



AQTF 2010

On 3 December 2009, the National Quality Council announced changes to the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Essential Standards for Registration, which are aimed at strengthening the Essential Standards for existing RTOs and introducing new standards for RTOs registering for the first time. The changes were endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 7 December 2009.

Since the COAG decision there is further work being conducted to refine the AQTF 2010 Standards, clarify some components, including the AVETMISS compliant data requirement and determine implementation arrangements. When the final version is endorsed the Training Accreditation Council will ensure all RTOs and interested parties are advised.

The TAC Secretariat will communicate the transition arrangements on the TAC website (www.tac.wa.gov.au) and in TAC Updates.

National Regulator

In December 2009 COAG agreed to the creation of a new national regulator for the VET sector. The new arrangements will commence in 2011, with states and territories and the Commonwealth working together to create the legislation and intergovernmental agreements which will make this happen.

The framework for the new body will be agreed by the end of May 2010, with the regulator operational from 2011. Western Australia, through the Training Accreditation Council, will continue to regulate providers operating in WA and will enact legislation to mirror the Commonwealth legislation.

DEEWR is conducting consultation sessions with industry and other key stakeholders to ensure the framework is responsive to the needs of the Australian community. A National Regulator consultation session will be held in Perth on 31 March 2010, from 2pm-5pm at the Mantra on Murray, Murray Street.

Please register your interest in attending the consultation seminar or if you have any questions about the new regulatory arrangements to vetregulator@deewr.gov.au.

Qu: Do I need an AVETMISS compliant database?

The TAC Secretariat would like RTOs to be aware that specific requirements for RTO student record databases have not been determined or publicised at this time. When the AQTF 2010 is finalised and released, RTOs will be advised about specific requirements and transition arrangements.

WA Training Awards 2010

The Council is supporting the WA Training Awards 2010, by sponsoring the **WA Trainer of the Year** category.

The Awards recognise and reward individuals and organisations that have excelled in vocational education and 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 a number of 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 vocational education and training sector.

Nomination forms are available at: www.trainingwa.wa.gov.au/trainingawards, by emailing trainingawards@trainingwa.wa.gov.au or calling (08)9238 2518.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday May 14, 2010 and the Awards will be announced at a presentation ceremony in Perth in late August.

The WA Training Awards 2010 are coordinated by the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the State Training Board.





RTO reporting requirements

Client Qualifications Register

All RTOs should have reported at least once to the Client Qualifications Register (CQR) before 31 December 2009 as part of the transition period.

The next report for student data from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010 will be due by 31 July 2010.

Further information about the CQR and resources such as the CQR Users Guide and Data File format are available through the Client Qualifications Register link in the Toolbox from the TAC Website (www.tac.wa.gov.au).

Quality Indicator Data Reporting

The reporting of the data for all three 2009 Quality Indicators is due by 30 June 2010.

Competency Completion

The Competency Completion Online System (CCOS) is not available for reporting the 2009 Competency Completion data until late April or early May. We will advise you when the CCOS is accessible for data entry.

Learner Engagement and Employer Satisfaction

A 'How to' Guide for the Learner Engagement and Employer Satisfaction Quality Indicators is available on the TAC website, under the Publications Directory.

Further information on these quality indicators, the survey questions and the reporting software are available from www.acer.edu.au/aqtf/.

Industry Engagement

The TAC Secretariat is working on engaging with industry regulators and licensing bodies to:

Streamline arrangements for providers where possible;
Engage technical experts to assist TAC Auditors;
Formalise sharing of information arrangements; and
Strengthen existing quality assurance arrangements for training and assessment in the VET Sector.

This process will clearly identify AQF qualifications and/or units of competence that are required for licenses across occupations and are set up in line with the *National Guideline for Industry Engagement Regulation*.

High Risk Work Licensing Units

There has been some confusion with the use of the new mandated assessment tools for units of competence to meet the requirements for auditing and registration with TAC and the High Risk Work License requirements with WorkSafe.

