

APPENDIX 5

SUMMARY OF KEY VET MINISTERIAL COUNCIL AGREEMENTS ON NATIONAL TRAINING FRAMEWORK *

DATE	KEY AGREEMENTS
May 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed the key principles and objectives of the Modern Australian Apprenticeship and Traineeship System (MAATS) and the broad mechanisms for implementing MAATS • Endorsed the process for developing and agreeing on the implementation of the system • Established a reference group involving industry representatives, Government and ANITA officials to consider implementation
July 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that ANTA develop a statement of User Choice policy and administrative arrangements to support the policy • Agreed to the progressive implementation of User Choice during 1997 and to full implementation of User Choice for off-the-job training for apprentices and trainees from 1 January 1998 • Agreed to the abolition of the Standards and Curriculum Council and to its replacement by a business led committee - the National Training Framework Committee (NTFC) • Agreed that NTFC develop a policy framework for the development of competency standards and training packages; endorse national competency standards; maintain the national register; coordinate the operation of the NFROT; and develop policy and guidelines at the national level for assessment
September 1996	<p>MAATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested report from the ANTA Board to the November meeting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policy and guidelines for Training Packages and the Australian Recognition Framework; - quality assurance arrangements;

- transitional and ongoing resourcing issues;
- any necessary legislative and associated administrative arrangements;
- a timetable for User Choice implementation in January 1998

- Endorsed the formation of a marketing for apprenticeships and traineeships

User Choice

- Agreed States and Territories would implement User Choice for apprenticeships and traineeships from 1 January 1998
- Agreed each State and Territory would design and implement the administrative arrangements to give effect to the User Choice Policy statement
- Established a User Choice Taskforce
- Requested Terms of Reference for a Unit Cost Working Party to provide a resolution of costing and pricing, cost shifting, and national benchmarks issues.
- MCEETYA Taskforce on MAATS in schools to consider the VET in Schools issue
- Requested ANTA provide advice on how KPMs will measure the effectiveness of User Choice

VET in Schools

- Agreed to the allocation of \$20m of VET funds in each of the next four calendar years for VET in Schools
- Agreed to funds being provided to State Training Authorities, through State Training Profile arrangements to allocate to school authorities to cover program development, particularly apprenticeships; and traineeships, course advice and support materials; and integration of VET courses with senior secondary certificates

One Stop Shops

- Noted the Commonwealth's intention to establish "one stop shop" arrangements through Contracted Entry Level Training Agencies (CELTA's) for entry level training service delivery for businesses and trainees/apprentices

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to DEETYA and each State and Territory Training Authority conducting negotiations to establish integrated entry level training support services on a regional or sectoral basis during 1996-97
November 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed in-principle an outcomes-based approach, with guaranteed additionality, particularly in relation to school based apprenticeships and traineeships • Endorsed that the objective of the National Training Framework is to make training simpler and more flexible within an agreed partnership between the States, Territories, the Commonwealth and industry • Endorsed in principle the three major features of these approaches, namely the Australian Recognition Framework, Training Packages and assessment • Requested ANTA to produce a simple and concise document incorporating the Training Packages and the recognition and assessment frameworks for consultation
May 1997	<p>User Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed common costing principles for User Choice • Agreed that all registered training organisations registered to provide appropriate training would be available for selection by clients • Endorsed the "Guidelines for Managing Interstate Training Activity under User Choice" • Agreed that third party access is a desirable element of User Choice • Agreed that User Choice will apply to all commencing apprentices and trainees on 1 January 1998 • Agreed that the Commonwealth, States and Territories develop marketing strategies and products to promote User Choice under the New Apprenticeships system • Agreed that a Training Program Outline must be attached to all Training Agreements • Agreed that States and Territories will determine the content of the Training Program Outline within the nationally agreed

framework

- Agreed to reconsider User Choice in 1999 on the basis of a report on the Evaluation of User Choice
- Agreed to endorse the addendum for User Choice in New Apprenticeships and its inclusion in State and Territory 1997 Profiles

NTF

- Noting the opposition of NSW, WA and the ACT to the resolution, agreed that the separation of roles between purchaser and provider is desirable under User Choice and that this issue will be pursued at the State/Territory level
- Noting the NSW position on legislative change, agreed to expedite required legislative change within their respective States/Territories in relation to the implementation of the National Training Framework
- Agreed to take all necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of the National Training Framework under existing legislative arrangements pending legislative change

