



Training Accreditation Council

Strategic Plan

1 July 2020 – 31 December 2024

Note: The Training Accreditation Council Strategic Plan was extended in May 2024 for a further period of six months until 31 December 2024.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Training Accreditation Council (the Council) delivers a client-focused regulatory service for the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Western Australia. As a State based regulator, the Council enables State government oversight of the VET provider market, continuous improvement of the sector, responsiveness to State-based priorities and risks, timely intervention, and protection of the State's investment in VET.

The strategic plan outlines the Council's key priorities and reflects its functions and responsibilities under the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996* (the Act) and the standards for VET regulation - *Standards for VET Regulators 2015* and *Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015*. The strategic plan is reviewed on an annual basis and the Council's progress in achieving its key priorities are reported in its annual report to Parliament.

The strategic plan was initially for a period of three years commencing 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2023 and in May 2023, the Council agreed to extend the strategic plan by 12 months to 30 June 2024. In May 2024, the Council agreed to extend the strategic plan by a further six months to 31 December 2024 and delay the development of a new strategic plan. The decision to extend the strategic plan was made in light of current national reforms including the development of the revised Standards for RTOs and the potential impact on Council as it prepares to transition to the revised Standards. The possible impact of the national reforms on Council's objectives and priorities over the medium term was also a factor in extending the strategic plan. The Council will develop a new Strategic Plan in late 2024 which will include further consideration of key objectives and priorities, national reforms and the possible impact on Council's regulatory approach.

2. ABOUT US

The Council is an independent statutory body that assures the quality of training and assessment of RTOs registered with the Council and accreditation of courses in the VET sector in Western Australia.

2.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Council's guiding principles communicate the way in which it undertakes its business. The Council:

- is open, accountable and transparent,
- is clear on its role as a regulatory body,
- embeds an outcomes focus,
- is fair and equitable,
- maintains a culture of continuous improvement,
- communicates clearly and concisely, and
- supports the sector through education and guidance.

2.2 KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND CLIENTS

The Council ensures it maintains collaborative and co-operative relationships with its diverse range of stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Minister for Training and Workforce Development
- Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council
- other VET regulators
- State government agencies including the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the Department of Education
- State Training Board
- Australian government agencies
- State and national industry regulator bodies
- industry organisations including Western Australian Training Councils
- peak VET professional bodies
- RTOs
- Learners/students.

2.3 FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council operates within an agreed national VET regulatory framework defined in a set of standards, guidelines and policies aimed at achieving national consistency in the way RTOs and accredited courses are registered and monitored. The Council's approach to regulation supports business improvement and high quality VET outcomes.

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 enabling 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 skill requirements for industry, enterprise and the community where they are not covered by training packages.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Council proactively supports the VET sector through its Education Program providing specialised and practical professional development opportunities. The Council's Education Program aims to build RTO and VET practitioner capability to meet regulatory obligations and improve RTO quality assurance systems.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As a 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 issues are prioritised.

3. HOW WE REGULATE

3.1 OUR JURISDICTION

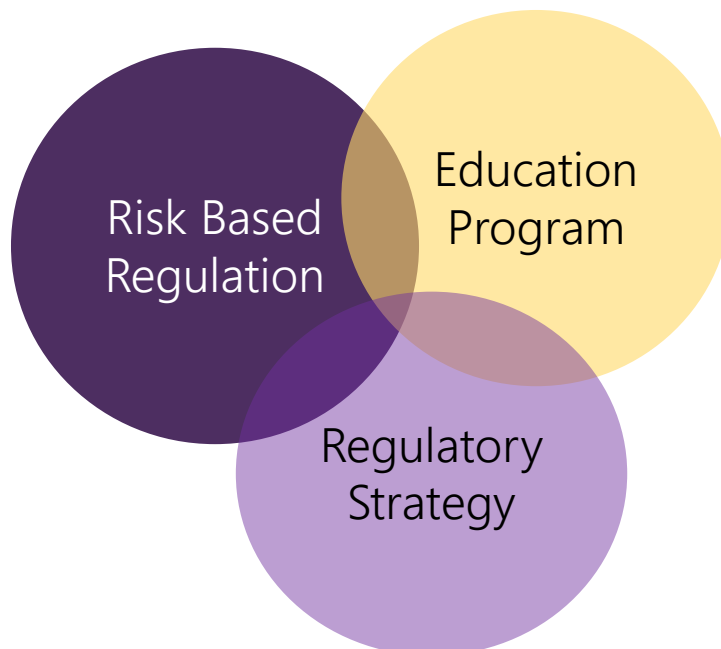
The Council is responsible for:

- registration of training providers delivering nationally recognised training to domestic students in Western Australia only, or in both Western Australia and Victoria. The Council does not register or regulate providers in WA delivering nationally recognised training to:
 - students in States other than WA and Victoria,
 - international students on a student visa.
- course accreditation where the course owner is an RTO registered with the Council. Where the course owner is not an RTO they may apply to any VET regulator for accreditation.

