

TasTAFE Subsidies Briefing

This information was released in response to a request for information regarding TasTAFE savings.



Tasmanian VET market



Skills Tasmania manages government subsidies in the Tasmanian VET market through the:

- *Training and Workforce Development Act 2013* and
- *TasTAFE (Skills and Training Business) Act 2021*

State and Federal Governments invest in Vocational Education and Training (VET) because it equips individuals with practical skills that are directly applicable to the workforce.

The Tasmanian Government's Skills portfolio investment is the Government's largest recurrent investment in economic development.

Some sectors rely more heavily on VET than others.

Licensed trade, in particular, rely on VET whereas other sectors have different job entry requirements that can be provided through training outside the VET system.

There are around 100 Registered Training Providers that receive government subsidies for VET in Tasmania.

TasTAFE is the public provider and has a critical role in providing VET in Tasmania where it is best placed to deliver.

Tasmanian Skills Plan

Tasmanian Skills Plan

November 2024



Skills Tasmania
Department of State Growth



The Tasmanian Skills Plan puts learners the centre of the skills and training system.

- The Plan:
 - guides investment into areas most critical to meeting Tasmania's future workforce needs
 - training that is closely linked to occupations in demand in key Tasmanian industries and that have a high employment reliance on the VET trained workforce

The principles in the Plan are:

- Skills for Jobs
- Supporting Learners to Succeed
- Building a stronger more connected system

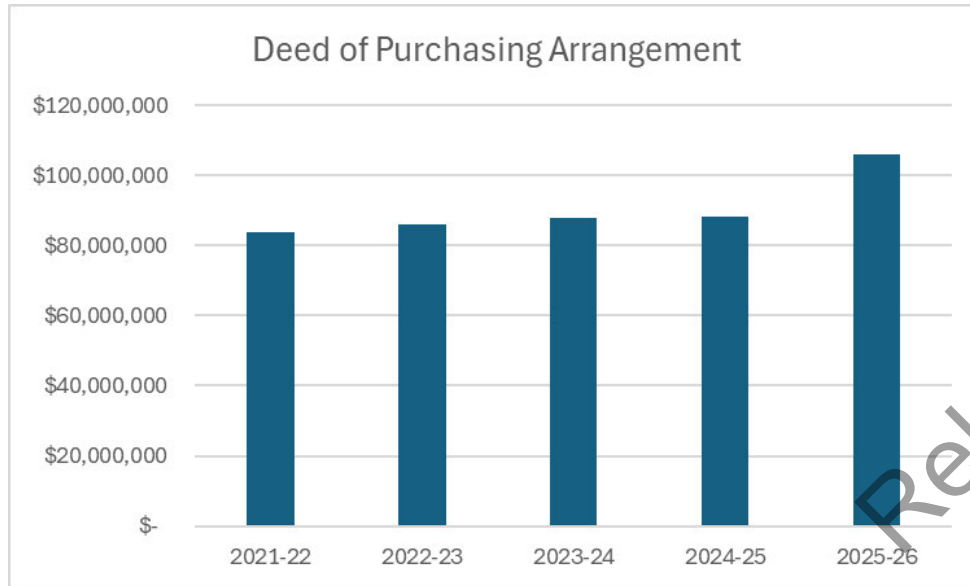
The Plan set out Government priorities – including health care, energy and building and construction.

