

Annual National Priorities for 2003

The National Strategy (1998-2003) and the ANTA Agreement (2001-03) identify the broad objectives that have been agreed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers to create a strong, nationally-consistent, industry-led vocational education and training system to benefit the nation, its industries and its people.

The ANTA Agreement also acknowledges the importance of expanding vocational education and training, including New Apprenticeships, and identifies the ongoing importance of quality and efficiency. Co-operative government action to achieve these objectives is underway and will continue in 2003.

Ministers have also agreed that a number of national priority areas will be identified for 2003 to provide a specific focus for action in that year. A focus on these priorities is not intended to diminish efforts in all of the above-mentioned areas.

In 2003, priority work will be undertaken to:

A. Strengthen and promote the image and role of vocational education and training in Australia, including in relation to employment and VET's role in supporting innovation in business and industry.

Planned outcomes

- Vocational education and training will be recognised as providing both leading edge and broad "innovative work" skills to support innovation in enterprises.
- Links between VET and employment programs/services will be improved.
- The benefits of vocational education and training, and its appeal to young people and their parents, will be promoted.

B. Improve pathways between the vocational education and training sector and the schools and higher education sectors.

Planned outcomes

- Pathways from VET in schools to further education, training and employment will be improved.
- The new VET in Schools Framework will be implemented to improve the quality of VET in schools and its relevance to industry.
- More students will have the opportunity to benefit from credit transfer and articulation arrangements between VET and higher education.

C. Enhance the capability of vocational education and training professionals to provide quality learning experiences for clients and to facilitate innovative partnerships between training organisations, enterprises and communities.

Planned outcomes

- Professional development will include a stronger focus on teaching and learning methodologies, including the application of technology.
- A broader range of VET professionals will participate in professional development activities.

- ❑ Professional development will support high quality assessment practices at the provider level.
- ❑ The capability of VET professionals to develop and sustain partnerships at the local level will be improved.
- ❑ Educational leadership skills within registered training organisations will be further developed to support implementation of Training Packages in response to local needs.

D. Achieve agreed outcomes for 2003 of the Blueprint for implementation of Bridging Pathways, the National Strategy for increasing opportunities for people with a disability in VET, and the Blueprint for implementation of Partners in a Learning Culture, the National Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in VET.

Planned outcomes

- ❑ State and Territory action plans for 2003 and identified actions in the Blueprints for the National Strategies will be implemented by December 2003.
- ❑ The level of participation in vocational education and training by people with a disability, and their associated outcomes, will improve.
- ❑ Strategies will be implemented that lead to improved employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who successfully complete their VET studies.

E. Achieve improved training outcomes for older workers.

Planned outcomes

- ❑ Innovative and responsive skill development options will be available for older workers.
- ❑ More effective skills recognition processes will be in place.

F. Improve the client focus of vocational education and training, particularly for individuals and small business.

Planned outcomes

- ❑ Accessibility to information on vocational education and training will be improved.
- ❑ The language of VET will be simplified.
- ❑ Sources of complexity in the VET system will be removed by streamlining processes and improving national consistency.
- ❑ Easier navigation systems will be provided for users, including through continued development of the VET portal.

G. Refine Training Packages and their implementation to improve their quality and enhance their flexibility to meet clients' needs, particularly for individuals and small business.

Planned outcomes

- ❑ Generic employability and emerging technical skills will be embedded in all new and reviewed Training Packages, and subsequent training delivery and assessment.
- ❑ Further access by small business to Training Package competencies and qualifications will be promoted.
- ❑ New Apprenticeship options will be improved.

- ❑ Commonwealth and State/Territory New Apprenticeship support services will be improved.

As well as these national priorities, individual States and Territories may also establish local priorities for 2003.