



RAPS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

SMALL BUSINESS NEWS

WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS WEBSITE

The Workplace Essentials website provides small to medium businesses with a ‘one-stop’ gateway to find useful information, templates, links and resources that can help them to better plan, attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) and their project partners have published a series of workforce planning and development brochures tailored towards small to medium businesses.

All brochures are available on the Workplace Essentials [website](#).

INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND – GROWTH STREAM APPLICATIONS OPEN

The \$476 million Industry Skills Fund – Growth Stream (the Fund) is a key element in the Australian Government’s Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda and will deliver up to 200,000 training places and training support services over four years.

The Fund is now open for applications via the business.gov.au website.

Businesses that apply for funding under the Industry Skills Fund must financially contribute to the proposed project.

The Fund primarily targets Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including micro businesses, which plan to upskill and reskill their workforces to better position themselves for growth opportunities. Large businesses are also eligible for the Fund, but they will be required to make a higher contribution to the costs of training.

There are six priority industries that have been identified, although if a business is not in a priority industry, they may still be eligible to apply. Priority industries include:

- food and agribusiness;
- mining equipment, technology and services;
- medical technologies and pharmaceuticals;
- oil, gas and energy resources;
- advanced manufacturing, and
- enabling technology and service industries that support one or more of the priority areas listed above.

Interested businesses can call 13 28 46 for more information or visit the business.gov.au website.

RAPS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS NEEDS EMPLOYER SURVEY

RAPS understands how valuable your time is, but would very much appreciate you completing the **employer** survey at the following link: [RAPS Employer Survey 2015](#)

STATE NEWS

WELCOME HON. LIZA HARVEY

RAPS welcomes the new Minister for Training and Workforce Development, the Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, and congratulates her on her new portfolio.

Ms Harvey takes on the portfolio of Training and Workforce Development, in addition to Police, Road Safety and Women's Interests following her appointment by the Hon. Colin Barnett MLA in 2013.

STATE TRAINING BOARD YOUTH SURVEY

The State Training Board invites young West Australians aged between 15 and 24 to take part in their youth survey.

The survey gives young West Australians an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on their education, training and employment experiences. What types of programs are offered by

their school? Have they experienced problems with their school work? Have they received career counselling? Have they looked for work? What are the jobs like for young people in their local area?

The Youth Survey will be used to develop policies and programs designed to help young people achieve their full potential and identify pathways from secondary school to further education and training and the world of work. The State Training Board will develop a Strategic Youth Workforce Development Plan and present it to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development.

The survey closes on Friday 27 February 2015.

To access the State Training Board Youth Survey please click [here](#).

NEW STANDARDS FOR RTOS AND REGULATORS COME INTO EFFECT

As part of the national VET reform agenda, on Monday 20 October 2014, new Standards for RTOs and VET Regulators were signed by the Commonwealth Minister for Industry. This follows the 26 September 2014 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Industry and Skills Council, where the introduction of the new Standards from 1 January 2015 was approved.

Under the new standards, training providers and their brokers must be upfront with students and provide clear information about any VET-FEE HELP loans, state entitlements and subsidy arrangements that they sign up to.

The standards also stipulate that training providers are ultimately responsible for services delivered by brokers on their behalf.

The transition arrangements allow existing RTOs until 1 April 2015 to demonstrate compliance with the new Standards.

For more information on the transition arrangements please click [here](#).

To view the Standards for RTOs please click [here](#).

To view the Standards for VET Regulators please click [here](#).

HELPFUL DOCUMENTS BY TAC: NEW STANDARDS FOR RTOS & REGULATORS

With the commencement of the new regulatory Standards for training providers and regulators on January 1 2015, the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) Western Australia has created the following documents to outline key changes and similarities to the previous standards:

[Mapping of the similarities between the AQTF 2010 and the Standards for RTOs 2015](#)

This document has been developed to provide RTOs regulated by the TAC with guidance on the Standards for RTOs 2015. The document provides information against the Standards including similarities to sections within the AQTF 2010.

[An overview of key changes in the requirements of RTOs following the introduction of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#)

This document has been created to highlight a number of significant additional requirements for RTOs following the introduction of the Standards for RTOs 2015.

[An overview of key changes in the requirements of VET Regulators following the introduction of the Standards for VET Regulators 2015](#)

This document has been created to highlight a number of significant additional requirements of VET Regulators following the introduction of the Standards for VET Regulators 2015.

For more information please click [here](#).