New Apprenticeships

- Agreed that through bilateral negotiations, the Commonwealth, States and Territories formally negotiate implementation of the national policy framework for New Apprenticeships
- Noting NSW will continue to recognise under statute, agreed that apprenticeships and traineeships under new Apprenticeships should be defined in terms of a pathway to a qualification as identified in a Training Package and not by legislation
- Agreed to the following points of regulation for New Apprenticeships
 - Endorsement of the Training Package
 - Registration of the Training Provider
 - Signing of the Training Agreement between the employer and apprentice or trainee

- Agreed to the national application of the national characteristics and outcomes of the 'model' training agreement
- Agreed that States and Territories will develop their own mechanisms and procedures to deal with validation, registration, appeals, termination, time periods and delegations having regard to the statement of good practice

Resourcing New Apprenticeships

- Agreed that to be a New Apprentice, an individual must meet the following characteristics:
 - be a signatory to a training agreement (registered with and validated by a State/Territory Training Authority) which will facilitate the objectives of the training program and which protects the interests of both parties, and is employed under an award, registered agreement or other contract of employment
 - be involved in paid work and structured training which may be on and off the job
 - be undertaking a negotiated training program responsive to client choice that involves obtaining a nationally recognised qualification
- Agreed to discontinue use of the term "entry level training" in the context of New Apprenticeships
- Agreed that New Apprenticeships are a high priority to be accommodated within the VET sector
- Agreed that access to a publicly funded training place as a New Apprentice be based on an individual falling within the definition of a New Apprenticeship, not currently or previously having continuing full time employment in the enterprise in relation to which the training will take place or being an out-of-trade apprentice/trainee
- Agreed that for an individual meeting the definition of New Apprentice and currently employed, the State/Territory may negotiate to fund at their discretion, the off the job training for that individual
- Agreed to further costing work on the issue of "who pays"

Group Training

- Adopted the National Principles for Group Training
- Agreed that allocation of Joint Policy funds be based on the employment of apprentices and trainees in group training
- Agreed that the expansion of apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities be pursued through purchasing 'outcomes'
- Agreed that group training outcomes be purchased with a 'per capita' payment for each apprentice or trainee
- Agreed to move to a nationally consistent approach for per capita payments and that further work be done to establish the appropriate per capita payment
- Agreed that States/Territories consider purchasing outcomes from bodies outside the existing network of Joint Policy funded group training schemes, including bodies which are not group training schemes and can meet established performance standards
- Agreed that overall expansion of the number of apprenticeships and traineeships and the equitable access to and outcomes from group training be monitored at State/Territory and national levels
- Agreed to develop an implementation plan and timelines for the new arrangements

New Apprenticeships for School Students

- Agreed that the regulatory and administrative arrangements relating to New Apprenticeships should apply to New Apprenticeships in schools

ARF

- Agreed to the National Principles for Registration of Training Organisations and Mutual Recognition
- Supported further work on the draft standards for registration, performance measures and operational protocols
- Supported further work on draft standards, performance measures and operational protocols for:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - audit and monitoring; - fees for registration; - advertising and marketing policy; and - procedures for non-compliance
November 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed the adoption of a national funding model for group training • Endorsed revised Principles and Guidelines containing proposals for the use of the \$20 million ANTA funds for VET in Schools from 1998- 2000 • Agreed to endorse the document Draft ARF Arrangements including the amendment to Principle 3 of the previously agreed Principles of Registration • Agreed to change in wording in the Draft ARF Arrangements from 'performance measures' to 'evidence requirements' • Agreed to the transition arrangements in the preface of the ARF document and the date of effect from 1 January 1998
April 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested enhanced reporting arrangements on the placement and training of New Apprentices with host employers by Group Training Companies
May 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that the issue of employer incentives and subsidies should be monitored by MINCO • Agreed that a group comprising senior State, Territory and Commonwealth officials meet to report on the implementation of New Apprenticeship Centres to the next Ministerial Council meeting • Endorsed the revised National Accreditation Principles and National Assessment Principles and agreed to their incorporation as attachments to the ARF Arrangements document • Agreed to strengthen the ARF Arrangements document to reflect the NTFC decision that relevant Training Packages are to be used where they exist and that self-accreditation of courses only applies where no relevant Training Package

