

# Appendix A:

## Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the Department of Treasury and Finance, the 12 TAFE institutes and the 8 public universities in Victoria, and we considered their views when reaching our audit conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to those agencies and asked for their submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the relevant agency head.

### Responses received

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Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	A-2

OFFICIAL



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Mr Dave Barry  
Deputy of the Auditor General  
Victorian Auditor-General's Office  
Level 31, 35 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Barry

**VAGO RESULTS OF 2024 AUDITS: TAFES AND UNIVERSITIES PROPOSED REPORT**

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 May 2025 inviting the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (the department) to provide submissions or comments on the proposed report Results of 2024 Audits: TAFEs and Universities (the report).

The department has reviewed the report, presenting results of financial and related audits of the 12 TAFEs and 8 Victorian public universities and their controlled entities, and accepts or supports all recommendations made.

The department is already acting in response to the report's recommendation regarding the Tier 2 financial reporting framework and the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) added authoritative implementation guidance to AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement. Consistent with VAGO's recommendation, the department has already commenced working with TAFEs on developing a strategy to address these changes across 2025, including 2025 model accounts which take into account the Tier 2 financial reporting framework.

In relation to the report's follow up recommendations regarding TAFE budgeting, I can advise that since the establishment of the Office for TAFE Coordination and Delivery (OTCD) in November 2021 there has been an increased focus from the department in supporting TAFEs in budget setting and budget management processes.

More broadly, the OTCD continues to work with TAFE institutes to improve the underlying financial performance of the TAFE network. Since the establishment of the OTCD, there has been a progressive reduction in the number of TAFEs requiring Letters of Support to satisfy the going concern requirement, with no TAFEs requiring a Letter of Support in 2024.

The department welcomes the report's findings regarding Victorian public universities. I note your conclusion that the financial reports of the universities and their controlled entities are reliable, and I support the recommendations made. The department will provide some minor comments on the proposed report directly to the VAGO team.



The 8 university Acts contain no general Ministerial power of direction over universities. The legislative responsibilities of the Victorian Minister for Skills and TAFE under the Acts are limited to making some Council appointments, approving the acquisition, disposal, and leasing of some land, approving certain commercial activities, and approving the amendment of university statutes. I therefore support, rather than formally accept, the recommendations in the report.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the work of VAGO, the Victorian TAFEs and public universities, and their respective controlled entities that has led to the clear audit opinions for both sectors for the reporting year.

If your team would like to discuss this further, please contact David Miller, Chief Executive Officer, Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery, in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Matt Carrick**  
Secretary

Date: 05/06/2025

Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]