with the revised Standards including collecting information on RTO quality and continuous improvement and ensure that assessments of RTO performance can be made. 2.1.4 Support regional, small market and Aboriginal controlled RTOs to develop a more diverse and accessible VET sector.
Outcome	2.2 RTOs have access to quality education services and resources.
Strategies	2.2.1 Develop and deliver high quality education services and resources, particularly to support implementation of the revised Standards. 2.2.2 Communicate openly and clearly with RTOs. 2.2.3 Respond to RTO and stakeholder feedback on content, relevance and quality of TAC's education services and resources. 2.2.4 Apply a continuous improvement process to the development and delivery of education services and resources.

	Priority 3 **Lead the continuous improvement of the vocational education and training (VET) sector.**
Outcome	3.1 Sector-wide risks are identified and effectively managed.
Strategies	3.1.1 Collaborate with industry, community and education stakeholders to access and analyse relevant information that supports the identification of risks to the quality of VET. 3.1.2 Gather and effectively analyse data and information to measure RTO quality. 3.1.3 Implement strategies that respond to emerging risks including education and targeted audits. 3.1.4 Support the continuing development and improvement of risk management strategies, and associated policies and procedures 3.1.5 Identify and manage risk associated with the introduction and implementation of the revised Standards.

	Priority 4 **Apply good governance and act in the public interest.**
Outcome	4.1 Independent and effective governance processes are maintained.
Strategies	4.1.1 Maintain an effective governance process that complies with the requirements of the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996* and other public sector governance requirements. 4.1.2 Strengthen strategic relationships with industry regulators and other relevant stakeholders. 4.1.3 Seek technical advice from regulators, industry and other stakeholders to support the registration and accreditation processes. 4.1.4 Promote and practice workplace safety, cultural understanding and well-being. 4.1.5 Identify opportunities for regulatory improvement. 4.1.6 Enhance people development systems and practices for Council members.