

Implementation of the Queensland Government's response to the non-state schools accreditation framework review



An [independent review of the accreditation framework](#) used for Queensland's non-state schools (NSS), was conducted by Ms Cheryl Vardon AO with significant parent and stakeholder consultation.

Following the review, the [Queensland Government issued a response](#) to guide the implementation of an enhanced framework that is fit for purpose, supports the provision of quality education and maintains public confidence in Queensland's NSS sector.

Of the 24 recommendations put forward in the review, the Queensland Government response outlined 21 recommendations that will be implemented from 2024, with another 3 relating to the establishment of a new governance structure, to be considered further.

Implementation of the review recommendations aims to ensure that all non-state schools in Queensland meet minimum common standards and that all students have access to the same basic education and safe learning environment, no matter which school they attend.

To note, the review did not consider or make recommendations about state schooling, home education or government funding of non-state schools.

Review findings

The review made recommendations related to 4 key themes:



Culture, collaboration and communication

The role of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (NSSAB) provides stewardship through a collaborative culture, aiming to educate and support NSS to achieve and maintain compliance through clear and open communication.



Clarity and consistency

NSS must have clear guidance about what is required of them under the legislation. This must be consistent internally and with the advice provided by other education regulators.



Compliance

Compliance with legislation is critical to upholding the standards the community expects. Opportunities exist to streamline compliance monitoring that can benefit schools, governing bodies and NSSAB.



Community confidence

Upholding community confidence in NSS and their regulation will occur by strengthening the regulation of student wellbeing, as well as governance of NSSAB and NSS governing bodies.



Implementation

The Queensland Government response to the review outlined a two-phased approach to implementing the recommendations of the review.

This approach will see actions that can be undertaken immediately commencing in 2024, with recommendations that require legislative change to be considered further in phase 2.

Two-phased approach

Response implementation – Phase 1



- focus on areas for immediate improvement that do not require legislative changes
- prioritise activities that safeguard students and promote wellbeing
- provide better support for non-state schools to achieve and maintain compliance.

Response implementation – Phase 2



- focus on recommendations that require legislative amendment or more detailed consideration.

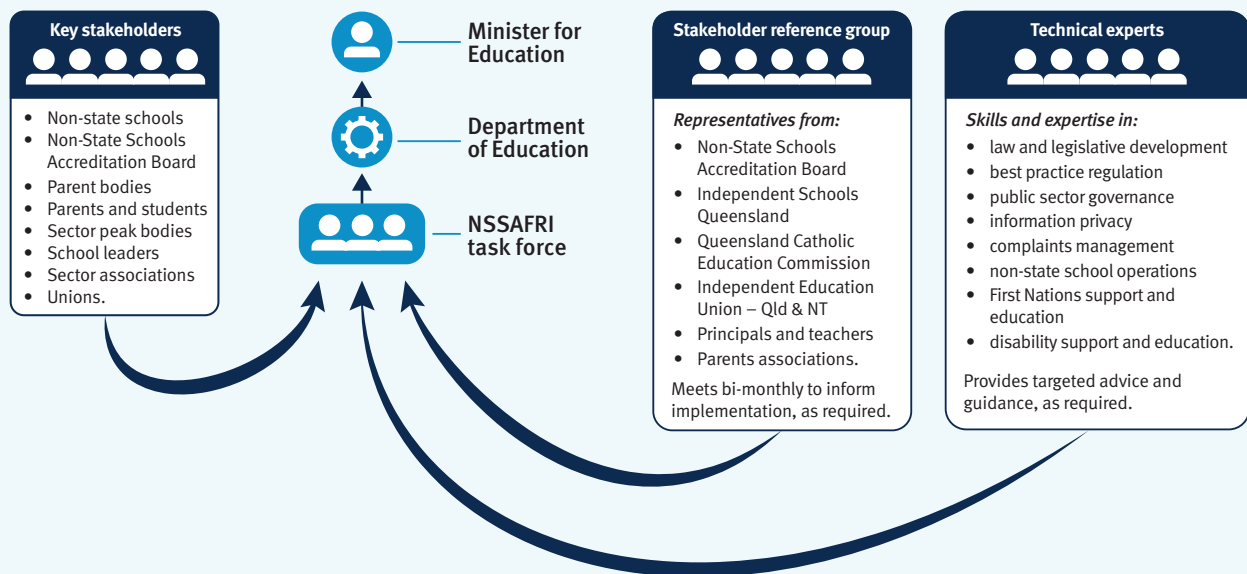
Collaboration, co-creation and communication

Reform activities will occur collaboratively with the non-state school sector, to develop an approach that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the sector and the community. The reform is being led by the Department of Education via a departmental task force.

A representative stakeholder reference group from across the sector will provide input and feedback to help co-create the approach to key recommendations, while technical experts will provide specific technical knowledge and advice to support the development and implementation of targeted responses.

Targeted engagement and communication will be undertaken across the sector, to keep key stakeholders informed and seek feedback at key milestones.

Non-state schools accreditation framework review implementation (NSSAFRI) task force



More information

For more information, email the [Non-state schools accreditation framework review implementation team \(NSSAFRI\)](#), visit the department's website [NSSAFRI project](#) or sign-up for our [newsletter](#).