Skills Tasmania Regional employment projections: total number of new workers required by 2027 (based on expectations of economic growth, labour market movements and retirements, for top occupations)

TRADE Occupations	2024 employment	Projected Employment growth 2024-2027	Projected Employment growth 2024-2027 (headcount)	Net occupation outflow (2024-2027)	Total new workers expected by 2027
Electricians	3,960	5.0%	199	90	288
Plumbers	2,013	4.7%	94	132	225
Chefs	2,845	5.3%	151	37	188
Motor Mechanics	2,324	1.1%	25	130	170
Carpenters and Joiners	3,344	-0.9%	-31	159	169
Metal Fitters and Machinists	2,352	0.8%	19	119	144
Painting Trades Workers	1,488	4.1%	60	42	103
Plasterers	952	3.6%	34	16	66
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers	2,116	0.7%	15	17	41
Bakers and Pastrycooks	1,074	0.4%	4	19	40

CARE Occupations	2024 employment	Projected Employment growth 2024-2027	Projected Employment growth 2024-2027 (headcount)	Net occupation outflow (2024-2027)	Total new workers expected by 2027
Aged and Disabled Carers	9,396	10.5%	986	307	1,293
Welfare Support Workers	2,686	6.4%	171	131	303
Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers	1,889	8.3%	156	57	215
Education Aides	3,410	4.0%	135	52	192
Child Carers	1,790	-1.8%	-32	151	157

Funding for the public provider



The Department of State Growth funds TasTAFE through an annual Deed of Purchasing Arrangement

This provides TasTAFE with secure funding rather than requiring TasTAFE to compete through contestable funding programs.

The 2025-26 Deed allocates \$105.84 million to TasTAFE. This is an uplift from previous years.

TasTAFE receives additional funding through other programs including Fee-Free TAFE.

Since 2022, additional funding \$118.5 million has also been provided through State Budgets, outside of the Deed of Purchasing Arrangement.

This has included funding for additional teaching staff, better facilities and improved regional training options

Other subsidy programs



2025 Tasmanian Training Awards Apprentice of the Year, Holly Frankcombe

The Tasmanian Government also offers a range of funding programs for the delivery of nationally recognised training by private RTOs.

In 2024, over \$30 million was given to 97 private RTOs through the following programs:

- **Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund** – supports Tasmanians wanting to take up apprenticeships and traineeships
- **Building a Skilled Workforce** – supports Tasmanians wanting to upskill
- **Train Now Fund** – supports Tasmanian employers or learner cohorts in need of immediate or unexpected training
- **Industry Partnerships Program** – provides equipment and resources for training
- **Workforce Participation and Training Program** – supports participation for Tasmanians facing disadvantage and who are underrepresented in the workforce.

TasTAFE as public provider



- TasTAFE recently submitted a proposal to Skills Tasmania to adjust the scope of 12 qualifications delivered under the Deed.
- Skills Tasmania reviewed the proposal against the framework of the Deed and the *Tasmanian Skills Plan*. Factors considered by Skills Tasmania included:
 - enrolment to completion outcomes, including withdrawal rates
 - projected employment outcomes
 - other coverage in the market
 - provision for existing enrolled learners to complete their course with TasTAFE
 - industry insights
- TasTAFE is required to advise on how resources will be reallocated and monitored with outcomes to be demonstrated ahead of the 2026-27 Deed.

Overview on TasTAFE Funding

TasTAFE entered a process with Skills Tasmania in line with the Deed of Purchasing Arrangement framework

- TasTAFE reviewed Government subsidised qualifications delivered by TasTAFE under the Deed pursuant to the framework outlined in the Deed.
- The primary purpose was to review qualifications not considered a priority training area outlined in the Deed given new qualifications being delivered or likely to be delivered in priority areas.
- The review of the qualifications involved consideration of:
 - Persistently low enrolments relative to capacity
 - Consistently high withdrawals and by therefore, low completion rates.
 - Qualifications not explicitly included as a priority training area in the Deed.
- The list to the right was the outcome of this analysis.
- Information pertinent to the qualifications was provided to Skills Tasmania for consideration, including enrolment data, completion rates and transitional arrangements.

