

TAC UPDATE

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Happy New Year

The Chairman and members of the Training Accreditation Council extend their thanks to the fine team of Registered Training Organisations, Industry Training Councils, Trainers, Auditors and the support staff at the Office of the Training Accreditation Council for their hard work and outstanding commitment to the AQTF in 2004.

As the implementation of the AQTF matures for all of us, we are learning how it can impact positively on business practices. It is anticipated that the implementation of streamlined processes by TAC and clarification of the standards through the AQTF Review will contribute to further efficiency and effectiveness of the AQTF in 2005.

Happy New Year. May 2005 be especially happy and prosperous for you.

Training And Assessment Training Package

The Training and Assessment Training Package was endorsed by State and Territory Ministers in late November .

The TAA04 training package is different from the current BSZ98 and the qualifications are not regarded as equivalent. As such existing BSZ98 providers who wish to provide qualifications from the new training package will be required to apply for an extension to scope of registration.

The extension to scope process designed for the TAA04 qualifications/units will give the Training Accreditation Council confidence that the RTO has capacity to deliver and assess the new qualifications.

The requirements of this application are based on the processes and the resources that the RTO will develop in order to deliver and assess the new qualifications.

As part of the application, the RTO must nominate one or two qualified and experienced assessors who are considered capable of meeting the requirements of the Training Package.

Further details about the requirements for the extension to scope process are available from the TAC website at www.tac.wa.gov.au or by contacting Rozana Kemp at the Office of TAC on 9441 1921.

Working with Diversity

A suite of new free ANTA-funded booklets is now available for registered training organisations working with Indigenous learners and learners with a disability. The booklets, also available as a CD-ROM, focus on how training providers can meet the needs of these learners and outline some of the key issues and concepts in working with diverse client groups. The booklets are a general guide – “Working with Diversity: A Guide to Equity and the AQTF” – and two specific documents, one each on working with people with a disability, and Indigenous Australians.

The Department of Education and Training produced the resources for ANTA and is mailing free copies to all State Training Authorities for distribution . To view a web version of the booklets, go to <http://westone.wa.gov.au/workingwithdiversity>

Mutual Recognition versus Skills Recognition—There is a difference!!!!

One area that Office of TAC staff are often asked to clarify by RTOs is the difference between Mutual Recognition and Skills Recognition.

Both Skills Recognition (RPL/RCC) - Standard 8.2 and Mutual Recognition — Standard 5 are covered by the AQTF. Confusion between the two has resulted in some non-compliances for RTOs.

To clarify the difference between the two processes the following definitions are provided:

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Mutual Recognition

The recognition and acceptance by an RTO of Australian Qualification Framework qualifications issued by other RTOs, enabling individuals to receive national recognition of their achievements. This refers to formal AQF qualifications or Statements of Attainment that have already been awarded to the individual.

Skills Recognition (Recognition of Prior Learning)

The recognition (via an assessment process established by the RTO) of competencies currently held, regardless of how, when or where the learning occurred. The AQTF recognises that competencies may be obtained in a number of ways. This includes through any combination of formal or informal training and education, work experience or general life experience.

Skills recognition allows a student to gain formal qualifications or a statement of attainment for competencies that have not previously been awarded to the individual.

AQTF Review

As many people will be aware, in 2004 ANTA conducted a review of the AQTF on behalf of the National Training Quality Council. The intent of the review was not to make significant changes but to clarify the standards and assist with interpretation.

Minimal changes will be made to the AQTF Standards and these changes will take effect in July 2005. The changes include:

- Interstate delivery – RTOs must advise their registering body of commencement and cessation of interstate delivery
- RTOs must conduct Internal audit across all operations annually
- RTOs must act on substantiated complaints
- - Std 7.3/7.4 – either the BSZ or TAA qualifications will meet the requirements of this standard

- Rules have been added defining requirements for the delivery of Qualifications in languages other than English; and
- The definitions for RPL and Statements of Attainment have been clarified.

A communication strategy is currently being developed to advise RTOs of the changes and further information will be available in April 2005.

Non-Compliances

The Office of TAC has undertaken a review of the Non-compliances that were identified at audit during 2004. The good news is that overall there has been a notable decline in non-compliance against many standards.

The most common non-compliances, as in previous years, have been identified against standard 8 and 9. In most cases the RTO is only non-compliant with certain sections of the standard.

There are many resources available to assist RTOs with addressing standards 8 & 9, these include:

The Learning and Assessment Strategies Folder produced by ANTA; This 'how to' kit steps RTOs through the process of developing, documenting and reviewing learning and assessment strategies. The kit is available from the ANTA website, The Department of Education and Training or from TAC; and

The Moderation and Assessment Strategies Guide and The Guidelines for Competency Based Assessment produced by the Department of Education and Training.

Links to all of the mentioned publications can be found on the TAC website at www.tac.wa.gov.au

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