For all RTO staff

Purpose

- This Contract Notification informs RTOs in the Single and Teenage Parents Provider Network of changes to subsidised training access for single and teenage parents which is transitioning from special eligibility under the Single and Teenage Parents National Partnership (known as the Single and Teenage Parents Training Initiative) to general eligibility under the Victorian Training Guarantee (VTG).

Background

- The Single and Teenage Parents Training Initiative aimed to improve the job readiness of single and teenage parents in receipt of parenting payments through engagement in training with a view to increasing their workforce participation. The Initiative was a partnership between Victoria and the Commonwealth that commenced in 2012.

- The Commonwealth Department of Industry has recently advised the Department that the Single and Teenage Parents Training Initiative (the Initiative) will conclude on 1 July 2014. The transition will affect eligibility for government subsidised training for some single parents aged under 20 wishing to commence courses after 1 July 2014. However, many single and teenage parents will continue to have access to concession places in the qualifications of their choice.

Main Points

- The VTG provides wide eligibility for young people and aims to make vocational training more accessible to people who do not hold a post-school qualification or gain a higher level qualification than they already hold. All young people under 20 are eligible for a VTG funded place if they meet general eligibility requirements.

- As the people involved with the Initiative are under 20 years of age, they will continue to be eligible under the VTG although like all students they will be required to comply with limitations to the number of courses that can be commenced or can be studied simultaneously.

- The cessation of the Initiative removes automatic access to concession fees. However, under the VTG, fee concessions continue to be available for students in government subsidised training places who hold a Commonwealth Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card (or their dependants) or who hold a Veteran’s Gold Card. Most of the young people enrolled under the Initiative are holders of a concession card and therefore will continue to pay concession fees set at 20 per cent of non-concession rates.

- Referring agencies (Jobs Services Australia, Disability Employment Services and the Commonwealth Department of Human Services) will no longer refer young people into training under this Initiative.
Critical Dates

- From 1 July 2014 subsidised training for single and teen parents will be under the VTG rather than the Single and Teenage Parents Training Initiative.
- Students who have enrolled prior to 1 July 2014 in training under this Initiative will have until 31 July 2014 to commence training.

Relevant Resources

Victorian Skills Gateway Eligibility Indicator:

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