AMP30316 Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Safety)
CUA30720 Certificate III in Design Fundamentals
CUA31020 Certificate III in Screen and Media
CUA31120 Certificate III in Visual Arts
CUA40720 Certificate IV in Design
CUA40920 Certificate IV in Music
CUA41220 Certificate IV in Screen and Media
CUA41320 Certificate IV in Visual Arts
CUA50720 Diploma of Graphic Design
MSL40122 Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques
MSL50122 Diploma of Laboratory Technology
MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles

Course Background

Enrolment Data, Withdrawals, Completion Rates noted below

Course Description	Enrolments				Withdrawals				Completion Rates		
	2022	2023	2024	2025Q2	2022	2023	2024	2025Q2	2022	2023	2024
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Safety)	11	11	7	0	7	8	3	0	36%	27%	57%
Certificate III in Design Fundamentals	35	74	68	37	22	49	37	18	37%	34%	46%
Certificate III in Screen and Media	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	15	0%	0%	0%
Certificate III in Visual Arts	33	39	63	61	22	24	37	10	33%	38%	41%
Certificate IV in Design	29	41	45	26	11	25	24	9	62%	39%	47%
Certificate IV in Music	12	15	24	24	6	8	18	3	50%	47%	25%
Certificate IV in Screen and Media	19	28	33	20	12	16	21	1	37%	43%	36%
Certificate IV in Visual Arts	30	29	26	52	21	22	19	9	30%	24%	27%
Diploma of Graphic Design	7	7	7	7	0	4	1	0	100%	43%	86%
Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques	22	19	18	23	7	8	10	4	68%	58%	44%
Diploma of Laboratory Technology	9	11	6	9	5	5	2	3	44%	55%	67%
Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles			28	32			15	6			46%
	207	274	325	341	113	169	187	78	45%	38%	42%

- A summary of the key information pertaining to the courses no longer subsidised by the Deed are noted in the table.
- This table includes details for these courses with enrolment information, withdrawals and associated completion rates.
- This information does not include completion information for 2025 given this year has not yet completed.

2025 Course Background

Capacity information further informs this analysis

	Number of places available	Enrolments	Withdrawn	Remaining available places before withdrawals	% Enrolment to Capacity
Certificate III in Design Fundamentals	80	37	18	43	46.3%
Certificate III in Screen and Media	120	50	15	70	41.7%
Certificate III in Visual Arts	140	61	10	79	43.6%
Certificate IV in Design	52	26	9	26	50.0%
Certificate IV in Music	25	24	3	1	96.0%
Certificate IV in Screen and Media	20	20	1	0	100.0%
Certificate IV in Visual Arts	65	52	9	13	80.0%
Diploma of Graphic Design	30	7	0	23	23.3%
Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles	52	32	6	20	61.5%
Certificate IV in Lab Techniques	25	23	4	0	92.0%
Diploma of Laboratory Technologies	20	9	3	11	45.0%

- Noting enrolment, withdrawal and completion data on the prior slide, this slide presents the 2025 TasTAFE capacity for enrolments and the extent any qualifications are oversubscribed.
- Capacity is designated by TasTAFE delivery teams on the basis of space and teacher capacity.
- Most Creative qualifications are below half full, whilst Laboratory Operations vary depending on the qualification.
- Information on withdrawals are preliminary as these are expected to have many more withdrawals recorded between now and Dec as per experience from past years,

Realignment of TasTAFE Resources

TasTAFE resources will be utilised for new courses now and in the future as well as bolstering priority areas



- TasTAFE will look to refocus resources towards the following:
 - The recently opened Community Health Hub expansion at Alanvale which requires both operational resources and staffing.
 - TasTAFE will soon establish the Clean Energy Centre of Excellence in Burnie which will similarly necessitate operational resources and a staffing compliment that does not currently exist.
- Remaining funding to be provided to bolster high demand qualifications such as electrotechnology, plumbing, construction, community care and nursing.

