

Submission in response to *Review of C and E Course Classification Report for Public Consultation (the Review)*

To serve the needs of ACT senior secondary students, this submission asserts that the opportunity to complete certificate level courses needs to be retained in the ACT secondary school system, same as in the rest of Australia.

The Review makes the case for the removal of awarding certificate level VET courses in the ACT secondary school system. This submission sets out how the Review fails to make that case.

On page 25 of the review, under the heading, '*How can students be protected from risk when studying C courses?*', the key statements leading to the conclusion that granting of certificate level VET courses should be discontinued at ACT schools include;

- The quality assurance of C Courses ... raises questions about scrutiny and accountability (first paragraph)
- The impact of staff changes ... may mean the school-based RTO cannot continue delivery (third paragraph)
- Other circumstances that may impact ... include COVID restrictions ... where competencies cannot be adequately assessed (fourth paragraph)

The level of quality assurance and the supply of teaching staff are based in resourcing decisions. There is no philosophical or pedagogical basis as to why VET courses cannot continue to be delivered to completion at ACT secondary schools.

The disruption by COVID is real, but affects all practical course work including, for example, academic science and engineering subjects. We can note the return-to-school arrangements for Year 11 and 12 students in October 2021 prioritised catch up sessions for practicals. This acknowledges the effect of COVID on all teaching that cannot be delivered on-line. The risk of disruption to competency-based practicals as part of VET assessments is no different to the risk of disruption to practicals in academic subjects, hence this alone is not a reasonable basis for discontinuing the completion of VET courses within the ACT secondary schooling system.

This Review includes the evidence for why achieving certificate level VET qualifications at ACT schools should be retained and that includes:

- All Australian states and territories currently include the opportunity to complete certificate level courses in their secondary education delivery. This proposal would make the ACT the first not to.
- The ACT has delivered VET courses since 2008 including through many significant changes in both curriculum and the VET courses over that time.

The only plausible reason for not, yet again, adapting to changes in curriculum and courses is to avoid providing the resources necessary.

The BSSS can note that resourcing decisions are subject to the willingness of those with an interest to campaign for their rights to a share of resources. Such campaigns are outside of the scope of this submission, but can be reasonably anticipated.

The parent and carer consultation session, as convened by the BSSS and the Review Committee on Wednesday 8 September, was attended by only two volunteer parents/carers. This session presented limited opportunity to put forward critical assessment of the Review and when scrutiny of the Review was put forward, discussion was shut down. This was not a genuine consultation and the volunteer attendees were spoken at, not with. Likewise, the survey monkey submission form is greatly restrictive in allowing the other side of the case to be made. This submission is drafted for direct email to [bsss.enquiries@act.gov.au](mailto:bsss.enquiries@act.gov.au) as per the option provided on page 33 of the review.

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