



Australian Government



ATEC

Australian Tertiary
Education Commission

A tertiary education
system for all
Australians

Tertiary System Advisory Council

Terms of Reference

Context

Significant opportunities have emerged over the past decade to strengthen the connections between vocational education and training (VET) and higher education. A more connected, responsive tertiary system can deliver measurable benefits to students, communities and industry.

Australia's labour market continues to evolve. Meeting future skills needs will require an adaptable and highly skilled workforce supported by a more coherent tertiary system. This has been a longstanding reform goal, reflected in major reviews including the 2019 *Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework* led by the late Peter Noonan.

A joined-up tertiary system aims to improve pathways and outcomes for learners by leveraging the distinct strengths and complementary roles of VET and higher education. Such a system can:

- lift national productivity and skill levels
- build a more adaptable workforce capable of responding to change and disruption
- improve equity in access, participation and attainment
- enhance the status, sustainability and impact of TAFE and the broader VET sector.

Purpose

The Tertiary System Advisory Council (the Council) will advise and support the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) in developing a Tertiary Roadmap that sets out practical, achievable steps towards a joined-up tertiary system.

The Council will:

- support national efforts to create a more joined-up tertiary system
- provide advice to ATEC on the recommendations of Jobs and Skills Australia's (JSA) report *Opportunity and Productivity: Towards a Tertiary Harmonisation Roadmap* (February 2025)
- advise, guide and support ATEC in developing a Tertiary Roadmap that sets out how a more joined-up tertiary system can be achieved
- consider ATEC's interim report and final Roadmap.

Scope

The Council has an advisory role and reports to ATEC.

The Council will primarily advise, guide and support the ATEC in the development of the Tertiary Roadmap. In doing so, the Council will provide advice on:

- the recommendations in JSA's Opportunity and Productivity report
- the development of an interim report and final Tertiary Roadmap that:
 - identifies a clear implementation pathway
 - specifies achievable actions and prioritisation
 - defines roles and responsibilities
 - sequences reforms to ensure feasibility within the Roadmap's timeframe
- sector views and response to the interim report and Roadmap.

Governance

The Council will be chaired by Professor Barney Glover AO, ATEC Chief Commissioner, nominated by the Australian Government.

Council membership will include representatives from ATEC, each State and Territory, the Commonwealth Departments of Education and Employment and Workplace Relations and Jobs and Skills Australia alongside key stakeholder representatives from employers and industry, unions, the VET and higher education sector, and First Nations peak bodies.

A list of Council members is at **Appendix A**.

Council members will be endorsed by Education Ministers Meeting and Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council. Appointments will be agreed by the Australian Government Ministers for Education and Skills and Training and then executed by the Australian Government Minister for Education on behalf of all jurisdictions.

The Council will meet every two months, or more frequently if required. It will operate until 31 August 2027.

ATEC will provide secretariat support. No remuneration is proposed for Council members.

Appendix A: Tertiary System Advisory Council Membership

Member	Organisation	Role
Prof. Barney Glover AO	Australian Tertiary Education Commission	Chair
Jasmina Joldić PSM	Department of Education (Aust.)	Member
Anna Faithfull	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Aust.)	Member
Jeremy Kurucz	Department of Education (NSW)	Member
Teresa Fels	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (Vic.)	Member
Alexandra Winter	Department of Trade, Employment and Training (Qld)	Member
Dr Ross Kelly	Department of Training and Workforce Development (WA)	Member
Karen Hunt	Department of State Development (SA)	Member
Alexandra Paterson	Department of State Growth (Tas.)	Member
Kate Starick	Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (ACT)	Member
Amelia Nuku	Department of Education and Training (NT)	Member
Megan Lilly	Jobs and Skills Australia	Member
Hon Fiona Nash	Regional Education Commissioner/Australian Tertiary Education Commission	Member
Prof. Peter Dawkins AO	Independent Tertiary Expert	Member
Dr Caroline Smith	Australian Industry Group	Member
Peita Davis	Business Council of Australia	Member
Dr Jodie Trembath	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Member
Liam O'Brien	Australian Council of Trade Unions	Member
Alison Barnes	National Tertiary Education Union	Member
Correna Haythorpe	Australian Education Union	Member
Professor the Hon Verity Firth AM	National Centre for Vocational Education Research	Member
Luke Sheehy	Universities Australia	Member
Prof. Adam Shoemaker	Victoria University	Member
Jenny Dodd	TAFE Directors Australia	Member
Grant Radford	Box Hill Institute	Member
Felix Pirie	Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia	Member
Natalie Turmine	Service and Creative Skills Australia	Member
Dr Gavin Lind	Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance (AUSMASA)	Member
Associate Professor Sadie Heckenberg	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium	Member
Prof. Tom Calma AO	Australian Tertiary Education Commission	Member