What is PwC’s Skills for Australia?

PwC’s Skills for Australia is a Skills Service Organisation (SSO), responsible for developing competencies on behalf of the Australian Government. We support Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) in the development of training packages. We work hand-in-hand with industry to research emerging trends and future skills needs. We use this industry insight to improve national vocational education and training standards.

The 9 industries we look after include:

- Business Services
- Financial Services
- Culture & Related Industries
- Information & Communication Technology
- Education
- Printing & Graphic Arts
- Automotive
- Mining, Drilling & Civil Infrastructure
- Naval Shipbuilding

What do we do?

- Research the skills in demand by industry, both now and in the future, to provide the right skills to match our job needs.
- Revise vocational qualifications and training standards to better match what people learn with the skills needs of our industries and businesses.
- Engage employers to be informed about trends in their industry, and get their feedback on qualifications and training packages.
The purpose for the FSK review

There is a critical demand for Foundation Skills in Australia

1. The 2016 National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults, found there are low levels of language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills in the Australian workforce.

2. The Strategy set out a **ten-year framework** to improve education and employment for individuals with low levels of foundation skills. The FSK Training Package has a crucial role to play in supporting the success of the Strategy.

3. Consultations highlighted the FSK required a review, and changes made to address a number of issues that hinder the success of the Package.

4. The objective was to **undertake a holistic review** of the FSK to ensure the package appropriately caters for the needs of learners.
Primary issues with the FSK Training Package

- **The need for clarity of learning outcomes** in each unit
- **Inflexible structure** of qualifications
- **Lack of representation** of some foundation skills resulting in skills gaps in the Training Package
- **Inconsistencies in delivery** stemming from a lack of detail in Units of Competency
- **Duplication of content** in some Units of Competency
What we heard ….

Closely align the FSK with the Australian Core Skills Framework to provide trainers with guidance on how to use the package and address core skills of learners.

Training product titles could better reflect the content of the units.

Stakeholders disagree about the purpose of pre-level 1 units of competency.

Improve robustness of units to reduce confusion in delivery of FSK.

Increase flexibility of packaging rules to cater for individual needs.

Improve the Minimum Professional Standards to reduce misinterpretation, equip trainers and assessors to deliver FSK units, and ensure consistent and effective delivery of FSK.

Evident skills gap for Employability and Digital Skills, avoid duplication by importing existing units.

Too many core units may impose unnecessary training on students already strong in specific foundation skill areas.
Summary of Changes

Changes that have been made to the FSK Training Package include:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Units were <strong>created</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>units were <strong>updated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>units were <strong>superseded into other training products</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>units were <strong>deleted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>qualifications were <strong>updated</strong></td>
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Next steps ...

1. SfA have made relevant training product updates via TPCMS on training.gov.au. The new training package was released last Thursday, 14th November 2019

2. SfA to release the new FSK Companion Volume

3. SfA to resolve issues that happen to arise as a result of implementation, if they occur

Any questions ... ?
Thank you