Australian Government

Department of Education

Opportunity Type
Full-Time

Opportunity Status
Ongoing

APS Classification
Senior Executive Service Band 3

Closing Date
5/07/2026

Job Category
Organisation Leadership

Office Arrangement
Flexible

Department of Education

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Tertiary Education Commission

Canberra ACT

As Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), you are accountable for leading the effective operation of Australia's national tertiary education stewardship arrangements and for delivering Government agreed tertiary education reform outcomes at a system level.

The role provides enterprise leadership across policy, funding advice, stewardship, equity and First Nations outcomes and operates with a high degree of professional independence within Government set policy and legislative frameworks.

The key duties of the position include:

As Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), you will:

- Lead the ATEC to ensure its effectiveness and efficiency in delivering against its functions, with a strong focus on supporting ATEC Commissioners in fulfilling their legislative mandate.
- Provide high level support to ATEC Commissioners in the formation and delivery of their advice to Ministers and Government on tertiary education policy, funding, system performance and sustainability.
- Oversee delivery of government-agreed tertiary education reforms, ensuring system readiness, milestone achievement and strategic risk management.
- Supervise the development of key reports, including the annual State of the Tertiary Education System Report, biannual Statement of Strategic Priorities and the ATEC Workplan.
- Design and implement national stewardship frameworks, covering funding, mission-based compacts and system performance measures.
- Lead sector-wide engagement with universities, VET providers, states, territories, and relevant Commonwealth agencies to align objectives and resolve complex issues.
- Provide high level support to the First Nations Commissioner to drive reforms to embed First Nations perspectives and equity outcomes in national policy and funding advice.
- Manage complex political, policy, fiscal and reputational risks associated with high-profile reforms.

- Lead a multi-functional, geographically dispersed team, integrating policy, stewardship, equity and First Nations responsibilities.
- Ensure the effective operation of key administrative arrangements between the Department of Education and ATEC to enable successful interoperability between the two bodies.
- Lead the development and implementation of strong and sustainable partnerships with key government agencies with responsibilities for tertiary education including the Department of Education, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Jobs and Skills Australia, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, the Australian Research Council and other relevant agencies at a Commonwealth and State and Territory level.

Eligibility

Employment at the Department of Education is subject to conditions prescribed within the *Public Service Act 1999* including:

- Citizenship: Under section 22(8) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, employees must be Australian citizens to be employed in the APS unless the Agency delegate has agreed, in writing.
- Security Clearance: This is a designated security assessed position. The successful candidate will have the ability to obtain and maintain the required security clearance.

RecruitAbility applies to this vacancy. Under the RecruitAbility scheme you will be invited to participate in further assessment activity for the vacancy if you choose to apply under the scheme; declare you have a disability; and meet the minimum requirements for the job. For more information visit: https://www.apsc.gov.au/recruitability. This initiative/program is only applicable where the successful applicant will be employed under the Public Service Act 1999. Similar conditions may apply when employed under other Acts. For clarification please contact the advertising agency.

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Agency Employment Act
PS Act 1999

Website
Department of Education

Position Number
26/0145

Vacancy Number
VN-0770170

Getting to know the Department of Education

The Department of Education contributes to Australia's economic prosperity and social wellbeing by creating opportunities and driving better outcomes through access to quality education and learning.

A strong early childhood education system built around early learning and child care gives children the best start in life—supporting them to build social and behavioural skills to help prepare them to transition to school.

For parents and carers, affordable child care enables them to participate in the workforce, pursue further education or other opportunities to contribute to their community — bolstering the social wellbeing and economic prosperity of the nation.

As children continue their journey through school, access to quality education creates the foundation for a bright future – it opens a world of possibilities and equips children and young people with the skills, knowledge, and career advice to prepare them for further work or study to fulfil their dreams.

An affordable, and accessible higher education sector allows Australians and international students to pursue their passion in life or reskill for the jobs of the future. A strong higher education and research sector in step with national priority areas provides people with an opportunity to choose a career path that addresses skill shortages or the challenges of the future including, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, health, and education.

Through education and learning, we change lives, create opportunities, and support Australia's economic success and social wellbeing.

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