Impact on Current Learners

Qualifications vary in terms of length of qualification, with many finishing at the end of 2025 and some in 2026

- Learners completing their qualification in 2025 will not be impacted.
- In the event a decision is made to not offer the 12 nominated qualifications as commercial products in 2026, this would naturally impact upon any potential learners wishing to enrol in these qualifications for 2026 onwards if there are not enough enrolments to financially justify operating.
- There remains a small number of learners in the Laboratory Operations qualifications that will be taught out in 2026 which TasTAFE is committed to.

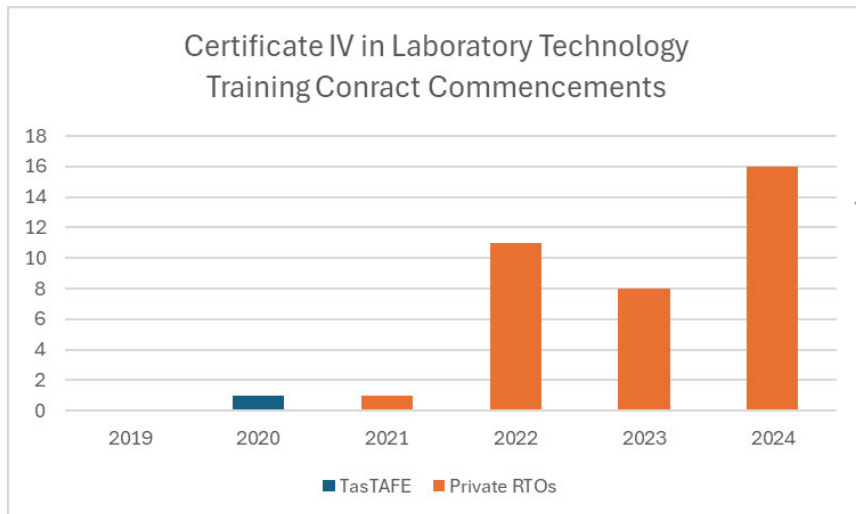
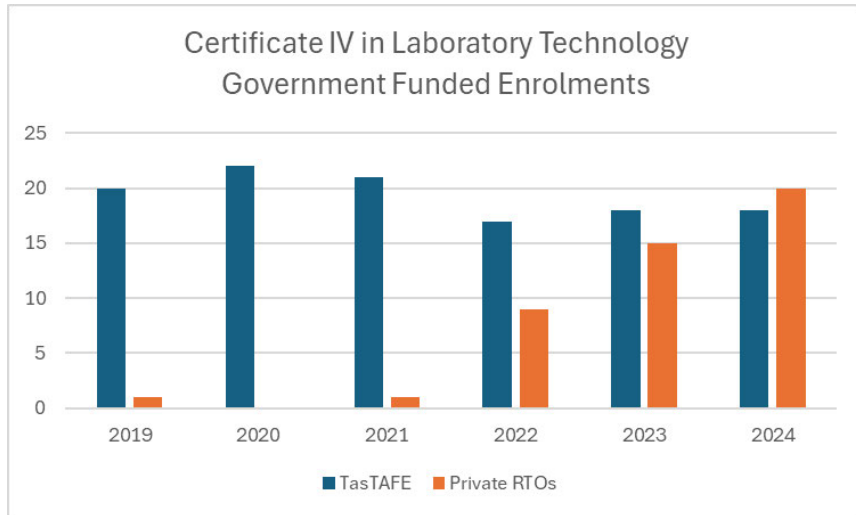
Released under RTI

Demand and market considerations - Meat Processing



- AMP30316 Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Safety) is superseded.
- It has been replaced by AMP30322 Certificate III in Meat Safety Inspection.
- Trend data indicated declining enrolments and low completion rates.
- TasTAFE will continue to offer subsidised fees in the Certificate II in Meat Processing (Food Services), in addition to a range of meat processing short courses.
- Response Learning is funded through the Government's Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund to deliver the Certificate IV in Meat Safety Inspection and through the Existing Worker Fund, Certificate IV in Meat Safety Inspection and Certificate III in Meat Safety Inspection.
- It also delivers other meat processing courses across both grant programs.