	<p>exists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to remove references to 'customised qualifications' from the document, to reflect developments in policy in relation to such qualifications (ie. qualifications defined by combining competency standards drawn from different Training Packages and/or endorsed competency standards) - to strengthen Principle 2 of the National Principles for Mutual Recognition to incorporate the mutual recognition of accreditation decisions by State Training Authorities/State Recognition Authorities
November 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that National Training Framework implementation issues be addressed through bi-lateral and multi-lateral discussions with assistance through ANTA National Project funding • Noted that the Commonwealth will provide \$8 million, on an outcomes basis, to meet one-off transition costs associated with implementing up to thirty Training Packages by 30 June 1999 and up to a further thirty Training Packages by 30 June 2000 • Agreed that issues of resourcing, transition costs and on-going costs of implementation of Training Packages and the costs of maintenance of nationally commissioned resources be examined by the ANTA Board assisted by a report prepared by a State, Territory, Commonwealth and ANTA working party • Agreed to a process to complete the implementation of New Apprenticeships including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ANTA working with National ITABs to facilitate the development and endorsement of Training Packages - ANTA strengthening protocols for consultation with State /Territory ITABs - Marketing campaign support for products and services as they become available and for New Apprenticeship Centres and training providers - Legislative change - Implementation of the model Training Agreement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of industrial relations arrangements for apprenticeships and traineeships - Dealing with resourcing issues - Commonwealth convening multilateral discussions with State/Territories and ANTA to discuss the potential for the consistent application of employer incentives and rebates and direct links to policies on funding training delivery - Allocation of 1998 unspent National Projects funds to assist States/Territories in dealing with New Apprenticeships and other NTF implementation issues. • Approved the revised approach to training culture issues which emphasises changing industry and general community attitudes towards training through effective marketing • Requested the ANTA Board to develop a marketing strategy designed to change attitudes towards training
June 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming the success of the common efforts of the Commonwealth, States and Territories to deliver a quality training system for Australian industry - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed to continue to work individually and together to deliver quality training - Agreed that Commonwealth, States and Territories will consult to ensure the greatest possible consistency and uniformity, where appropriate, in arrangements to deliver the agreed national framework • Agreed to a national data collection and cost monitoring project on specific aspects of resourcing implications arising from the implementation of Training Packages • Agreed to the importance of maintaining the commitment to the stock of nationally commissioned VET resources • Agreed that any extension of transitional funding to the States/Territories be assessed on the basis of State/Territory delivery against the agreed performance requirements in the implementation plans and where the need for further funding is clearly demonstrated

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that modelling and other analyses in conjunction with the Commonwealth, States and Territories be undertaken to determine the scope of future demand for VET with a view to informing the re- negotiation of the ANTA Agreement
November 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the ANTA Board Report on the Implementation of the National Training Framework and New Apprenticeships and: • Noted the proposed review of the legislative issue identified in the Report by May 2000; • Agreed to State and Territory level discussions with a view to adjusting industrial relations arrangements (including alternatives to time served) in their jurisdiction to support the implementation of new apprenticeships; • Endorsed the resolutions at Attachmend B of the Report from Chief Executive Officers on key aspects of quality assurance in vocational education and training; • Noted the results of the national evaluation of User Choice and the summary of key findings attached to the paper and • Noted that ANTA, States, Territories and the Commonwealth will determine and progress appropriate action on recommendations in the User Choice evaluation report, including as an initial step, a workshop to consider the evaluation and the apparent lack of national consistency in the implementation of User Choice.
March 2000	<p>Reaffirmed the responsibility accepted for implementation of a fully integrated national system of vocational education and training, having regard to State and Territory priorities, and instructed their CEOs to take the steps required to complete this process, including proposals for legislative change where necessary.</p> <p>Consistent with this reaffirmation, the CEOs' Committee, with support from ANTA, is to produce an urgent report which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies real or perceived inconsistencies across States and Territories which are impeding the implementation of the national vocational education and training system; • In relation to each inconsistency, identifies its impact on the

