

## Statement of Priority for TAFE SA – 1 March 2026 to December 31 2029

### 1. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This Statement of Priority is prepared by the Minister for Education, Skills and Training in accordance with the *TAFE SA Act 2025*. Under the Act:

- the Minister must prepare a Statement outlining the Government’s priorities for TAFE SA for a financial year or other specified period;
- the Statement may include governance, financial and functional requirements relevant to TAFE SA’s statutory purpose;
- the Minister must review the Statement annually in consultation with the Treasurer and TAFE SA;
- the Minister may amend the Statement at any time, following consultation; and
- on receiving a Statement or amended Statement, TAFE SA must review and adjust its Business Plan to ensure alignment.

This Statement of Priority therefore operates as a statutory instrument, guiding TAFE SA’s work program, performance expectations and resource allocation alongside the Performance Statement and other legislated accountability requirements.

### 2. OVERVIEW

TAFE SA plays a central role in delivering high-quality vocational education and training for South Australia. As the State’s public VET provider, the statutory authority is responsible for supporting industry needs, enabling workforce participation, and contributing to the State’s economic and social development.

The South Australian Government remains committed to strengthening TAFE SA and ensuring it delivers responsive, industry-aligned training and accessible, high-quality education services. Under the *TAFE SA Act 2025*, TAFE SA must contribute to equitable access, social inclusion and statewide workforce capability through its delivery and stewardship of public VET.

This Statement of Priority reflects the South Australian Government’s direction for TAFE SA as shaped by recent reviews, policy settings and strategic commitments.

In November 2022, the Government commissioned an expert-led review into TAFE SA, culminating in the release of the Roadmap for the Future of TAFE SA (2023–2033) in August 2023. The Roadmap affirmed the importance of a strong, publicly delivered VET system and informed the development of TAFE SA’s ten-year Strategic Plan (2023–2033), which the Government has endorsed.

The priorities outlined in this Statement align with the State’s broader skills strategy and national commitments under the National Skills Agreement 2023. These frameworks

emphasise the need for a skilled, thriving and connected workforce, with TAFE SA positioned at the centre of the State's skills system.

Through this Statement, the Minister sets clear expectations to guide TAFE SA's performance, investment, partnerships and service delivery. TAFE SA is expected to implement these priorities within its legislated functions and report progress through the Government's established performance and accountability mechanisms.

This statement will be reviewed annually, and changes made as required.

### **3. FUNCTIONS OF TAFE SA**

TAFE SA is established as a statutory authority under the *TAFE SA Act 2025* for the purpose of delivering vocational education and training in the public interest.

Its legislated functions include:

- providing vocational education and training that meets the economic and social needs of South Australia;
- acting as the State's public provider of VET, ensuring access to high-quality training across metropolitan, regional and remote communities;
- collaborating with industry, employers and communities to ensure training is responsive, contemporary and aligned with workforce needs;
- supporting learner participation, achievement and progression through inclusive, culturally safe and high-quality educational practices; and
- undertaking its activities with strong governance and stewardship of public resources.

### **4. PRIORITY AREAS FOR DELIVERY**

The following priority areas represent the next stage in TAFE SA's reform journey, building directly on the recommendations of the *Roadmap for the Future of TAFE SA* and the commitments embedded in TAFE SA's 10-year Strategic Plan.

These priorities provide continuity with the work already underway across the organisation and ensure that TAFE SA's functions and activities are delivered – and measured – in ways that are fully aligned with previously endorsed directions, existing reporting arrangements, and the Government's agreed vision for rebuilding a strong public VET system in South Australia.

#### **Transforming South Australia**

Delivering training that supports State-significant industries and Government priorities, enabling economic transformation, productivity uplift and workforce renewal.

**Industry Partnered**

Engaging with employers, unions, industry bodies and peak organisations to design, validate and deliver training that is contemporary, industry-aligned and responsive to workforce needs.

**Job Outcomes**

Delivering programs and learner supports that strengthen pathways into employment, increase workforce participation and respond to skills shortages and occupational demand.

**Student Centred**

Ensuring students receive high-quality, inclusive, culturally safe and accessible support, and that teaching and assessment practices promote learner success and educational excellence.

**Place Based**

Providing training across metropolitan, regional and remote areas that meets local workforce needs, strengthens regional economies and supports community priorities.

**Future-focused**

Anticipating future workforce needs by embedding emerging technologies, innovation and industry trends into curriculum and delivery, supporting adaptation to occupational change.

**Skilled, Dynamic and Engaged Workforce**

Maintaining a capable and contemporary TAFE SA workforce with strong industry experience, up-to-date teaching practice and the ability to support diverse learners and stakeholders.

**Sustainability**

Ensuring responsible financial management, efficient use of public resources and organisational resilience to support the long-term delivery of high-quality public VET services.

**Deliver on government election commitments**

In addition to the above, TAFE SA will continue to deliver on government election commitments and maintain sustainable and efficient delivery of industry relevant education and training, ensuring equitable access for all South Australians.

In response to the Minister's Statement of Priority, TAFE SA will develop an annual Business Plan detailing actions it will take to progress these priorities.

**5. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

TAFE SA will provide the Minister with monthly performance reports, including performance against key financial indicators.

In addition, quarterly strategic performance reports will be provided within three months after the end of each quarter, outlining delivery of the government's strategic priorities as described in section 4.

TAFE SA will continue to provide an annual report to Parliament through the Minister for Education, Training and Skills.

The Statement of Priority will continue to be reviewed annually.

**6. DATE OF OPERATION**

This Statement of Priority comes into operation on 1 March 2026.