3.2 OUR REGULATORY APPROACH

The Council operates in accordance with the standards for VET regulation and in its role as the VET regulator applies consistent, proportional and transparent responses to different levels of risk affecting the quality of VET outcomes.

The Council delivers an integrated and balanced regulatory approach that supports business improvement and delivery of high quality VET.



RISK BASED REGULATION

The Council implements a Risk Framework that underpins its regulatory approach to ensure regulatory responses are risk based, evidence based, targeted and proportionate.

This enables the Council to direct its focus and resources to RTOs or sectors deemed to pose the highest risk to quality outcomes.

REGULATORY STRATEGY

The Council's Regulatory Strategy is prepared in line with the Council's Risk Framework and conveys the Council's commitment to responding to State-based priorities and risks. It is published to inform stakeholders about the Council's priorities and the planned regulatory action to monitor and minimise those risks.

The strategy includes the provision of education support and communication strategies.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

A key feature of the Council's risk approach is its commitment to an education program as an important strategy to encourage and promote compliance and support quality outcomes.

Publication of the Risk Framework and Regulatory Strategy provides transparency to stakeholders about the Council's focus areas and regulatory strategies. This transparency aims to improve RTO performance and foster a culture of continuous improvement and good practice.

4. KEY PRIORITIES

The Council has identified four key priority areas to ensure its regulatory and key activities are delivered.

PRIORITY 1: LEGISLATION, COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Outcome	1.1	The Council's governance requirements are met.
Strategies	1.1.1	The Council's membership is maintained in accordance with the <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i> .
	1.1.2	Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i> and the Council's Code of Conduct.
	1.1.3	Compliance is maintained with the <i>Standards for VET Regulators 2015</i> .
	1.1.4	Council meets its annual reporting requirements.
Outcome	1.2	Council regulates training providers in accordance with the Standards for RTOs, <i>Standards for VET Regulators 2015</i>, <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i>, and <i>Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009</i>.
Strategies	1.2.1	Council's regulatory services meet the needs of industry and stakeholders.
	1.2.2	Council monitors the compliance of RTOs against the Standards for RTOs, <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i> and <i>Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009</i> .
	1.2.3	Council efficiently and effectively manages complaints about RTO performance against the Standards for RTOs and Council's regulatory services.
	1.2.4	Council implements a Risk Framework that underpins its regulatory approach to ensure regulatory responses are risk based, evidence based, targeted and proportionate enabling the Council to direct its focus and resources to areas that pose the highest risk to quality outcomes.
Outcome	1.3	Council accredits courses in accordance with the AQTF Standards for Accredited Courses, <i>Standards for VET Regulators 2015</i>, <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i>, and <i>Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009</i>.
Strategies	1.3.1	Council's course accreditation services respond to and meet the needs of industry and stakeholders.
	1.3.2	Council approves and monitors accredited courses against the AQTF Standards for Accredited Courses, <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i> and <i>Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009</i> .
Outcome	1.4	The Council delivers consistent and transparent processes and services.
Strategies	1.4.1	The Council ensures transparency and consistency of regulatory decisions and processes through the application of its Risk Framework.
	1.4.2	Council registration and accreditation decisions ensure the integrity of the VET sector is upheld.

PRIORITY 2: COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Outcome	2.1 The Council effectively communicates and provides an educative service to stakeholders.
Strategies	<p>2.1.1 Council clearly communicates its role and functions.</p> <p>2.1.2 Council implements an education program that ensures an educative approach to its services and encourages RTO improvement and development.</p> <p>2.1.3 Council ensures current and prospective RTOs and accredited course owners have accessible information on relevant regulatory requirements including the Standards for RTOs, <i>Standards for VET Regulators 2015</i>, <i>Vocational Education and Training Act 1996</i>, <i>Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009</i>, and the AQTF Standards for Accredited Courses.</p> <p>2.1.4 Council communicates key decisions and changes to the VET regulatory environment to ensure RTOs and accredited course owners have access to current information.</p>

Outcome	2.2 The Council gathers appropriate information to enhance its regulatory functions.
Strategies	<p>2.2.1 Council considers stakeholder feedback to inform its regulatory services and functions.</p> <p>2.2.2 Council analyses the impact of environmental factors and collects appropriate information to identify risks to the quality of VET.</p> <p>2.2.3 The Council gathers reliable data to measure its performance and inform its planning, policies and services.</p>

PRIORITY 3: COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Outcome	3.1 Council collaborates with stakeholders in the provision of VET regulatory services to ensure confidence in VET outcomes.
Strategies	<p>3.1.1 Council collaborates and engages with State and national governments, VET regulators and other stakeholders on VET policy and regulatory matters to inform and influence current and future directions of the VET sector.</p> <p>3.1.2 Council develops and maintains agreements with relevant stakeholders, including industry regulatory bodies to enable a collaborative approach that ensures consistency and quality of VET across industry sectors. This includes engaging with industry for technical advice and assistance to enhance its regulatory processes.</p>