

TAC UPDATE

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2007 Message from the Council

Welcome to the April 2007 Autumn Edition of *TAC Update*, bringing you the latest information relevant to quality assurance in Vocational Education and Training (VET).

As you are aware from 1 July 2007 the revised AQTF 2007 will be introduced bringing with it new arrangements for the quality assurance of training and assessment for RTOs. The AQTF 2007 will have many benefits for RTOs and some of the principles underpinning the changes include:

- Reducing the regulatory burden;
- Streamlining and standardising processes for national consistency;
- Ensuring stakeholder confidence in quality skills outcomes; and
- Continuous improvement of training and assessment.

The outcome will be improved quality of training and assessment in the VET sector.

The new AQTF 2007 will also see the development of revised Standards for the State registering body, which in Western Australia is the Training Accreditation Council.

RTOs will be provided with support during the transition period, this will include access to workshops and the provision of regular updates on developments relating to the AQTF 2007.

AQTF 2007—Essential Standards for Registration

The Essential Standards for Registration will be introduced on 1 July 2007.

The standards focus on the achievement of quality skills outcomes by RTOs while recognising the diversity of provider organisations by allowing for variation in the processes used by different RTOs to achieve the outcomes. RTOs will be required to provide evidence at audit that they are monitoring and improving their operations in relation to these standards.

Audits against the standards will focus more on what *is* being achieved and less on the detail of how this is done, giving RTOs greater flexibility to manage their operations according to their scope and scale of operations.

Workshops will be held in May/June 2007 to provide RTOs with further detail on the standards and how they impact on their registration with the Training Accreditation Council. Information regarding the workshops will be sent directly to RTOs when arrangements are finalised.

Please refer to the Council's Website www.tac.wa.gov.au for regular updates.

AQTF 2007 UPDATE

The following documents are available from www.training.com.au/aqtf2007

Information documents

On 29 March the National Quality Council (NQC) endorsed the following documents for Ministerial approval:

- *Essential Standards for Registration* (Draft date 4 April 2007)
- *Standards for Registering Bodies* (Draft date 4 April 2007)

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RTOs can access these draft documents for information purposes. The final approved versions will be available in hard copy and electronic versions by June 2007.

RTOs have been asking for more information about Training and Assessment competencies (AQTF 2007 Essential Standard 1.4). This is now available in the document *Training and Assessment Competencies for Trainers and Assessors for AQTF2007*.

Consultation Documents

On 29 March 2007 the NQC noted the following documents and agreed that they be made available for stakeholder consultation:

- *Users Guide to the Essential Standards for Registration* (Draft date 4 April 2007)
- *Minimum Competency Requirements of the AQTF Audit Team* (Draft date 4 April 2007)
- *National Industry Regulator Engagement Guidelines* (Draft date 4 April 2007)
- *National Risk Management Guidelines* (Draft date 4 April 2007)
- *The Audit Handbook* (Draft date 4 April 2007)

The deadline for input into the consultation process is the 30 April 2007.

WA Training Awards 2007

Training Accreditation Council supports search

The Training Accreditation Council is backing a search to find the best in Western Australian training.

The Council is supporting the WA Training Awards 2007, by sponsoring the **WA Trainer of the Year** category.

The Awards recognise and reward the State's best people and organisations involved with training – from apprentices, trainees and

vocational students, to training professionals, training providers and employers committed to the training and development of their staff.

There are 18 award categories and people and organisations from across Western Australia and from all areas of training are encouraged to nominate for the Awards.

The Council is proud to support the WA Trainer of the Year category and encourages all RTOs to promote the awareness of the Awards within their organisations and colleagues within the VET sector.

Nomination forms are available at: www.trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au, by emailing trainingawards@det.wa.edu.au or calling 9264 4869.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday May 11, 2007 and the Awards will be announced in a gala presentation ceremony in Perth in August.

The WA Training Awards 2007 are coordinated by the Department of Education and Training and the State Training Board.

Training Forum 2007 Reform to Transform

-will be held at the Burswood Entertainment Complex on 14 and 15 May 2007.

The theme of the Forum “*Reform to Transform*” is designed to assist practitioners to explore current reforms effecting the VET sector such as the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reforms, the outcomes of the Western Australian Skills Formation Taskforce and other current Government priorities.

The purpose of the Forum is to provide professional development for practitioners involved in the planning and delivery of VET to assist them to understand and implement the reforms.

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Keynote Speakers at the Forum include Patrick McKendry, Chair of the National Quality Council, Kate Lamont of Lamonts Winery, Glen Capelli from the True Learning Centre and Karl O'Callaghan, Commissioner of Police.

Sponsorship of Travel for Regional RTOs — A limited amount of funding has been provided through sponsorship by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) to assist practitioners from regional areas of Western Australia with travel costs to attend the Forum. For further information on how to access this funding please contact Michelle.Robinson2@det.wa.edu.au or telephone 9264 4681.

For further information please refer to the Department of Education and Training's Website www.vetinfonet.det.wa.edu.au.

Professional Development opportunities for training organisations include:

- **TAC Workshops** - A range of workshops are available for training organisations including: *Registration Information Session* (for organisations considering registration); *AQTF Standards Workshop* and *Help the AQTF Auditor is Coming!*. To book for any of the above workshops please refer to the TAC Website: www.tac.wa.gov.au.
- **Department of Education and Training PD Initiatives** - The Department is committed to supporting professional development for VET practitioners across the sector. A calendar of programs has been developed by the Department's VET Teaching & Learning Directorate and can be viewed on the VETinfoNet website under the Professional Development tile. Please refer to the VET Teaching & Learning website at: www.vetinfonet.det.wa.edu.au/home/.



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