



TAFE System Governance Framework

Purpose of the framework

The TAFE System Governance Framework outlines the authority, responsibilities, and operating arrangements for the Western Australian TAFE system (the System) to deliver a high quality publicly funded TAFE system that is student centred, supports economic growth and delivers positive social impacts for the community.

The System comprises:

- the Minister for Skills and TAFE;
- the Department of Training and Workforce Development (Department), as the public sector agency established to assist the Minister in the administration of the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996*; and
- TAFE Colleges established under the VET Act.

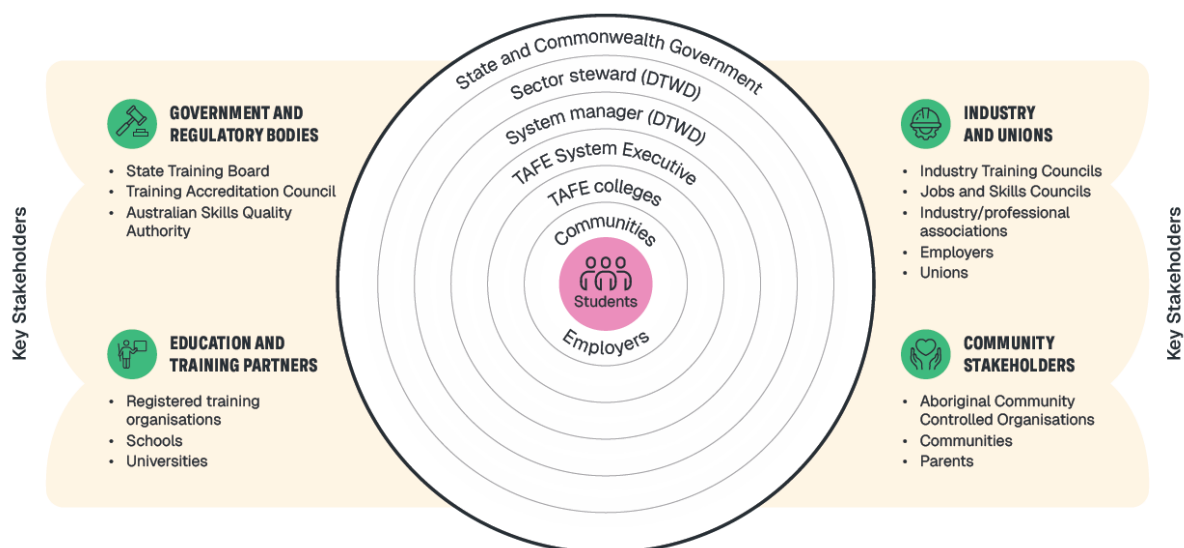
The Department is the VET Sector Steward and System Manager.

As Sector Steward, the Department leads the Western Australian skills, training and workforce development sector and drives the State's training and workforce development agenda.

As System Manager, the Department partners with TAFE colleges to coordinate the TAFE system to ensure a flexible, responsive, innovative and quality System that meets student, community, industry and Government needs.

TAFE System Executive is established to enable the Department and TAFE colleges - the TAFE system - and facilitates ongoing collaboration between the Department and TAFE colleges to enable a flexible, responsive, innovative and quality training system.

TAFE colleges, established as statutory authorities reporting to the Minister under the VET Act, deliver training and workforce development programs and initiatives to students, communities, employers and industry.



The TAFE System Governance Framework supports:

- transparency of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities;
- consistent governance across the system;
- effective oversight of risks, performance, and compliance;
- alignment with whole-of-government legislation, policies, and Ministerial expectations;
- delivery of system-wide outcomes and public value; and
- collaboration across the System to support performance and continuous improvement.

Shared purpose and vision for the system

That the TAFE system:

- supports students to unlock their potential by being a trusted brand that delivers high quality training and a seamless experience for students and industry across the System;
- delivers positive social impacts for the community and local communities;
- drives economic growth and supports future industry and local economic development; and
- fosters collaboration to ensure that it delivers a contemporary and future focused System.

Accountability

Accountability, and holding each other to account individually and collectively, is critical for the TAFE System Governance Framework to be successful and effective.

This includes accountability:

- across the TAFE System, including the Department and TAFE colleges;
- TAFE System Executive;
- between the Department and individual TAFE colleges;
- TAFE colleges collectively; and
- between individual TAFE colleges.

Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 MINISTER

The Minister for Skills and TAFE:

- is responsible for the VET Act and accountable to Parliament for System performance;
- is responsible for the State Training Board and the Training Accreditation Council;
- appoints members to the TAFE Governing Councils under the VET Act; and
- sets strategic direction and priorities, including through the:
 - WA Workforce Strategy;

- State Training Plan;
- Director General's Delivery and Performance Agreement;
- Managing Directors' Delivery and Performance Agreements;
- Ministerial Statement of Expectations for each TAFE College; and
- Ministerial Guidelines and other instruments issued under the VET Act from time to time.

4.2 DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Department:

- assists the Minister to administer the VET Act;
- is Sector Steward for the WA VET Sector, leading and driving skills, training and workforce planning in Western Australia;
- represents and advocates for skills, training and workforce development needs of Western Australia with the Commonwealth Government;
- is System Manager and funder of the WA VET sector;
- sets system-wide standards and expectations including through Delivery and Performance Agreements with the TAFE Colleges;
- leads governance and oversight for the System and coordinates system-level risk management;
- represents and advocates for the System including in negotiations with the Department of Treasury and Finance;
- facilitates System-wide collaboration, performance and capability; and
- provides shared services to facilitate capability uplift and efficiencies across the System.

4.3 TAFE SYSTEM EXECUTIVE

TAFE System Executive is critical to enable strategic partnership between the Department and TAFE colleges to:

- identify and progress issues of strategic importance to improve the System and develop an agreed program of works, including project governance where required;
- identify areas and mechanisms to support greater collaboration across the System and actively facilitate this occurring; and
- identify issues impacting on the sector including future workforce planning, funding, sector policy development and governance and risk, and inform strategies to support improvements in the sector.

4.4 TAFE COLLEGES

TAFE colleges:

- are trusted partners in the VET system the primary service delivery providers for the System;
- deliver training, programs and services aligned to Government priorities and the Delivery and Performance Agreements;
- ensure training programs and services are responsive to, and meet the needs of students and local industries and communities;
- are responsible for operating in accordance with Government and System governance and performance, and ensuring compliance with system-wide standards;
- are campus stewards driving efficient and effective utilisation of facilities and advocating for strategic asset investment opportunities;
- report risks, incidents, and performance to the System Manager;
- participate in and collaborate on system-wide reviews, capability uplift and the development of the State Training Plan; and
- contribute to and collaborate with the Department on Sector Stewardship issues.

Each TAFE college has a Governing Council which:

- governs its operations and affairs; and
- ensures the college's courses, programmes and services are responsive to, and meet, the needs of students, industry and the community.

A college's Governing Council ensures the college delivers against:

- State Government priorities;
- the Minister's Statement of Expectations for TAFE Colleges;
- the State Training Plan; and
- other matters as requested by the Minister.