

TAC UPDATE

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Fees for registration of training organisations in Western Australia

Following a review of fees for registration of training organisations in Western Australia in late 2005, the Minister for Education and Training has approved a revised fee structure to be implemented, with effect from 1 July 2006.

The review focused on existing fees associated with registration of training organisations, fees for the accreditation of courses and the development of a structure to facilitate future reviews. The revised fee format maintains the existing approach to fees for training organisations, incorporating a user pays approach based on a partial cost recovery model.

The revised fee structure better reflects the actual costs associated with the provision and administration of registration and recognition arrangements in Western Australia. See Table One for an overview of revised fee structure.

Fees for registration of training organisations in Western Australia have remained unchanged since 2001, whilst other costs associated with the provision and administration of registration and recognition arrangements have increased.

Western Australia, currently has one of the lowest fee structures for registration of training providers in

Australia, the majority of States/Territories having recently reviewed their fees and charges .

Table One: Revised Fee Structure

Type	Current fees (as of Oct 2001)	Revised fees (as of 1 July 2006)
Application fee	\$375	\$430
Annual fee	\$375	\$430
Registration fee	\$1300 (up to 2 industry areas) \$400 each additional area	\$1500 (up to 2 industry areas) \$460 each additional area
Extension to scope of registration fees	\$800 (\$400 for each additional area)	\$920 (\$460 for each additional area)

In addition, the Minister has approved a new structure to formalise and enable future fee reviews. As a result, fees for registration of training organisations will be directly linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases, ensuring a more consistent and equitable approach.

As part of the changes, fees for registration will be reviewed automatically each year as part of the Department of Education and Training's Schedule of Fees and Charges (finalised in December of each year). Training organisations will be informed of any changes to fee arrangements within the first three months of each year.

Information on the revised fee structure for registration of training providers will be placed on the Training Accreditation Council's Website located at www.tac.wa.gov.au .

The Council appreciates the ongoing commitment and cooperation of training organisations in developing a stronger vocational education and training system in Western Australia and looks forward to your continued support. If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact your Case Manager at the Office of TAC.

Training Accreditation Council

TAC's Revised Trade Skills Recognition Policy

At the 105th TAC meeting held on 16 March 2006 a policy was endorsed to open up trade skills recognition services to Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) scoped to work with apprentices in nominated trades, as well as the Industry Training Councils (ITCs) already approved by the TAC.

Through the VET Act 1996, TAC is the only body able to issue trade certificates to people in Western Australia who are not indentured as Apprentices.

The new policy follows a concentrated period of consultation over the last six months involving representatives from Industry, private and public RTOs, the Department of Education and Training and other key stakeholders.

The policy aims to open up the process to keep pace with increasing demand and align with other State and Federal Government initiatives targeting trade skills shortages, whilst maintaining quality assurance of the trade skills recognition process itself.

To find the policy go to the TAC website www.tac.wa.gov.au and look for Toolbox section on the right of the homepage. Click on *Policies and Guidelines*.

RTOs interested in offering a trade skills recognition process will need to meet the criteria listed in the *Trade Skills Recognition Application Guidelines*, which are co-located with the policy. (There's no proforma as such.)

So what does this mean for RTOs?

TAC requires eligible RTOs to outline a streamlined trade skills recognition process that is all about integrated assessment and can cope with increased numbers of candidates in a consistent way.

It requires a strong working relationship between the RTO and an industry group that is

representative of each nominated trade.

It requires all trade skills recognition candidates to achieve the Certificate III aligned to the trade prior to being recommended for a trade equivalent certificate.

Through its revised Trade Skills Recognition Policy, TAC is seeking to:

- Accelerate the process;
- Increase the number of completions, and
- Maintain quality assurance of trade skills recognition services.

What does this mean for ITCs?

ITCs already approved by TAC to offer trade skills recognition services do not need to reapply. ITCs wishing to continue these services should clear current candidates through their existing process then transition to the revised TAC policy over the next few months.

For further information contact Christine Gammon on 08 9441 1918, or Christine.gammon@det.wa.edu.au

NTIS evolution

The National Training Information Service (NTIS) website (www.ntis.gov.au) is undergoing a major revamp to make it more visually appealing, user friendly and accessible.

Built using sophisticated and flexible technologies, the newly designed NTIS website is currently available for testing and will be continually enhanced over the next few months coinciding with the decommissioning of the original NTIS website.

While the full functionality of the site is currently limited, users are actively encouraged to look at the site and provide any feedback to: navhelp@info.training.com.au

Training Accreditation Council

Reminder about the TAA04

To deliver and assess training from training packages and accredited courses other than the Training and Assessment Training Package, existing trainers and assessors are not required to upgrade their BSZ98 qualification or units of competency.

New trainers and assessors (without training and assessment qualifications) who have been employed by an RTO since 24 November 2005 are required to hold the TAA04 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (or demonstrate equivalence) to comply with Standard 7 of the revised AQTF Standards for RTOs.

Since 24 November 2005 RTOs have not been able to take any new enrolments in BSZ98 qualifications. However, students who had already started BSZ98 before 24 November 2005 can complete their qualification. RTOs should consider that it is in the best interest of learners to have the most up-to-date qualification.

Update on the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*

The *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* was passed by State Parliament on 26 November 2004 and was proclaimed on 1 January 2006. The Act introduces compulsory criminal record checks for certain people working with children in Western Australia.

Comprehensive information about the new scheme can be accessed through the Working With Children website at www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au including a copy of the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* and the *Summary Of The Key Features Of The Working With Children Scheme*.



Working With Children Checks aim to help protect children from harm by:

- deterring people from working with children where they have criminal records that indicate they may harm children; and
- preventing people with such records from gaining positions of trust in certain paid and voluntary work with children.

Working with Children Checks are being phased in across the community over the next five years. By the end of 2010, all new and existing employees, volunteers and self-employed people in child-related work will be required to have a Working with Children Check.

Audit of RTOs which have had no site visit audit in the last three years

TAC's Audit Schedule for 2006 includes an audit of RTOs which have not been involved in a site visit audit in the last three years.

Risk factors, such as changes in the size, nature and complexity of the RTO, changes in scope of delivery, changes in ownership can all contribute to changes in the way an RTO operates.

Through on-site audits the continuing compliance of the RTO will be determined.

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