	<p>implementation of the national vocational education and training system; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an action plan and timetable for addressing each of the identified inconsistencies.
June 2000	<p>4A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to work cooperatively to achieve a fully integrated National VET System, particularly in relation to fundamental regulatory issues underpinning mutual recognition; • Noted, however, that achievement of a fully integrated National VET System will have significant resourcing impacts that must be addressed in the context of negotiations on the future of the ANTA Agreement; • Noted the paper and the reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Consistency - Risk Management and Quality in the national system • Endorsed the resolutions contained in the report on National Consistency as the basis for further urgent work to improve consistency noting reservations by individual jurisdictions in relation to certain aspects of the report; • Agreed that the ANTA Board Advisory Committee on New Apprenticeships be combined with the CEOs' Implementation Issues Group, under Chairmanship of an ANTA Board member, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) do the detailed work to progress resolutions 4 to 8 in the report on National Consistency; (b) assist the NTQC with detailed work on resolutions 1 and 3; (c) develop a draft National Code of Good Practice in New Apprenticeships; and (d) provide advice to assist the ANTA Board in reporting to the next meeting of Ministers. • Endorsed the resolution contained in the report on Risk Management and Quality in the National System; • Requested ANTA CEOs to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the benefits to clients of the work to address

inconsistency and implement a fully integrated national VET system be realised by the end of this year. Further, ANTA is requested to report on achievements, from the industry client perspective, by November 2000;

- Whilst acknowledging that all the work detailed in the agreed resolutions on national consistency is necessary, Ministers requested that priority be given to achievement of the following elements by the end of this year:
 - clearer, higher national standards for RTOs
 - a single level of registration for all purposes
 - consistent RTO auditing practices and standards
 - Training Package qualifications immediately available for all pathways upon national endorsement of the Training Package
 - address substantial variations between jurisdictions in "nominal delivery hours" assigned to the same Training Package qualification
 - substantially provide for training wage arrangements in all jurisdictions for qualifications that have significant actual or potential demand for New Apprenticeship pathways
 - prioritise issues of national consistency in the implementation of User Choice and propose any necessary amendments to current principles and policies which will ensure common. regulatory arrangements and retain State and Territory decision making on resource issues
 - provide an information service, nationally, on User Choice access arrangements
 - review and agree changes to Model Training Agreement
 - rationalise State/Territory and national AVETMISS reporting requirements for RTOs
 - provide information service, nationally, on incentive arrangements in place under all jurisdictions, and
 - ensure all States and Territories have necessary legislative provisions to effectively secure a consistent

national framework.

4(B)

- Agreed that the National Training Framework Committee (NTFC) be replaced by a National Training Quality Council (NTQC) as a committee under the ANTA Board, with industry leadership and with representation of two members of the large States and two members from the smaller States and Territories;
- Agreed to Principles and Management Guidelines for the NTQC by adopting the Principles and Management Guidelines currently in place for the NTFC with all references to the NTFC being replaced by references to the NTQC and by replacing the following item in paragraph 20 (Functions):

(g) coordinate, and provide advice to State recognition authorities, on the operation of NFROT at a national level to ensure its effective operation and develop the policy framework for reforms to national recognition arrangements;

with

(g) in relation to quality assurance arrangements in the national vocational education and training system:

(i) provide advice on the operation of, and any necessary change to, the Australian Recognition Framework (ARF);

(ii) provide information and advice to State recognition authorities on the implementation of the ARF; and

(iii) provide to the ANTA Board, for incorporation in the Board's reports to the ANTA Ministerial Council (including the Annual National Report), information and advice on the operation of the ARF in each State and Territory, including by providing such independent advice on State/Territory registration, audit and related processes and related Commonwealth processes as deemed necessary by the NTQC;

- Agreed that the NTQC, and in the interim the NTFC, be responsible for monitoring action on Resolutions 1 and 3 in the report on National Consistency and providing advice to assist the ANTA Board in reporting to Ministers, and be consulted in the work on necessary legislative provisions to effectively secure a consistent national framework.

4(C)

- Agreed that modern business solutions to navigation and transaction difficulties between clients and the national training system should also be investigated and applied as a priority in achieving a fully integrated national VET system. ANTA, in consultation with industry clients and the Commonwealth and States and Territories is requested to progress investigation and application of appropriate approaches including technological solutions such as call centres, e-business, and linked web sites, along with improvements to client service standards more generally.

***Source:** Australian National Training Authority