

Contract Connector

General information

Revised Standards for RTOs

On 1 July 2025, the revised Standards for RTOs will come into regulatory effect.

The Standards have been revised to strengthen the focus on quality outcomes for learners and employers, provide greater clarity for RTOs and regulators, and allow for more flexibility and innovation in training delivery across the sector.

Changes to the Standards now more accurately represent the diversity of the VET sector and ensure they are fit-for-purpose across different RTO settings. These changes clearly articulate what is required of RTOs and fosters an understanding of what high-quality VET delivery looks like.

The revised Standards provide a clearer and more direct link between the requirements RTOs are expected to meet and the outcomes they are expected to deliver. The transition period supports all RTOs to understand these changes and to ensure that they are well placed to align their systems and practices with the revised Standards. Please refer to [Preparing for the revised Standards | Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\)](#) for more information.

We would like to remind you of your obligations under your Skills Assure Supplier (SAS) Agreement and the importance of remaining compliant with the Standards (please refer to clause 4.1(j)).

SAS Delivery Schedules – qualifications due to expire in April 2025

The following qualifications are due to expire on 29 April 2025:

- AHC10120 Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- AHC20320 Certificate II in Production Horticulture
- AHC20621 Certificate II in Parks and Gardens
- AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping

The qualifications below have an extended transition period ending on 31 January 2026; however, new students must commence in the superseding versions from 30 April 2025.

- AHC21020 Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management

- AHC30620 Certificate III in Production Horticulture
- AHC30820 Certificate III in Arboriculture
- AHC31021 Certificate III in Parks and Gardens
- AHC31120 Certificate III in Nursery Operations
- AHC31319 Certificate III in Sports Turf Management
- AHC31421 Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- AHC32422 Certificate III in Irrigation Technology

Superseding versions may be available on the [Priority Skills List](#) and the [User Choice Price List](#).

SAS were advised that from 1 November 2024, variations to SAS agreements would be limited during the new SAS EOI process for 2025 but the Department is still accepting variation requests for superseding qualifications.

We recommend that you promptly update your SAS Delivery Schedules to include the latest superseding qualifications, if not done already, especially if current students require transitioning to the updated versions.

To request any changes, please submit your application through Purchasing Online (POL) within Partner Portal. Please note, variation requests **cannot** be backdated. For further details on how to process these changes, please refer to the information provided on the [Variations to Agreements](#) webpage.

The **VET Programs & Investment Team** oversees variations to SAS agreements. Should you have queries or need assistance regarding the variation process, please get in touch with us at the dedicated POL email address: purchasingonline@desbt.qld.gov.au.



AVETMISS Outcome Identifier 85 (Not Yet Started)

It is important to remember that enrolment data not only assists the Department with forecasting expenditure for students currently enrolled in funded programs, but it also allows other SAS to determine funding eligibility for prospective students.

Upon enrolling a student, SAS should report the enrolment to the Department. Ideally, the life of a unit of competency should start as an 85 outcome with an estimated activity start and end date. The activity start date will be in the future, as the training has not yet commenced. The outcome will then change to a 70 (Continuing activity) when the student commences training. The activity start date must also be adjusted to align with your trainer logs and signed student attendance sheets.

Enrolment outcome identifiers should be regularly reviewed by SAS to ensure they are a true reflection of the student's training activity. When reviewing enrolment data where the activity end

date is in the past, you need to change your data to either reflect the revised end date OR delete the enrolment, if the student has withdrawn from training without participation.

It is particularly important at the end of a financial year that you not only finalise your claims, but you also update all enrolments to ensure that your data reflects how many students you currently have enrolled in government funding.

Compliance monitoring

Marketing of Subsidised Programs

Recent website reviews conducted by Contract Management have revealed that some SAS are continuing to reference outdated programs in marketing materials, such as Free Tafe for Year 12 Graduates – which was discontinued on 1 January 2021.

As per Principle five of the SAS Marketing and Disclosure Directive, SAS must not market or advertise program details which are inaccurate or no longer current.

Contract Management strongly encourages SAS to review their website and any marketing materials to ensure compliance with the SAS agreement and related policies.

Spotlight on agreement

Eligibility in Focus

Contract Management has identified that SAS are incorrectly assessing students as ineligible under the Certificate 3 Guarantee program.

This has been reported to occur when a student has completed a Certificate III or higher-level qualification while at school or has withdrawn from previous training prior to completing the qualification.

Completing a qualification while at school

If a prospective student has completed a qualification whilst at school, this does not preclude the student from accessing funded training.

To ascertain eligibility, you can:

- Ask relevant questions on your Enrolment Form; and
- Seek clarification and evidence from the student.

It is likely that Contract error '875 – *State funding not approved – Previously Held Qualification*' will return once you report data for the student. When this occurs, you will need to email acceptable

evidence to Contract Management to enable an exception to be processed to clear the error.

Acceptable evidence includes a copy of the student's Senior Statement showing the qualification as 'awarded' **or** a copy of the student's qualification showing the issue date, accompanied by evidence that the student was at school at that time (for example, a letter from the school, report card or graduation certificate).

Withdrawn from Previous Training

If a prospective student has commenced, but not completed a previous qualification at Certificate III or higher, this does not preclude them from accessing funded training.

In this scenario, you can ascertain eligibility by:

- Asking relevant questions on your Enrolment Form;
- Seek clarification from the student or previous training provider; and
- Check if completed training appears on the student's AISS search result.

Please note:

- An AISS search may not return 'withdrawn' outcomes against the student's previous qualification. For example, a student may have completed 7 out of the required 10 units of competency prior to withdrawing from the qualification; or
- The previous training provider may have incorrectly reported an Outcome 70 (continuing enrolment) after the student has withdrawn.

In these instances, the student should email their previous training provider to confirm their withdrawal from the qualification. A copy of this email, which must contain a valid email address will suffice as evidence.

Contract Management is aware that students are being referred to the Back to Work C3G Plus program to seek a second chance opportunity where they do not meet the eligibility restrictions listed on the Priority Skills List or where they do not meet the minimum entry requirements for a qualification.

The Back to Work C3G Plus program is not authorised to override these restrictions or requirements so you should refrain from making referrals to the program in these instances.

[Priority Skills List](#) | [User Choice Price List](#) | [Past Editions](#)

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