

NAEN Update

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Update from incoming National Executive Officer Dianne Dayhew

I am keen to introduce myself to you as the newly appointed National Executive Officer of the National Apprentice Employment Network. It is a privilege to be appointed to this role, and I do not underestimate the importance of having a representative for group training at the national level.

Having worked in group training myself, and across many VET areas - particularly connecting industry to government, it's a significant life opportunity to be representing the collective largest employer network of apprentices and trainees in the country.

You would be aware that NAEN NEO Lauren Tiltman is still with us until December 14. I came on board on November 20, and have been working alongside Lauren since this time. She is leaving NAEN with many achievements forged for the organisation and its members, and I am sure you will join me in wishing all the best in her new life in the UK.

In my first days I have had the privilege of joining the NAEN delegation to meet with Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Small and Family Business, Skills and Vocational Education, and also attended the AEN SA Conference and Dinner in McClaren Vale which was well attended by AEN members and SA government officials, including the Hon David Pisoni MP, SA Minister for Industry and Skills.

I have spoken or met with several AEN offices, and look forward to being in regular contact to ensure that the NAEN office is well guided by all state and territory interests.

There is a lot happening in the NAEN space for this time of year, and I wanted to update you on some important matters which I am sure you are following with interest, and also ask for your feedback on a recent announcement.





1) Regional Wage Subsidy pilot

Lauren Tiltman has been working hard on advocating for the inclusion of GTOs in this pilot, having met with Linda White, Foundation and Industry Skills Branch Manager at the Department of Education and Training, and also leading our delegation to meet with Senator Cash. Further to recent discussions in the Senate, Lauren has been in regular contact with Minister Cash's Senior Advisor who has indicated some positive results to our advocacy work. It is evident from transcripts of parliamentary discussion that initial restrictions on this pilot has been changed to make this more favourable for GTO participation. NAEN is waiting for more detail through the pilot guidelines which we understand should be released within the next two weeks. The updated fact sheet can be found [here](#).

2) Extending the Support for Adult Australian Apprentices (SAAA) payment

It was announced on 28th November, through the office of Minister The Hon Michaelia Cash (see media release [here](#)), that from 1 July 2019 employers will be incentivised to take on an apprentice between the age of 21 and 24 with a one-off amount of \$4,000. NAEN has received some feedback on this announcement, however would like to obtain an accurate and balanced view from NAEN members. **Please assist us to represent your views by taking a four-minute survey by Wednesday 12th Dec COB. [Complete the survey here](#).**

3) Review of the VET System in Australia

This was also announced on 28 November by Prime Minister the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, with the Hon Steven Joyce being appointed to undertake the review. Mr Joyce is the former New Zealand Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment and Minister of Finance. The Terms of Reference are available through the link [here](#). Over the coming months, Mr Joyce will host a series of focused discussions with states and territories, peak bodies and associations, industry, employer, student and workforce groups, and there will also be a public consultation and submission process that will take place from around mid-December to 25 January 2019. Submissions will be accepted up to 25 January 2019, so this give us a very small window to collect and submit views from our network. Mr Joyce will deliver a report to the Government in March of next year, focused on practical steps the Australian Government could take to improve the VET sector, alongside a longer-term road map for the future.

It will be important for NAEN to participate to inform the recommendations of the final report. Further information is available on the PM&C [website](#). Please stay tuned for further NAEN communication to assist in the development of this submission.

This week I am in Melbourne with Lauren and we have represented members on the Apprenticeships and

Traineeships Information Service (AATIS) Advisory Committee and, and met with AEN Vic, NAEN Board Members, NAEN Life Members, and Spark Engagement who are running our advocacy program. We have also met with Terry Andison regarding the NAEN Indigenous programs. I will be in Canberra next week for Lauren's office handover and to meet with Justine Everson, Advisor to the Shadow Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships Doug Cameron, as well as Department of Education executives.

My biggest thrill in VET is seeing people get their lives on track through the pathways we offer them, and such transformation is the great joy of working with Group Training Organisations. I look forward to a positive year ahead as we navigate through a changing VET landscape.

Please provide your views on Extending the SAAA Payment by [Wed 12 Dec COB here](#).

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