Demand and supply considerations - Laboratory Technicians



- High withdrawals and low completion rates.
- Employment projections to not isolate laboratory technicians.

	2024 Employment	Projected Growth 2024-2027
Agricultural technicians	136	8.0%
Medical technicians	882	8.1%
Primary product inspectors	250	9.5%
Science technicians	625	4.8%

- The Certificate IV qualification may be undertaken as an apprenticeship or traineeship.
 - Government already funds three private RTOs (Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund) to deliver the Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques in 2025 - Alan Bartlett Consulting Pty Ltd, Melbourne Tech Institute Pty Ltd and Labtech Training Victoria Pty Ltd.
- Skills Tasmania understands there is capacity within these RTOs to train additional learners.

Demand and supply considerations – Creative Industries



Unlike licences trades, there are no job-entry requirements for employment in the creative sector.

Training in the creative industries can therefore be supported outside of the VET system.

In Tasmania, creative sector pathways are supported through the University of Tasmania, primarily delivered at the Hedberg, part funded by the Tasmanian Government.

The Tasmanian Government, through Arts Tasmania and Screen Tasmania also provides opportunities for non-accredited professional development through paid attachments, residencies and other work placements.

Skills Tasmania is aware that the DECYP RTO has recently undertaken a student survey on interest in creative industries studies which identified that the qualifications delivered by TasTAFE are not highly valued by industry.

Skills Tasmania will convene a meeting with key stakeholders to address emerging workforce priorities across the sector.

Demand and supply considerations – Creative Industries



Design

- MSF40519 Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Merchandising superseded in 2022.
- Declining enrolments, high withdrawal and low completion rates across the Certificate III and Certificate IV, with low enrolments in the Diploma qualification.

Screen and Media

- TasTAFE advised no demand for Certificate III in Screen and Media in 2024 and all enrolments (21) in 2025 have withdrawn.
- High withdrawal and low completion rates.
- Two private RTOs are endorsed to deliver either the Certificate III and Certificate IV in Screen and Media– Max Catwalks Pty Ltd and Community Media Training Organisation Ltd.

Visual Arts / Music

- Trend data indicates high withdrawal and low completion rates.
- Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals employment 2024 = 326, employment growth 2024 to 2027 -8.3%.

Staff Consultation

Consistent with the Enterprise Agreements, TasTAFE commenced a consultation process with staff.

- On 25 September TasTAFE informed impacted staff that TasTAFE will no longer be able to support the subsidised or concessional delivery of the qualifications, and the qualifications would instead be offered at a commercial price from 2026.
- 10 October 2025 TasTAFE opened formal consultation with impacted team members consistent with requirements in the Enterprise Agreement for Teachers as well as General Staff, which require a proposal that becomes the subject of consultation. It should be noted the industrial instrument requires staff consultation prior to a final decision being made and implemented, hence this is proposal and not the decision.
- The proposal is that TasTAFE no longer offer impacted qualifications from 2026 as it is likely that they will be unable to meet the cost of operating the qualifications without subsidies. Noting that there will be a need to teach out Laboratory Qualifications in 2026. The impact of the proposal is that positions will become redundant.
- For clarity, this staff consultation process is not about whether these qualifications should or should not be subsidised.
- The staff consultation process is planned to nominally conclude on 31 October 2025. The change team will prepare a report of the change consultation, and the Executive Director Education will make a recommendation to the TasTAFE Executive for endorsement. The TasTAFE CEO hopes to be in a position to decide on the change by 13 November 2025, with decision to be communicated shortly thereafter.

