Building a skilled and adaptable workforce inquiry

Questionnaire response 68

Name: CPA Australia

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Improve school student outcomes with the best available tools and resources

What (if anything) needs to be done to improve the use of edtech tools (including GenAI) in schools?

The participant did not respond to this question.

What more (if anything) needs to be done to improve awareness and access to high quality lesson planning and curriculum materials in schools?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Is there anything more you would like to say about edtech, GenAI or lesson planning and curriculum materials?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Which of the following best describes you?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Are you currently using any edtech tools (including learning games and GenAI) to support teaching and learning in the classroom?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If yes, what has been your experience with using these tools?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Are there things you would like to do with GenAI or edtech tools that you can’t do currently? What’s stopping you from doing these things?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If no, can you tell us why you are not using any edtech tools?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Do you access lesson planning and curriculum materials online?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If yes, what has been your experience with using these tools?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If no, can you tell us why you are not using online lesson planning and curriculum materials?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Support the workforce through a flexible post-secondary education and training sector

Credit transfer and recognition of prior learning

In your experience, how well does the credit transfer and recognition of prior learning system operate in Australia? Does it adequately support students to move between courses or have their work experience recognised as part of a qualification? Are there ways it could be improved?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Which of the following best describes you? Please select all that apply.

The participant did not respond to this question.

In the past 3 years, have you applied for credit recognition or recognition of prior learning (RPL)?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If yes, what was your experience in applying for credit recognition or RPL like?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If no, can you elaborate on why you didn't apply?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Work related training

What are the main reasons individuals and/or businesses do or do not participate in work-related training?

The participant did not respond to this question.

What role, if any, should businesses be playing to address any barriers and better support the offer of work-related training to employees?

The participant did not respond to this question.

What, if anything, could government do to address barriers and better support the offer of work-related training to employees?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Which of the following best describes you? Please select all that apply.

The participant did not respond to this question.

For business owners, managers and sole traders, how many employees do you have?

The participant did not respond to this question.

For employees/individuals, have you participated in any work-related training in the last 12 months that did not relate to general compliance (such as WHS)?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If yes, can you elaborate on the reasons for the training and any benefits you received from doing it?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If no, can you elaborate on any challenges or barriers you faced in attempting to undertake work-related training?

The participant did not respond to this question.

For business owners, managers or sole traders, have you provided or supported your employees to participate in work-related training in the past 12 months?

The participant did not respond to this question.

If yes, can you elaborate on the reasons for the training and any benefits you or your employees received from doing it?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Can you describe whether you accessed any government assistance, what type, and the amount received? If you didn't access any financial assistance, please tell us the reasons why.

The participant did not respond to this question.

If no, can you elaborate on any challenges or barriers you faced in attempting to provide or support your employees to undertake work-related training, such as the time or cost, availability of relevant or high-quality courses, and level of interest from your employees?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Balance service availability and quality through fit-for-purpose occupational entry regulations

What are the effects of occupational entry regulations? Please describe your experience and name the specific occupations you are referring to.

Registered tax and BAS agents
Entry requirements for registered tax practitioners, whether through a Tax Practitioners Board (TPB) pathway or a professional association membership, are generally effective at encouraging new registrants while upholding professional standards. These pathways include formal education, TPB-approved courses and an experience requirement, ensuring that new practitioners are more likely to possess the necessary skills, knowledge and standards.

However, maintaining proportionality to the risk is crucial. Over-regulation may create unnecessary barriers to entry, particularly for small and medium-sized accounting practices. Any changes to entry pathways must consider accessibility to avoid discouraging participation in the profession.

Registered company auditors
The entry requirements for Registered Company Auditors (RCA) are highly restrictive. This risks undermining the pipeline of future auditors at a time when demand for independent assurance is growing, particularly in emerging areas such as sustainability reporting.