The transition arrangements for the High Risk Work License units are being amended and will be on TAC and WorkSafe's website shortly. The 30 June 2010 date for the transition to the new "License to.." units has been extended to allow for the moderation process and re-release of the new national assessment tools.

RTOs can continue to use the 'old' WorkSafe assessment instruments for existing units of competence, ensuring any gaps between the tools and the unit have been identified and assessment meets the Training Package requirements.

When applying for the new 'License to..' units from the CPC08 and TLI07 training packages, RTOs must use the new mandated assessment tools, which are available from WorkSafe. However it is the responsibility of the RTO to ensure that AQTF and training package requirements are being met.

To put simply:

Existing unit = old tools + any gap assessments

New 'License to' unit = new tools + any gap assessments

WA Strategic Industry Audit of Security Training

The Training Accreditation Council has agreed to undertake a strategic industry audit of security industry training in Western Australia in 2010. The strategic industry audit will focus on the following areas:

CPP20207 Certificate II in Security Operations (qualification and/or units)
CPP30407 Certificate III in Security Operations (qualification and/or units)
Relevant qualifications (or units) from the PRS03 Asset Security Training Package

All RTOs with the above qualifications and/or units of competence from the qualification on scope will be part of the strategic audit and may potentially undergo an audit. As part of the first phase of the strategic industry audit all relevant RTOs will be sent a survey to complete.

Further information will be provided shortly.





Strengthening the AQF

Testing the proposed strengthened architecture of the AQF

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council has commissioned research which will help validate and fine tune the new structural elements of the strengthened AQF.

An on-line survey will gather data to empirically test the levels criteria, the qualification type descriptors and where Australia's qualifications should be placed in a strengthened AQF.

People who use the AQF to develop, accredit, deliver or assess Australian senior secondary, vocational education and training or higher education qualifications are encouraged to take part. Around 700 survey responses are needed.

The on-line survey was launched on Wednesday 10 March 2010. It will take about 20 minutes to complete.

To participate please go to www.aqf.edu.au and you will be directed to the survey.

For information see the AQF website www.aqf.edu.au or contact Suzy McKenna, Principal Project Officer on **08 8226 3473** or email Suzy.McKenna@sa.gov.au

National Strategic Industry Audit TAA40104—Update

Western Australia is coordinating the National Strategic Industry Audit of TAA40104 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, on behalf of the National Quality Council (NQC).

All RTOs scoped to deliver TAA40104 were requested to respond to an online survey to obtain data on the RTO's profile, check currency of scope and obtain preliminary information on implementation issues.

Site audits of selected RTOs are being conducted in all states and territories during March 2010 to determine compliance with the AQTF and collect specific data. Auditors are also interviewing selected students to obtain learner satisfaction with the delivery of the qualification.

An online survey of Employers, from all industry areas, has also been conducted to determine employer satisfaction with employees who hold the qualification.

Updated NQC Determination of the training and assessment competencies

NQC has provided additional text to clarify what is meant by vocational competency, in its Determination of the training and assessment competencies to be held by trainers and assessors, at its meeting of 18 December 2009. This updates the Determination dated 29 March 2007, which is included as Appendix 2 to the *AQTF Users' Guide to the Essential Standards for Registration*.

The updated determination also outlines the advice that industry may provide in Training Packages concerning the vocational competencies of assessors, as well as identifying the forms of evidence that are acceptable to the industry to demonstrate the maintenance of vocational competency.

Below is the extracted text to clarify vocational competency

Vocational competency

Vocational competency is defined as broad industry knowledge and experience, usually combined with a relevant industry qualification. A person who has vocational competency will be familiar with the content of the vocation and will have relevant current experience in the industry. Vocational competency must be considered on an industry-by-industry basis and with reference to the guidance provided in the Assessment Guidelines of the relevant Training Package.

Training Packages include advice specific to the industry related to the vocational competencies of assessors. This may include advice on relevant industry qualifications and experience required for assessing against the Training Package or for specific qualifications within the package. The Training Package will also provide specific industry advice outlining what it sees as acceptable forms of evidence to demonstrate the maintenance of currency of vocational competency.

