

School Factsheet: VET Cluster Framework, Transition and Funding

A new state-wide VET Cluster Framework will improve the VET options available to school students.

VET Clusters give students greater access to VET options and reduce the administration burden for schools.

As part of place-based planning, all government schools and participating Catholic and independent schools that were not members of an existing cluster were allocated to new clusters for the coordination of VET delivery.

Actions for schools

In new clusters, schools should collaborate with the cluster's other schools, LLEN and your area's Jobs Skills and Pathways staff to:

- determine appropriate governance and operational arrangements
- apply for VET Cluster Transition Funding.

In existing clusters, schools should:

- work with the cluster's existing governance group to review the VET Cluster Framework and identify opportunities to expand cluster functions
- if opportunities are identified, collaborate with the cluster's LLEN and your area's Job Skills and Pathways staff to apply for VET Cluster Transition Funding.

The VET Cluster Framework

The new VET Cluster Framework (the Framework) will be published on the department's Policy and Advisory Library in Term 2, 2024.

The department will support new clusters to implement the Framework. This will include funding Cluster Coordinators that will be based in Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs). LLENs will work in partnership with schools to undertake cluster activities.

Existing clusters can use the Framework to review their existing activities and outcomes, and to identify opportunities for additional coordination support from LLENs.

Drawing upon the practice of existing clusters, the department has developed a Cluster Functions Self-Assessment that:

- schools establishing a cluster can use to support their application for VET Cluster Transition Funding
- existing clusters can use to evaluate their strategic and operational activities.

The Framework recommends schools actively contribute to cluster governance and operations. The Framework and supporting documents provide models that schools and clusters can adopt to support school engagement.

Transition funding for new clusters

Transition funding is available to support new clusters in setting up coordination arrangements. This is available where schools and a LLEN have jointly committed to establishing a cluster.

To access this funding, clusters must submit a VET Cluster Transition Funding Application. This short-term funding will support:

- employment of a Cluster Coordinator for 12 months, with the exact amount of resourcing based on the number of VDSS enrolments across the cluster.
- miscellaneous administration expenses of \$15,000.

The department recognises that transition funding may be required for more than 12 months to successfully implement long-term funding arrangements and is exploring ways to support clusters beyond this period, as needed.

Transition funding for existing clusters

Transition funding is available for existing clusters. To access this, clusters must:

- undertake a Cluster Functions Self-Assessment
- identify opportunities for the cluster's growth, including opportunities to work with the LLEN to expand its functions
- ensure existing governance arrangements for the cluster are appropriate for its functions and activities.

Long-term cluster coordination funding

In most existing clusters, whether led by schools or LLENs, all members contribute to funding a VET Coordinator. This model has proven to be the most effective at delivering cluster sustainability and ensures that schools have maximum agency over cluster governance and operations.

Transition funding is intended to give schools and LLENs enough time to determine the long-term funding arrangements that meet their needs. The Framework provides guidance on a recommended model for long-term funding.

During the transition period, individual clusters will be responsible for determining the long-term funding arrangements that meet their needs.

Further Information

On the policy: VET Cluster Framework Policy and VET Cluster Framework Guide.

On funding: VET Cluster Transition Funding Application Process

For copies of the documents listed above, or for more information, in the first instance contact the department's Jobs, Skills and Pathways Manager (JSPM) in your area. To find your school's JSPM, contact your [regional office](#). If additional information is required, contact the department's VET Delivered to School Students (VDSS) team: vet.secondary@education.vic.gov.au

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