Over the past two decades, RCA numbers have declined from over 7,000 to around 3,200 in 2025. While multiple factors have contributed to this trend, the high entry threshold, increasing compliance obligations, and rising cost recovery levies imposed by ASIC are key barriers. These regulatory demands, while intended to maintain quality, disproportionately impact small accounting firms and sole practitioners, making becoming an RCA increasingly difficult.

AFSL holders (financial advice)
The entry requirements to hold an Australian Financial Services License (AFSL) to provide financial advice has been widely criticised. These criticisms are well documented in the Quality of Advice final report, which states 'the regulatory framework for financial advice is complex, difficult to understand and difficult to comply with. These are serious defects.' This has contributed to a decline in the number of professional advisers, limiting the public's access to affordable financial advice.

Registered liquidators and bankruptcy trustees
Entry requirements for registered liquidators and bankruptcy trustees are generally appropriate. They ensure that only practitioners possessing sufficient knowledge and experience in insolvency and bankruptcy laws and procedures are permitted to operate in this complex field. Ongoing professional and ethical obligations further safeguard integrity and competence, with mechanisms in place to penalise misconduct and ensure continuing education.

Do you believe current occupational entry regulations are proportionate to the level of risk associated with different professions? Why or why not? If not, do you

have any suggested improvements to regulations to better reflect risks? Please name the specific occupations you are referring to.

Registered tax and BAS agents
Current entry requirements are proportionate to the tax profession's risk level. The various entry pathways provide accessibility while maintaining high professional standards, supporting the integrity of the tax system. Preserving these pathways is crucial to avoiding unnecessary barriers, especially for smaller practices.

Registered company auditors
The current entry requirements do not adequately differentiate between various audit risks, leading to unnecessary barriers and costs for lower-risk audit engagements.

RCA entry requirements are designed for large, complex, and high-risk audits, such as those of listed companies or multinational enterprises. The current rigorous entry requirements are appropriate for such audit engagements, however RCAs are also required by different laws, regulations and procedures to undertake lower-risk audits. The RCA entry requirements are not appropriate for these audits, and adds to the costs of those being audited.

Rather than adjusting RCA entry requirements, the solution lies in reforming the laws and regulations that mandate RCA accreditation for lower-risk audits. A tiered auditor registration model, similar to New Zealand, would better match entry requirements to audit risk levels.

In New Zealand, they have:
• Licensed auditors: Required for Financial Markets Conduct (FMC) reporting entities, including listed companies, banks, and insurers.
• Qualified auditors: Required for other statutory assurance engagements, including audits of companies and larger charities outside financial markets.

Introducing a new auditor category with different entry requirements would help reduce barriers for new auditors and potentially lower costs for audit clients, without compromising audit quality.

AFSL holders (financial advice)
Entry requirements for financial advisors are disproportionate to the level of risk, contributing to a decline in the number of financial advisers, which has limited the public's access to affordable advice.

We support reforms to simplify the entry requirement for financial advisers, including removing redundant requirements such as the financial adviser exam. The Quality of Advice review provides more detail on how to improve entry requirements.

Registered liquidators and bankruptcy trustees
Entry requirements for insolvency practitioners are proportionate to the risks involved, but changes are needed to address diversity and unregulated pre-insolvency advisers.

The strict experience eligibility criteria may be contributing to low female representation in the insolvency profession. We therefore support Recommendation 12 of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services inquiry into

Corporate Insolvency in Australia, which recommends extending the period for demonstrating experience.

Pre-insolvency advice remains largely regulated, exposing businesses and directors - often in vulnerable positions - to high-risk advice that can lead to illegal phoenix activity. We therefore support Recommendation 15 of the same inquiry, that calls for the ‘consideration of the nature and extent of the harm posed by ‘untrustworthy pre-insolvency advisors’, and whether further regulation or enforcement measures are needed to address this issue.’

Which of the following best describes your connection to occupational entry regulations? Please select all that apply.

The participant did not respond to this question.

Which state or territory are you predominantly based in?

The participant did not respond to this question.