DTWD RELOCATING ITS CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) is relocating its Career Centre, Migration Services, Perth Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre and Education and Training International services to a new Customer Service Centre.

From Tuesday 13th January 2015, these services will be located on the 7th floor of the GPO Building, 3 Forrest Place, Perth.

Telephone contact numbers for these services will not change.

The DTWD's ApprentiCentre will not be affected by this relocation, and will continue to provide services to employers, employees and potential apprentices and trainees on 13 19 54.

For more information please click [here](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

NEW MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

On 23 December 2014, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP was sworn in as the Minister for Education and Training. Minister Pyne will be the Cabinet Minister responsible for Vocational Education and Training.

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham has been sworn in as the Assistant Minister for Education and Training.

UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER UPDATE

From 1 January 2015 before you can issue a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification, statement of attainment or a testamur, RTOs must record and verify the Unique Student Identifier (USI) for each student.

Reporting also changes for training organisations, include incorporating the USI into your 2015 reporting.

The Department of Industry has created the following tutorials on the USI Help Centre section of their website:

- Create a USI on behalf of a student for training organisations and VET Admission Bodies;
- Verify a USI for training organisations, VET Admission Bodies and VET Related Bodies; and
- Find a USI for training organisations.

To view these tutorials and for further information please click [here](#).

RETITLING OF VOCATIONAL GRADUATE DIPLOMAS & VOCATIONAL GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Full implementation of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) came into effect from 1 January 2015. This requires that Vocational Graduate Certificate (VGC) and Vocational Graduate Diploma (VGD) nomenclature no longer be used, specifically that the term 'Vocational' be omitted. This impacts on 39 Vocational Graduate Diplomas and Vocational Graduate Certificates.

Following agreement from all jurisdictions, Training.gov.au will remove the word 'vocational' from any existing qualifications so that existing Vocational Graduate Certificates and Vocational Graduate Diplomas can be retitled to Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas respectively. This will mean that these qualifications remain available to new learners from 1 January 2015.

For Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) with VGC or VGD on scope, these courses will need to be renamed as simply Graduate Certificates or Graduate Diplomas. Once the relevant training packages have been transitioned to meet the new training package standards, RTOs will be required as per usual practice and teach-out period requirements, to teach the new training package.

In the meantime, RTOs should remove the term ‘Vocational’ from any courses advertised and from any testamurs issued from 1 January 2015. There will be no change to the qualification code or content.

For more information please click [here](#).

VET REFORM TASKFORCE NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

The VET Reform Taskforce is undertaking a round of national face-to-face consultations in every capital city throughout January and February 2015. The consultations sessions will be chaired by a member of the Vocational Education and Training Advisory Board.

The purpose of the consultations is to discuss and listen to feedback from stakeholders on two themes:

- priorities for future VET Reform; and
- the Review of Training Packages and Accredited Courses.

Stakeholders are invited to take their place at the table, to have their say on VET reform and ensure that the training system is meeting the needs of Australian workplaces now and into the future.

Consultations in Perth will be held on 3 February 2015. Stakeholders can register for either one of the sessions provided below:

- 9.00am – 12.00pm – [register](#)
- 1.00pm – 4.00pm - [register](#)

To coincide with the face-to-face sessions, a series of webinars will also be delivered by the Taskforce during this period.

The webinar series will cover the same themes as the face-to-face sessions.

You can register to participate in a webinar by clicking [here](#).

PREPARING SECONDARY STUDENTS FOR WORK: A FRAMEWORK FOR VOCATIONAL LEARNING AND VET DELIVERED TO SECONDARY STUDENTS

Preparing Secondary Students for Work sets out a framework for vocational learning and vocational education and training (VET) delivered to secondary students. It updates the *New*

Framework for Vocational Education in Schools released in 2001 by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs.

In 2014 the Education Council decided to update the framework to ensure that vocational learning and VET delivered to secondary students reflect modern schools and workplaces. Like the earlier framework, *Preparing Secondary Students for Work* is a policy document.

It is likely to be of most value to people who set policies, design programs and implement vocational learning and VET, whether they are within schools, schooling systems, industry bodies, training package developers or VET regulators.

To view this publication please click [here](#).

RAPS CONTACTS

Norma Roberts	Executive Director	norma@rapstc.com.au
Jane Piercey	Project Officer	jane@rapstc.com.au
Tanvi Shah	Research Officer	tanvi@rapstc.com.au
David Ingram	Industry Consultant	david@rapstc.com.au

Ph: 08 9446 8177

Fax: 9446 8611