

ASQA Update February 2012

Welcome to the February 2012 edition of the *Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) Update*.

ASQA, Australia's new national vocational education and training regulator, sends this monthly update to ASQA registered training organisations (RTOs), course owners, stakeholders and subscribers.

The *ASQA Update* is also sent to RTOs in states where regulatory responsibility will transfer to ASQA in 2012—Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia.

[Past updates](#) and additional information about ASQA are available at www.asqa.gov.au.

In this edition:

- ⇒ Information sessions for training providers and course owners
- ⇒ New ASQA Commissioner appointed
- ⇒ Transition update for Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia
- ⇒ Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency launch
- ⇒ Training.gov.au
- ⇒ Which logos should ASQA RTOs use on qualifications and statements of attainment?
- ⇒ RTO annual reporting requirements
- ⇒ CRICOS registration
- ⇒ New and updated forms
- ⇒ Further information

Information sessions for training providers and course owners

ASQA will be holding a national program of information sessions in major cities across Australia for training providers and course owners in the first half of 2012. These sessions will provide an opportunity to hear from the Commissioners about ASQA's regulatory approach, essential ASQA processes, transition arrangements and local VET issues.

Round one—session dates and times

Perth, Thursday 8 March (registrations close Thursday 23 February)

- Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Session 2: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Sydney, Thursday 22 March (registrations close Friday 2 March)

- Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Session 2: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- Session 3: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Canberra, Friday 23 March (registrations close Friday 2 March)

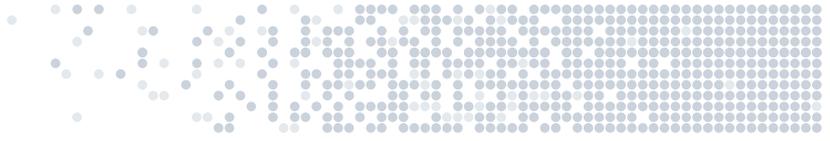
- Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Melbourne, Monday 2 April (registrations close Friday 2 March)

- Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Session 2: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Sessions will be scheduled for Hobart and Launceston shortly, following the confirmation of the referral date for Tasmania.

Content at the sessions will be relevant to CEOs and senior staff, and it is requested that RTOs limit registrations to one or two key staff. Capacity at the venues will be limited, and early registration is recommended. Presentation materials will be made available for providers who are unable to attend.



Register your interest in attending a session using the ['Information sessions registration form'](#) on ASQA's website.

New ASQA Commissioner appointed

The Australian Government has appointed Michael Lavarch as Commissioner – Risk Analysis and Investigation of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

Michael has had a highly successful and extensive legal career. This experience will be invaluable to the Authority when Michael joins Chief Commissioner Chris Robinson and Commissioner Dianne Orr at ASQA.

Michael is perhaps best known for his time as Australia's Attorney General and as a Federal member of parliament. However, he has had an even longer and most distinguished career in the legal profession outside of parliament as an academic, in private practice and as the CEO of the Law Council of Australia.

For the past eight years, Michael has been the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law and a Professor of Law at the Queensland University of Technology.

Prior to that, Michael was the Secretary General of the Law Council of Australia from 2001 to 2004. The Law Council is the peak national representative body for the Australian legal profession, representing over 40,000 Australian lawyers through its constituent bodies.

Michael was Australia's Attorney-General and a member of Federal Cabinet between 1993 and 1996, and a member of the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1996. Michael has also practiced law at a number of private law firms over some eight years and was a Councillor in the Pine Rivers Shire Council.

Michael will take up his post as a Commissioner on 16 April 2012.

Transition update for Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia

Tasmania

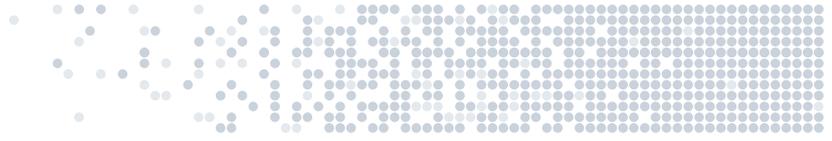
In November 2011, the *Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) Bill (TAS)* was passed by the Tasmanian Parliament, enabling all Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA) VET regulatory responsibilities to transfer to ASQA as of the referral date, 15 February 2012. ASQA also will become the designated authority under the ESOS Act for VET and ELICOS delivery by Tasmanian providers.

