

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

18 November 2014

VET

Number: 073/14

New Standards for registered training organisations (RTOs) and regulators

Purpose

To notify Queensland school registered training organisations (RTOs) about the Australian Government release of new Standards for registered training providers and regulators. The new Standards are available via the Department of Industry VET Reform webpage (www.vetreform.industry.gov.au/publication/new-standards-registered-training-providers-and-regulators).

Background

Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Industry and Skills Council held on 26 September 2014 agreed to new regulatory Standards for training providers and regulators. The new Standards:

- represent an important step towards an effective risk-based regulatory system
- introduce important changes that strengthen industry engagement, improve the quality of training and reduce the regulatory burden on training providers
- increase protections for students who want to undertake nationally recognised training
- strengthen the requirements for the delivery of training and assessment qualifications — qualifications that underpin the overall quality of training delivered through the VET system.

Information

The new Standards for RTOs come into effect from 1 January 2015, but existing RTOs have until 1 April 2015 to transition.

As delegate for VET regulator the [Australian Skills Quality Authority](http://www.asqa.gov.au) (ASQA), the QCAA must ensure that it complies with the Standards for VET Regulators from 1 January 2015. The QCAA VET Branch has commenced transition planning alongside performing its delegated registration and audit duties.

While the new Standards are significantly different from the existing ones, there should be minimal impact on RTO operations for the majority of Queensland school RTOs.

ASQA is holding information sessions in November 2014, and all school RTOs should have received an invitation via email from ASQA to attend one of those sessions. Further information about the ASQA information sessions is available at www.asqa.gov.au/news/2420/asqa-

[information-sessions-on-new-standards.html](#). ASQA will also develop and publish information and guidance on the process of transitioning to the new Standards, as well as a users' guide for the new Standards.

The QCAA VET Branch will also be progressively updating and developing information and resources for publication on the QCAA website, and it will be holding workshops regarding transitioning to the new Standards for Queensland school RTOs in Term 1 of 2015.

School RTOs are encouraged to attend the ASQA information sessions, but should also attend one of the QCAA workshops as the information provided by ASQA will not be specific to Queensland school RTOs.

School RTOs due for a renewal audit in 2015 will be contacted in the near future. As the QCAA VET Branch focus will be on workshops and updating resources in Term 1, it is unlikely that any renewal audits will be scheduled in early 2015.

All information contained in this memo is correct at time of publication and subject to change.

What you need to do

Current Queensland school RTOs

- Existing school RTOs must review the new Standards for RTOs against current RTO practices. Management must put in place a plan for transitioning to ensure that the school RTO is compliant with the new Standards by 1 April 2015.
- The school RTO Manager should register to attend one of the QCAA workshops regarding transitioning to the new Standards (the workshops will be advertised at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/events.html).

Schools considering becoming an RTO

- Before applying to become an RTO, the Principal as well as the intended RTO Manager (executive officer) should first review the new Standards for RTOs.
- Due to the Standards transition, the QCAA is not currently accepting initial RTO registration applications. If your school is considering becoming an RTO in 2015, please email the VET Branch at vet@qcaa.qld.edu.au and the branch will advise you when registration applications re-open.
- The proposed school RTO Manager should register to attend one of the QCAA workshops regarding transitioning to the new Standards (the workshops will be advertised at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/events.html).

Finding out more

For more information, please email the VET Branch at vet@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0381.

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