

## **DESE Stakeholder Forum**

**6 November 2020**

### **Review of COAG and Ministerial Forums**

- Ministerial Forums to be rationalised.
- Education Council to become known as: Education Ministers Meeting. Commonwealth Minister will be the permanent Chair rather than rotation of the chair. Ministers will set the agenda not Officials and the Meetings will have 2 or 3 annual priorities. Other issues will be delegated to Officials.
- The meeting in December this year will decide how Ministers see this new structure working with a focus on the Reform Agenda (available on DESE website).
- National Councils and Forums will be required to report to the national Cabinet every two years.
- USI – working group is making progress to determine implementation and how the identifier will work.
- Senior Secondary Pathways Report – tabled in June and recommendations are commencing.
- Post School Data – looking at where students are heading after school – Further education or Work.
- School Readiness of Children Data – preparing Early Learning and Kindergarten students for school.
- Student Well-being Project – setting priorities of the domains identified.

### **Budget**

- Student Support Package - During 2020 there was a \$146M announcement to support students with disadvantage (\$83M) and Aboriginal students (\$40M).
- Social cohesion and cross-cultural understanding received \$6M.
- STEM Funding - \$28M announced for Primary Schools.

### **Closing the Gap**

- NAIDOC Week 8 – 15 November 2020.
- All departments are required to work with Aboriginal People over the next 10 years.
- Closing the Gap has 16 targets and 6 of those are related to education.
- Particular focus on Aboriginal perspectives in Australian History, Employment and Cultural Competency.
- There will be a Joint Council of Ministers and representatives of the Aboriginal People.

## Senior Secondary Pathways Review

- Report, Looking to the Future, authored by Professor Peter Shergold and available on the DESE website ([www.pathwaysreview.edu.au](http://www.pathwaysreview.edu.au)).
- Report has been tabled with the Educational Council. There are 20 recommendations to improve that education in Australia is fit for purpose.
- What will prepare students best for their adult life was the key focus.
- The Report suggests that the ATAR distorts and narrows the purpose of education as it privileges academic outcomes over other skills and training.
- Technical, creative, communication, problem solving and caring skills will be important for the future workforce.
- Include co-curricular and outside work and achievements should be recognised in a student's learner profile.

## Skills Reform Agenda

- [www.employment.gov.au/delivering-skills](http://www.employment.gov.au/delivering-skills) has detailed information about the reform of the VET System and the national Skills agreement.
- Report due in August 2021
- Looking at improving the quality and relevance of VET and include this in the Learner Profile and USI.
- There will also be an analysis of the labour market ([www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au](http://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au)). These 2 websites have many resources for students and Careers advisers.

## National Careers Institute

- Pilots have begun to build connections between schools and industry.
- [www.nci.dese.gov.au](http://www.nci.dese.gov.au) & [www.yourcareer.gov.au](http://www.yourcareer.gov.au) have many resources too, including a 45 minute chat with a practitioner available for students.

**Next Stakeholder Forum** – February 2021. Agenda items are welcomed.