



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

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# FACT SHEET

# REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

Registered training organisations (RTOs) are training providers that have been registered by an independent statutory agency – often termed a regulator or registering body – to deliver vocational education and training (VET). Once registered, RTOs are the only organisations in the Australian VET system that are authorised to:

- Deliver and assess nationally recognised training
- Issue nationally recognised qualifications
- Apply for government funding to provide VET services.

## QUICK FACTS

- There are more than 4,500 RTOs in the Australian VET system
- The vast majority of RTOs are privately owned
- There are just over 40 Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes in Australia

## TYPES OF RTOs

There are six main types of RTOs in the Australian VET system.

**Private RTOs** — There are more than 3,000 private RTOs in Australia, and they attract over 55% of all VET enrolments.

**TAFE Institutes** — There are a small number of TAFE institutes in Australia, but they attract more than 25% of all VET enrolments.

**Community RTOs** — Community-owned, not-for-profit RTOs attract around 5% of all VET enrolments.

**Schools** — More than 400 Australian secondary schools also operate as RTOs, and they attract around 5% of all VET enrolments.

**Enterprise RTOs** — ERTOS mainly deliver training to their own employees, and they attract less than 5% of all VET enrolments.

**Universities** — A small number of Australian universities also operate as RTOs, and they attract less than 5% of all VET enrolments.



## BECOMING AN RTO

To become an RTO, an organisation must meet a range of mandatory requirements to ensure its training and assessment services are delivered to the high standards expected by students and employers.

As part of this regulatory process, an organisation must meet (and operate in accordance with) one of the following VET quality standards:

- Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015
- Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Essential Conditions and Standards for Continuing Registration.

The applicable standard will depend on the state or territory in which an RTO operates. To learn more, refer to the **VET Quality Standards** topic.

The following statutory agencies are responsible for regulating RTOs against the quality standards:

- Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- Training Accreditation Council (TAC) of Western Australia
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

The applicable agency will depend on the state or territory in which an RTO operates. To learn more, refer to the **VET Regulators** topic.

## SEARCHING FOR AN RTO

A complete and searchable list of RTOs is available on the National Register of VET.

You can also use the My Skills website to search for RTOs. This is a very useful website, because if you enter your location, My Skills will show all the RTOs in your local area within a 5km, 25km, 50km, 100km and 250km radius.

## SCOPE OF REGISTRATION

When an organisation seeks registration as an RTO, it must identify the training products (i.e. qualifications, accredited courses and units of competency) that it wants to deliver and assess, and it must also identify the states and territories in which it intends to offer them. This collection of training products is referred to as an RTO's *scope of registration*.

RTOs can amend their scope of registration at any time, but they must submit an application to their relevant registering body to do so. A small number of high-performing RTOs have received delegated authority to manage their own scope, which allows them to add training products without submitting an application and paying an application fee.

## MODES OF DELIVERY AND ASSESSMENT

RTOs deliver training in a range of different modes, including full-time, part-time, online, distance and enterprise-based education. RTOs also provide the training and assessment components of Australian Apprenticeships, which are often referred to as apprenticeships or traineeships.

One of the key elements of Australia's VET system is its flexibility, and RTOs tailor learning programs to the specific needs of students and employers. RTOs also offer Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) support to people who have learned skills in other settings, including on-the-job, informal and non-formal learning settings.

## AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards for the VET sector, recognising individuals, businesses and RTOs for their contribution to skilling Australia. The awards are held annually, and the following categories are available to RTOs and their trainers:

### Small Training Provider of the Year

This award recognises RTOs that deliver less than 50 qualifications, offer a specific range of training products and services and demonstrate excellence and high level performance in all aspects of VET.

### Large Training Provider of the Year

This award recognises RTOs that deliver 50 or more qualifications, offer a broad range of training products and services and demonstrate excellence and high level performance in all aspects of VET.

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### International Training Provider of the Year

This award recognises RTOs that demonstrate outstanding achievement in all aspects of VET to full-fee paying international students in Australia and overseas.

### School Pathways to VET

This award recognises organisations (including schools, RTOs, group training organisations, industry bodies and employers) that have collaboratively delivered one or more excellent VET programs to secondary school students.

### VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year

This award recognises innovation and excellence by a VET teacher/trainer providing nationally recognised training to students at an RTO, or in partnership with an RTO.

### KEY WEBSITES

- Australian Training Awards  
<https://www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au/>
- My Skills  
<https://www.myskills.gov.au/>
- National Register of VET  
<https://training.gov.au/>

### RELATED TOPICS

- Awards and Competitions
- Training Products
- VET Quality Standards
- VET Regulators



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# FAQS

# REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

## WHAT IS A REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION (RTO)?

An RTO is an organisation that has been registered by an independent statutory agency to deliver and assess nationally recognised training, and issue nationally recognised qualifications, in accordance with relevant VET quality standards.

## HOW DOES AN ORGANISATION BECOME AN RTO?

To become an RTO, an organisation must meet a range of mandatory requirements to ensure its training and assessment services are delivered to the high standards expected by students and employers. These requirements include:

- Submitting an application to the statutory agency responsible for regulating RTOs in its state or territory
- Meeting the quality standards for RTOs that apply in its state or territory.

## WHAT IS AN RTO'S SCOPE OF REGISTRATION?

An RTO's scope of registration is the total number of qualifications, accredited courses and units of competency that the RTO has been registered to deliver and assess. This is recorded on the National Register of VET.



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## **WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS FOR TRAINING PACKAGES?**

These are used to guide the design of training packages that are approved for implementation by the Australian Industry Skills Council (AISC). They ensure training packages are of a high quality and meet the workforce development needs of industry, enterprises and individuals.

## **WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS FOR VET ACCREDITED COURSES 2012?**

These are used to guide the design of accredited courses that are regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). They specify the requirements that must be met by developers who submit courses for accreditation to ASQA.

## **WHAT ARE THE AQTF 2007 STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITED COURSES?**

These are used to guide the design of accredited courses that are regulated by the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) Western Australia and the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA). They specify the requirements that must be met by developers who submit courses for accreditation to the TAC and VRQA.