

3. In relation to the National Skills Agreement, the amount allocated by Tasmania for each year from 2024 – 2028.

National Skills Agreement

- The National Skills Agreement provides Tasmania with access to \$284.64 million in funding over five years commencing 1 January 2024.
- This includes \$41.68 million funding allocated for the following Specific Policy Initiatives, accessed through an agreed implementation plan for each initiative:
 - \$5.23 million – Closing the Gap
 - \$1.97 million – Foundation Skills Training
 - \$13.2 million – TAFE Centres of Excellence
 - \$5.37 million – National TAFE Network
 - \$2.00 million – Measures to Strengthen the VET Workforce
 - \$6.00 million – Enhanced VET Data and Evidence
 - \$7.90 million – Improved Completions
- Implementation plans for the Specific Policy Initiatives are currently being developed. These plans will set out deliverables and annual funding arrangements. The implementation plans must be finalised by 30 June 2025, and will be published on the Australian Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations website. Accessing Australian Government funding for Specific Policy Initiatives (other than Foundation Skills Training and Enhanced Vet Data and Evidence) require matched State funding.
- The National Skills Agreement is available on the Federal Financial Relations website (<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/national-agreement-skills>)

Fee Free TAFE

- The Australian Government announced its Fee-Free TAFE initiative in its 2024 Budget. Through the 12-Month Skills Agreement, \$10.3 million was allocated to Tasmania to support 3,800 Fee-Free TAFE and vocational education and training places in 2023 (Tranche 1). Fee-Free TAFE Tranche 1 places were delivered by TasTAFE and private Registered Training Organisations.
- Fee-Free TAFE was extended in 2024 through a Deed of Variation with \$8.949 million allocated to Tasmania to deliver 4,600 Fee-Free TAFE places over three years from January 2024 (Tranche 2). Fee-Free TAFE Tranche 1 places are being delivered by TasTAFE.
- The Australian Government is providing a further \$1.805 million to Tasmania deliver 410 Fee-Free Construction places and pre-apprenticeship places over two years from January 2025.
- The Department of State Growth (Skills Tasmania) is currently working through implementation arrangements for Fee-Free Construction with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.
- The Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement now includes the delivery of Fee-Free TAFE Tranche 1 and Tranche 1 and Fee-Free Construction.
- These agreements are available on the Federal Financial Relations website (<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/fee-free-tafe-skills-agreement>).