

Bryan Palmer presentation at the
Community Colleges Australia Annual Conference
Brisbane, November 2019



Australian Government
**Department of Employment,
Skills, Small and Family Business**

A stronger vocational education and training system

Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow

Insights on Australia's VET system are guiding reform

There have been numerous reviews of Australia's VET system to help shape the reforms, including the most recent Government-commissioned Joyce Review.

- In 2018 the Australian Government commissioned a review of Australia's VET system by the Hon Steven Joyce
- Mr Joyce considered ways to make the VET system more effective in:
 - providing Australians with the skills they need to succeed, and
 - providing businesses with the skills they need to grow



Key challenges were identified by the Joyce Review

Confidence in the sector is declining

- Employers struggle with the quality and skill level of VET graduates
- Students and parents lack confidence a VET qualification leads to a good job
- Quality varies between providers
- Australian Skills Quality Authority's regulatory approach needs reform

The system is cumbersome, slow and not responsive to skills needs

- Quicker training package development and implementation processes are needed to ensure training meets the needs of learners and employers.
- Complex funding models, that are inconsistent across jurisdictions and not well matched to skills needs

Students need more help to navigate the system and make good choices

- Unclear information on career pathways through VET
- A lack of confidence in VET in schools as a first choice pathway
- Access issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and others who need better foundation skills to obtain or stay in meaningful work

Key initiatives to deliver skills for today and tomorrow

The Government is investing \$585 million to strengthen the VET sector

National leadership for the VET sector, with a focus on funding and skills needs analysis

\$48.3m

Testing new industry-led arrangements to speed up qualifications development and ensure training quality

\$41.7m

Better careers information and clearer pathways advice to guide Australians' decisions about learning, training and work

\$42.4m

Strengthened quality assurance

More support for apprentices and employers to boost participation and meet skills needs

\$260.3m

Improved access to foundation literacy, numeracy and digital skills needed to succeed

\$62.4m

Other targeted support

An independent expert panel is advising on the reforms

An independent expert advisory panel is providing strategic advice to the Australian Government on key reforms in the VET sector

The expert panel is led by The Hon Steven Joyce. Its members are Professor Peter Noonan and Dr Vanessa Guthrie.

A VET stakeholder committee comprising a broad range of users of the VET system, to ensure that stakeholder views are understood, considered and included. Dr Don Perlgut from CCA is a member of the VET stakeholder committee .



A shared national vision and partnership will strengthen VET

The Commonwealth, states and territories have a shared vision for the VET sector – delivering high-quality education and training to meet the needs of students and employers

Relevance

Ensure that VET is relevant and responsive to the job market, employers, industry and leaders

Quality

Support public confidence in the quality and value of VET for students throughout their lives and move it to parity with the higher education system

Accessibility

Ensure students and employers can access suitable information and training when and where it is required, and include a specific focus on supporting access for disadvantaged Australians

National leadership on funding and skills needs analysis

\$48.3 million to establish a **National Skills Commission** that will provide national leadership for the VET sector, with a focus on funding and skills needs analysis

National Skills Commission

- provide a clear line of sight for industry and governments on funding and subsidy levels to facilitate economic outcomes, high quality training
- maximise the impact, efficiency and relevance of investment in the Australian VET sector
- provide a national approach to skills demand forecasting to allow for consistent advice on skills need and demand