RTOs and course owners should note:

- Existing TQA registrations and accredited courses will transfer to ASQA on the referral date.
- Current expiry dates will remain in place, as will any existing conditions or sanctions imposed on registrations.
- Existing registrations will remain in place for the period issued/approved.
- After the referral date, applications for an ASQA service will need to be made using [ASQA forms](#) or through the online application service [ASQAnet](#).
- The TQA published a special January 2012 edition of *VET News* explaining the impending transfer of VET regulator responsibilities to the national regulator—[read the January 2012 VET News](#).
- **Pending applications:** The TQA will complete as many open applications as possible before the referral date. Applications that are pending on the referral date will be transferred to ASQA for processing. As some ASQA requirements under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* may be different to previous state requirements, ASQA will contact applicants if further information is required.

Tasmanian RTOs and course owners will shortly receive a letter from ASQA explaining the transition process and how it is likely to affect them.

A key point to note about the transfer of regulatory responsibility from the TQA to ASQA is that **RTOs and course owners do not need to do anything to transfer their registration or accreditation to ASQA.**



Queensland

The parliamentary process for referral of vocational education and training regulatory powers in Queensland is continuing; the referral date in Queensland is anticipated to be mid 2012. ASQA and the Queensland state regulator will contact RTOs with more information about the transition process in the coming months.

Queensland RTOs—and new applicants wishing to become RTOs—should continue to work with their state regulator (if, for example, renewing their registration or requesting a change to their scope of registration) until further notice.

South Australia

RTOs—and new applicants wishing to become RTOs—in South Australia should continue to work with their state regulator (if, for example, renewing their registration or requesting a change to their scope of registration) until further notice.

Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency launch

The Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) assumed its full regulatory functions in January 2012.

TEQSA's key objectives include encouraging national consistency in regulating higher education, and protecting and building the reputation of Australia's higher education system. TEQSA's approach will be informed by three key principles for regulation: regulatory necessity, reflecting risk and proportionate regulation. TEQSA has also assumed the functions and responsibilities related to the provision of higher education services for overseas students, previously handled by state and territory agencies.

TEQSA is responsible for establishing and maintaining a National Register of Higher Education Providers on its website at www.tegsa.gov.au/national-register. The site also contains new content including the fee structure, application forms and guides for registration, course accreditation and notification of material changes.

ASQA and TEQSA will work closely together to realise a coordinated regulatory approach for providers offering both VET and higher education.

Training.gov.au

Training.gov.au is the official national register of information on training packages, qualifications, courses, units of competency and RTOs.

Training.gov.au is the main database of vocational education and training information in Australia.

Training.gov.au helps people to find information about:

- RTOs
- Nationally Recognised Training (NRT)—training packages, qualifications, accredited courses, skill sets and units of competency
- RTOs that are registered to deliver a particular NRT product.

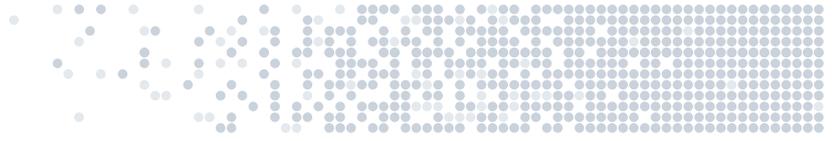
Training package updates and training.gov.au

RTOs—and training organisations applying to become RTOs—can subscribe to receive automatic updates from the national register for the vocational education and training sector, training.gov.au.

Subscribing to training.gov.au updates can help you stay up to date with the latest changes to any training package qualifications, units of competency or accredited courses your RTO is registered to deliver.

To receive updates:

- go to training.gov.au
- register for a user account, and
- use the search services to locate any training package, qualification, unit of competency or accredited course record for which you would like to receive updates, and
- elect to receive email advice on changes to nationally recognised training products and RTO information by selecting '**Notify me of changes**'.



Please note that ASQA does not manage training.gov.au.

