



# Improved Completions – especially for priority groups

Helping more students to complete their qualifications or courses

## What is the Improved Completions initiative?

Through the National Skills Agreement, the Australian Government will partner with states and territories to trial, evaluate and scale innovative and best practice approaches to helping more Vocational Education and Training (VET) students to successfully complete their studies.

Projects funded through this initiative will prioritise groups such as First Nations students, people with disability, and women.

The Australian, and States and Territories Governments will partner to improve apprentice and trainee completions and outcomes by better supporting employer and apprentice relations. Governments will work with stakeholders to refresh the National Code of Good Practice for Australian Apprenticeships and collaborate on developing best practice guidance and resources for employers.

## What are the benefits?

The initiative will give effect to a coordinated national effort to lift completion rates and improve outcomes for students and apprentices, with a focus on students facing barriers and those historically underrepresented in the workforce, including those with disability.

The Improved Completions initiative will support activities that:

- implement and evaluate high quality, scalable initiatives designed to directly support students or otherwise enhance the voice of students in VET policy.
- evaluate existing initiatives that are designed to improve student outcomes.
- take to scale effective completions initiatives.

A refreshed National Code will promote quality, best practice learning and employment arrangements for apprentices and their employers. Successful working relationships between employers and apprentices are critical to supporting better retention and stronger completion outcomes.

## **What does it mean for the VET system?**

The initiative will help build shared knowledge nationally to improve student outcomes by providing a robust evidence base around effective, efficient and scalable solutions, especially for priority groups through piloting innovative student support practices.

A refresh of the National Code and development of best practice guidance will support better relationships between employers and their apprentices by helping employers to better understand their roles and responsibilities, to ensure safe and inclusive workplaces, high-quality apprenticeship experiences and to contribute to higher completion rates.

## **How much funding has been allocated?**

The Australian Government will invest up to \$250 million over five years to improve VET student outcomes, including completions. States and territories will make a matched contribution.

## **What are the next steps?**

The Australian Government will work with states and territories to agree on implementation arrangements to deliver the initiative. Implementation will draw on tripartite expertise in what is working well and where opportunities exist to target efforts for maximum effect.

Work on the National Code and best practice guidance will occur in 2024 in consultation with apprentices, employers, industry, unions, TAFEs and training providers, and apprenticeship service providers.