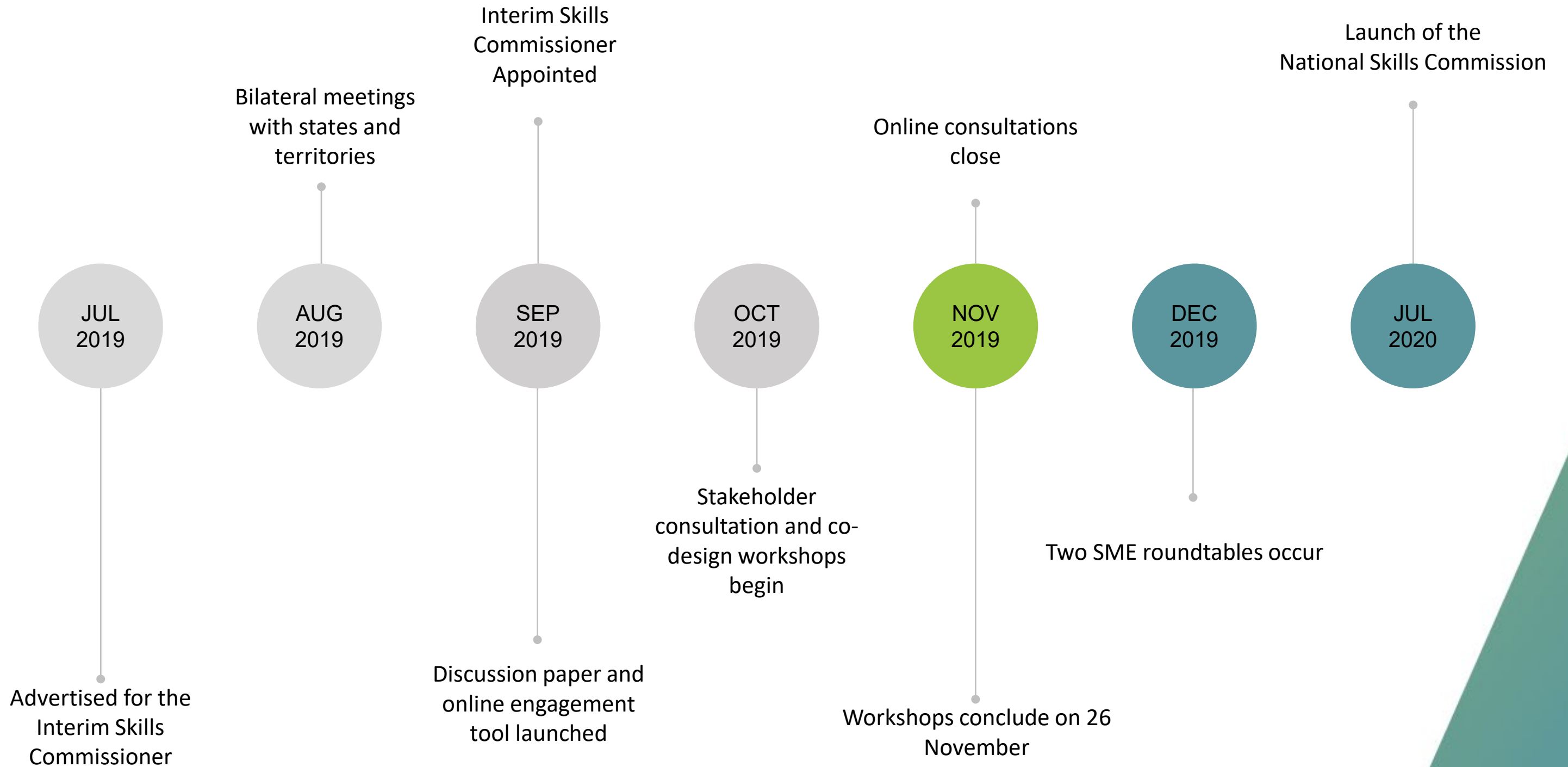
National Skills Commissioner

- Provide national leadership for the VET system
- Oversee the co-design of the Commission with industry and key stakeholders

INTERIM NATIONAL SKILLS COMMISSIONER

- Mr Adam Boyton was appointed as the Interim National Skills Commissioner in October 2019.
- He will lead critical technical work, including:
 - establishing a robust evidence base for informing improvements to the system
 - developing options for efficient pricing model and labour market demand
 - reviewing initiatives to increase apprenticeship numbers

National Skills Commission – Milestones



TO FIND OUT MORE

- A co-design paper on the National Skills Commission was released on 26 September 2019 and is available on the department's website: <https://www.employment.gov.au/NSC>

Access for disadvantaged Australians, better foundation skills

\$62.4 million to assist Australians with language, literacy, numeracy and digital (LLND) skills needs to acquire the **foundation skills** needed to succeed

Foundation Skills for Your Future

The program will enable Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to deliver LLND training to employed or recently unemployed individuals through locally led projects or through projects linking employers and RTOs

Remote Communities Pilot

The pilot will provide tailored and flexible LLND skills training to meet local community needs in four remote communities:

- Northern Queensland
- Northern Territory
- Western Australia
- South Australia



Industry-led arrangements for faster and better training

\$41.7 million for **Skills Organisation pilots** in three key future job markets to test new industry-led arrangements to speed up qualifications development and ensure training quality



Human Services Care

Projected to make the largest contribution to employment growth in the next five years



Digital Technologies

Number employed in ICT projected to increase by 16% by 2023



Mining

A well-trained mining workforce is critical to Australia's economy

Better information and advice to guide career decisions

\$42.4 million to establish a **National Careers Institute** and **Careers Ambassador** to ensure every working-age Australian has access to high-quality, evidence based career advice

National Careers Institute

- improve quality and coverage of career advice for young Australians and workers changing careers
- provide leadership in delivery of career development
- enable Australians at all ages to make informed decisions about learning, training and work pathways
- The National Careers Institute will
 - map the Australian career development system and review international best practice
 - develop a digital platform for career information, and
 - establish a \$10 million grants program

National Careers Ambassador Scott Cam

- facilitate stakeholder engagement
- drive the National Careers Institute's agenda
- lift the national profile of VET
- raise the quality of careers advice

Training hubs and scholarships to help youth in regions

\$50.6 million **Industry Training Hubs** and \$8.2 million **Commonwealth Scholarships** will support young people in 10 regions with high youth unemployment

Industry Training Hubs

There will be 10 Industry Training Hubs in regional areas of high youth unemployment

Commonwealth Scholarships

Young people aged 15-24 in the 10 selected regions will be able to apply for one of 400 VET scholarships

Quality assurance will be strengthened

The **Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)** is being reformed in keeping with key recommendations of the Braithwaite and Joyce Reviews

Australian Skills Quality Authority

Reforms to the Australian Skills Quality Authority will:

- support ASQA in evolving as a regulator
- deliver greater transparency of regulatory decisions, and
- give the ASQA a stronger educative role

Questions?