If you have any difficulty registering an account or nominating to receive updates, please use the 'Contact' option provided on the bottom of each page to seek support from the training.gov.au helpdesk.

Which logos should ASQA RTOs use on qualifications and statements of attainment?

Key points regarding the use of logos for ASQA RTOs are outlined below.

For more information, visit <http://www.asqa.gov.au/qualifications/issuing-qualifications.html>.

Logo	When to use
<p>The AQF logo</p> <p>As part of the VET Quality Framework, RTOs must comply with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF provides the standards for Australian qualifications. It is an integrated policy that includes the requirements for issuing qualifications and statements of attainment. The AQF is developed by the Australian Qualifications Framework Council.</p> <p>The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) logo is a 'distinguishable mark of quality for identifying and promoting AQF qualifications as specified in the AQF.'</p> <p>For more information see the AQF First Edition, July 2011 (PDF).</p>	<p>Use the AQF logo on testamurs, but not on statements of attainment.</p>
<p>The NRT logo</p> <p>The Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) logo is used to promote and certify national vocational education and training leading to Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications or statements of attainment.</p> <p>Details on the use of the NRT logo are included in the NRT logo specifications.</p>	<p>Use the NRT logo on testamurs and statements of attainment.</p>
<p>The ASQA logo</p> <p>The ASQA logo (Commonwealth Crest) should never be used on qualifications, statements, or marketing or information materials.</p>	<p>RTOs do not need to use the ASQA logo.</p>
<p>State or territory training body logos</p> <p>In some cases, for example within User Choice contracts, RTOs may need to include a state or territory training body logo on statements of attainment, where directed by a state or territory training body.</p>	<p>Contact your state or territory training body for information.</p>

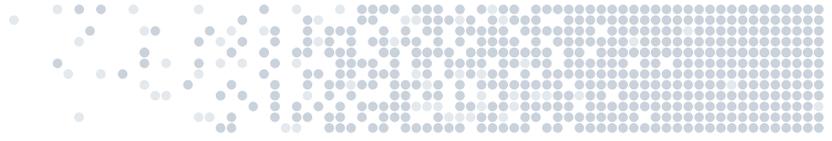
RTO annual reporting requirements

RTOs within ASQA's jurisdiction may be required to provide information to ASQA at any time in accordance with the [Data Provision Requirements 2011](#) (part of the VET Quality Framework). ASQA will inform RTOs of information required when necessary.

RTOs are reminded that Quality Indicator data reports (competency completion, employer satisfaction, learner engagement) for the 2011 calendar year must be provided to ASQA by 30 June 2012.

Further information on ASQA's reporting requirements can be found at:

- <http://www.asqa.gov.au/about-asqa/national-vet-regulation/data-provision-requirements.html>
- <http://www.asqa.gov.au/for-training-organisations/rto-obligations/data-provision.html>.



CRICOS registration

The National ELT Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) has previously conducted CRICOS registration for NSW RTOs under a delegated authority arrangement with VETAB.

This delegated authority arrangement no longer exists. NSW RTOs or ELICOS providers wishing to renew or amend their CRICOS registration should do so by application to ASQA. ASQA has a contract with NEAS to provide ASQA with audit services.

Further information on CRICOS registration can be found on the ASQA website at:

<http://www.asqa.gov.au/for-training-organisations/become-a-cricos-provider/become-a-cricos-provider.html>.

New and updated forms

Notifying ASQA of changes

Two updated [forms](#) relating to RTO and CRICOS registration are now available on the ASQA website.

The 'Notification of material change or event' form has been changed and should be used by providers to notify ASQA of **major changes** to their organisation. The new form identifies evidence to be submitted by the provider.

The 'Notification of change of provider details' form has been introduced and should now be used by providers to notify ASQA of:

- changes to their registered training organisation (RTO) and/or a Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) details, and
- changes to an RTO's permanent delivery sites.

Further information

Visit our website—www.asqa.gov.au—for regularly updated information about ASQA.

Call the **ASQA Info line** on **1300 701 801** to speak to an adviser, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 7.00 pm EST. You can also ask the Info line a question or provide feedback by emailing enquiries@asqa.gov.au.