

ATTACHMENT F

ADDRESSING SKILLS SHORTAGES THROUGH A NATIONAL APPROACH TO APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINING AND SKILLS RECOGNITION

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Agreed Outcome	Timeline		
		2006	2007	2008
The commitment to quality training				
Accelerated implementation of an outcomes-based auditing model for registered training organisations within Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) standards reviewed and amended to place a stronger focus on quality skills outcomes; ▪ An outcomes-based auditing model for registered training organisations developed to support the new standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As part of the actions above, ensure national consistency of the application of the revised AQTF standards by States and Territories ▪ Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education report back to COAG on the implementation of these recommendations 	By October 2006	Developed by October 2006	Introduced 1 July 2007 By December 2007
A more mobile workforce to help meet skills needs				
The effective implementation of full mutual recognition of skills qualifications across Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals in licensed trades have full mutual recognition of their licences in all jurisdictions and do not face duplicate assessment requirements for obtaining qualifications and licences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in six priority trades - electricians, plumbers, motor mechanics, 			By 30 June 2007

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		2006	2007	2008
	work under short term provisional licensing in the six priority occupations pending final assessment processes			
Portability and recognition of skills and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new look nationally portable Statement of Attainment to set out consistently and clearly for employers the competencies and skills a person has achieved 	By 31 December 2006		
A more flexible and responsive training system				
Shortening the duration of apprenticeships where competencies are demonstrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apprentices to be certified as competent by a State or Territory Training Authority without the need to make a special application when they have demonstrated competence to industry standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ through the amendment of training legislation and administrative procedures where necessary; and ○ by removing references to fixed duration from awards and legislation in all jurisdictions where such awards prevent early sign off based on competency. 	By 31 December 2006		
Enabling School-based New Apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legislative, regulatory and education barriers to school-based apprenticeships are removed in all jurisdictions ▪ Industrial barriers are removed, in collaboration with Industry, for school-based apprenticeships in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ metals and engineering; ○ automotive; ○ building and construction; ○ electrotechnology; and 	By 31 December 2006 By 31 December 2006		

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		2006	2007	2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o commercial cookery 			
Allowing intermediate or specialised qualifications as well as full apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional nationally portable qualifications are to be examined for the residential building and construction industry to enable apprentices to have skills recognised at and below the full trade qualification ▪ Where there is industry demand, national training qualifications will include identified skills clusters 	By 30 June 2006		By 31 December 2008
Achieving maximum flexibility in training for employers and individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All workers entering publicly funded training will be able to have their existing skills recognised quickly and simply so that wherever possible their training time is reduced ▪ A joint three year Commonwealth/State and Territory programme, to be agreed on a bilateral basis, will be established to support delivery and good practice of recognition of prior learning 	By 1 July 2006	By 1 January 2007	
Effective competition between training providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education is to report to COAG on the progress of competition between training providers under the new vocational education and training (VET) legislation and arrangements 	By 31 December 2006		
A targeted response to skills shortages in regions				
In relation to the impacts of skills shortages on particular industries and regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding will be made available for a regional programme to improve the supply of skilled labour in industries and regions of strategic economic importance 	By 1 July 2006		

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS' MEETING - 10 FEBRUARY 2006

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Understanding skills shortages better				
In relation to the impacts of skills shortages on particular industries and regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governments will establish new labour market data sharing arrangements to identify skills shortages and enable them to make appropriate responses 	1 July 2006 (starts)	By 30 June 2007 (first report due)	
Next stages of reform				
Further reform of vocational education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report to be provided to COAG on further reform of the VET system. 	By 31 December 2006		