Further details



<https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/infoweek>

<https://www.yourcareer.gov.au/>

https://www.skills.tas.gov.au/learners/find_vet_courses_and_training_providers

Dept. Ref MR26/423
Critical Signing Date _____

NOTED	
SIGNED:	out of scope
DATE:	4/3/2026

ISSUES BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND JOBS

SUBJECT: TASTAFE DELIVERY OF THE ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM

Minister's notation:

Background:

On 11 February 2026, you received advice from TasTAFE that consideration is being given to whether it should continue with delivery of the Australian Government's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) on the basis that program expenditure is outpacing revenue.

AMEP provides free access to English language training for eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants to support English skills and settlement in Australia. It is open to citizens, permanent residents and various temporary visa holders who speak little or no English. Participants who arrived in Australia on or before 1 October 2020 can stay in the program until they reach a vocational level of English, with no time limits for starting and finishing the program. Time limits for enrolment and completion are applied for those who arrived after that date, but this still extends to five years for completion of the course.

TasTAFE has been delivering AMEP in Tasmania for over 30 years. A new national tender process was undertaken in 2025, but because tendered prices exceeded the Commonwealth's funding allocation the process was paused and TasTAFE was granted a one-year contract extension through 2026.

TasTAFE has advised that learner demand is strong, with around 480 students participating in 2025. However, program costs have exceeded revenue from the Commonwealth for the past two financial years. Expenditure exceeded available funding of \$3M in 2024-25, with a deficit of close to \$700,000.

In response, TasTAFE has initiated a review of its delivery model to understand the causes of the financial shortfall and determine whether the program can be delivered sustainably in future. Depending on the outcome of this review and the new AMEP business model, TasTAFE has advised that it may elect to revise its approach, or potentially withdraw from the next tender round for 2027 onward.

Current Situation:

There is insufficient information available to identify the reasons why program costs have exceeded available funding in recent years.

Noting population change in Tasmania and that overseas migration will be the main source of growth into the future, this program is considered a fundamental offering to support individual settlement and workforce outcomes for the relevant cohort.

State Growth does not have access to information regarding the profile of people accessing the program through TasTAFE, but eligibility is relatively broad. In addition to humanitarian entrants, it would potentially attract enrolments from the adult dependents of skilled visa holders who are not required to have the same level of English as the primary visa holder partner.

Deed of Purchasing Arrangement

Interaction with the TasTAFE Deed of Purchasing Arrangement is not addressed in the briefing note provided by TasTAFE.

Section 2 iii (a) of the Deed requires that programs funded by the Australian Government provided by TasTAFE are separate to the Scope of Agreed Services under the Deed.

The AMEP EAL courses are included on the 2025-26 Deed as qualifications for delivery to non-apprenticeship learners. TasTAFE is reporting these courses as part of foundation skills program courses in quarterly reporting to State Growth.

Skills Tasmania expects to exclude EAL courses from the 2026-27 Deed of Purchasing Arrangement with TasTAFE as they are funded by the Australian Government and as such are not eligible as Deed funded activity under s2 iii (a). Skills Tasmania will consult with TasTAFE about this change in its preparation of the 2026-27 Deed.

Recommended approach

It is recommended that:

- (i) TasTAFE complete internal analysis and review first to clearly identify and advise on the reason for the delivery deficits
- (ii) TasTAFE engage directly with Home Affairs, with a view to raising and working through issues, which would be material to the Commonwealth review.
- (iii) TasTAFE engage with the Department of Premier and Cabinet as the agency responsible for Tasmania's engagement with the Humanitarian Program.
- (iv) TasTAFE provide further advice to your office on the outcomes of this activity, with a view to positioning the organisation to be able to re-tender for the program.
- (v) Any correspondence to the Federal Minister be deferred until TasTAFE has undertaken this work and provided evidence of the issues raised.

out of scope

Alexandra Paterson
General Manager Skills and Workforce

19 February 2026

Prepared by: Position: Email: Date: Phone:	Renee Woodhouse Director Global Education and Migration renee.woodhouse@stategrowth.tas.gov.au 18 February 2026 out of scope	Cleared by: Position: Email: Date: Phone:	
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