

Contract Notification

CN No.	2015-18	Date:	14 December 2015
To:	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent		
Purpose:	Variation to TAFE and Dual Sector VET Funding Contracts		
Scope:	2014-16 VET Funding Contract (TAFE) 2014-16 VET Funding Contract (Dual Sector)		
Subject:	VTG Eligibility exemptions at TAFE institutes and dual sector Universities		

For relevant TAFE institute and dual sector University staff

Purpose

- To vary the 2014-16 VET Funding Contract (TAFE and Dual sector only) and associated guidelines to allow Eligibility Exemptions with respect to the 'upskilling' and/or the 'two at level in a lifetime' and/or 'two "courses in..." in a lifetime' requirements for up to 15% of 2016 course commencements in line with the recent correspondence from the Minister for Training and Skills to TAFE and dual sector University executives.
These Eligibility Exemptions may only be granted for VTG enrolments at TAFE institutes or dual sector Universities.

Background

- Clause 2 of Schedule 1 of the above mentioned VET Funding Contracts describes the eligibility criteria for individuals seeking to enrol in government subsidised training under the Victorian Training Guarantee, and stipulates that, except in certain circumstances (Foundation Courses, Apprenticeships etc):
 - individuals over the age of 20 may only enrol in a course that is at a higher qualification level than the highest qualification held at the time of the scheduled commencement of training (clause 2.6 b v) of Schedule 1) [**'upskilling'**]; and
 - individuals may only commence a maximum of two government subsidised courses at the same level within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) in their lifetime (clause 2.7 c) of Schedule 1) [**'two in a lifetime'**]; and
 - individuals may only commence a maximum of two government subsidised accredited courses with the title 'Course in...' in their lifetime (clause 2.7 d) of Schedule 1) [**'two "courses in..." in a lifetime'**].

Main Points

Eligibility Exemption for up to 15% of 2016 Victorian Training Guarantee course commencements

- Notwithstanding the abovementioned clauses, for students commencing in 2016, TAFE institutes and dual sector Universities may grant an Eligibility Exemption to the 'upskilling' and/or 'two at level in a lifetime' and/or 'two "courses in..." in a lifetime' eligibility requirements for up to 15% of their 2016 Victorian Training Guarantee course commencements.
- This measure is limited to TAFEs and dual sector Universities in recognition of their role in providing training and support for all prospective students. The Skills and Job Centres will play a key role in offering guidance on the best training to undertake to complement the student's skills and abilities. This needs to be underpinned by

providing an effective pre-training review of individuals as required under the VTG contract to ensure students are enrolled in training that is suitable and appropriate to their circumstances.

- All other eligibility rules (including the 'two at a time' and 'two in a year' requirements as discussed in the *2016 Guidelines about Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence*) remain in place.

Reporting requirements

- TAFE institutes and dual sector Universities are required to track their 2016 course commencements to ensure that Eligibility Exemptions granted under this initiative remain within the 15% limit.
- Where an individual has been granted an Eligibility Exemption, the associated training activity should be reported with the Eligibility Exemption Indicator in the NAT00120 file set to "Y", meaning that an Eligibility Exemption has been granted.
- The *Victorian VET Student Statistical Collection Guidelines – 2016* and the *2016 Guidelines about Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence* will be updated to reflect these changes when the next versions are published.

Critical Dates

- This Contract Notification is effective immediately in relation to individuals who commence their training in calendar year 2016 at TAFE institutes and dual sector Universities.

Relevant Resources

- N/A

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