

# VET QUALITY STANDARDS

The Australian vocational education and training (VET) system is underpinned by a national quality framework for training organisations and training products. This is a key feature of the system, because it ensures nationally consistent, high quality training and assessment in all states and territories.

## QUICK FACTS

The following independent statutory agencies – known as regulators – are responsible for ensuring Australia's national quality framework for the VET system are met:

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

## STANDARDS FOR TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

The following Standards are used to regulate training organisations in Australia's VET system:

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

## STANDARDS FOR REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS (RTOs) 2015

In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Industry and Skills Council agreed to new regulatory standards for training providers, which are known as the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015.

RTOs in every state and territory except Victoria are regulated against these Standards, which they must comply with in order to deliver and assess nationally recognised training, issue nationally recognised qualifications and apply for government funding to provide VET services.

The purpose of the Standards is to:

- describe the requirements that an organisation must meet in order to be an RTO in Australia
- ensure that training delivered by RTOs meets industry requirements (as set out in training packages and accredited courses) and has integrity for employment and further study
- ensure RTOs operate ethically and consider the needs of both students and industry.

These Standards are regulated by ASQA and TAC. They also form part of the VET Quality Framework, which is a system that ensures the integrity of nationally recognised training in Australia.

## AQTF ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING REGISTRATION

Established in 2001, the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) is a set of standards for training organisations and accredited courses which assure consistent, high-quality training and assessment services for clients of the VET system. The AQTF was last amended in 2013, and it remains effective in Victoria and Western Australia.

RTOs that deliver training to domestic students in **Victoria only** are audited against the *AQTF Essential Conditions and Standards for Continuing Registration*, which is a component of the AQTF.

These Conditions and Standards are regulated by the VRQA. The VRQA also audits RTOs against the *VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers*, which were developed to reduce the regulatory gaps between the AQTF and the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015*.

## STANDARDS FOR TRAINING PRODUCTS

The following Standards are used to regulate training products in Australia's VET system:

- Standards for Training Packages 2012
- Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2012
- AQTF 2007 Standards for Accredited Courses.

## STANDARDS FOR TRAINING PACKAGES

The *Standards for Training Packages 2012* are used by Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) and Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) in their work developing and reviewing training packages.

These Standards ensure training packages are of a high quality and meet the workforce development needs of industry, enterprises and individuals.

## STANDARDS FOR VET ACCREDITED COURSES 2012

The *Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2012* apply to all courses regulated by ASQA. They contain the course design standards that must be met by course developers in every state and territory **except Victoria and Western Australia**.

## AQTF 2007 STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITED COURSES

The *AQTF 2007 Standards for Accredited Courses* apply to all courses regulated by TAC and VRQA. They contain the course design standards that must be met by course developers in Victoria and Western Australia.

## KEY RESOURCES

The following guides have been developed to help training organisations understand their obligations under the national quality framework:

- Online *Users' Guide to the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015* (all states and territories except Victoria)
- *AQTF Users' Guide to the Essential Conditions and Standards for Continuing Registration* (Victoria only)
- *VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers* (Victoria only).

The following guides have been developed to help course developers understand their obligations under the national quality framework:

- Online *Users' Guide to the Standards for VET Accredited Courses* (all states and territories except Victoria)
- *AQTF 2007 Users Guide to the Standards for Accredited Courses* (Victoria and Western Australia only).

## KEY WEBSITES

- Australian Government Department of Education and Training - <https://www.education.gov.au/>
- Australian Skills Quality Authority <https://www.asqa.gov.au/>
- Training Accreditation Council Western Australia <http://www.tac.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority <https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

## RELATED TOPICS

- Australian Industry and Skills Committee
- Registered Training Organisations
- Training Products
- VET Regulators