

Contract Notification

CN No.	2022-19	Date: 19 December 2022
To:	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent	
Purpose:	Variation to Contract	
Scope:	All 2023 VET Funding Contracts (version 1.0)	
Subject:	Release of updated versions of 2023 Contracts and Guidelines to reflect changes to eligibility settings and Free TAFE for Priority Courses initiative	

Purpose

This Contract Notification is to advise training providers about the release of version 2.0 of the 2023 VET Funding Contracts (the contract), the Guidelines About Eligibility and the Guidelines About Fees (the guidelines) to reflect recent changes to the eligibility settings and Free TAFE for Priority Courses initiative.

All documents are published in the Documents section of SVTS.

Background

On 25 November 2022, we published version 1 of the 2023 contract and guidelines. We've now updated these documents to reflect the Victorian Government's election commitment to expand student eligibility for Skills First training and Free TAFE programs.

See **Attachment 1** for a list of changes to the contract and guidelines.

Main Points

Removal of upskilling requirement

From 1 January 2023, upskilling will no longer be an eligibility requirement for Skills First training.

This means that students, regardless of their age, do not need to train in progressively higher qualifications to be eligible for Skills First. This applies to **all** students at **all** training providers. For example, a graduate with an arts degree can now enrol in Skills First for a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. They will not need an eligibility exemption.

Accordingly, you do not need to check the student's age or what programs they've already completed before enrolling them in Skills First training.

Removal of '2 at level in a lifetime' limit

From 1 January 2023, the '2 at level in a lifetime' limit will no longer apply to Skills First training.

This means that if a student remains within the other limits on training, it does not matter if they've started multiple programs at the same AQF level.

No change to other limits on training

The other limits on the amount of Skills First training a student can do remain unchanged. This includes these limits:

- '2 skill sets in a year'
- '2 AQF qualifications in a year'
- '2 at a time'.

Changes to 'once-in-a-lifetime' limit for some Free TAFE programs

We've removed the once-in-a-lifetime limit for students who do select Free TAFE pathway programs. This allows students to get fee waivers for multiple Free TAFE programs if the programs are in a designated pathway.

The Free TAFE pathways are provided at **Attachment 2**. These will also be flagged on the funded programs report, in due course.

Students who started or completed a pathway program under Free TAFE before 1 January 2023 can receive the additional fee waivers for any subsequent programs in the same pathway. This is subject to you determining that each program is suitable and appropriate for the student as part of a pre-training review.

Students who started or completed a program under Free TAFE before 1 January 2023 that **isn't** a pathway program **are not** entitled to receive an additional fee waiver.

Students who started or completed a Free TAFE program under JobTrainer before 1 January 2023 can access an additional Free TAFE fee waiver, **either** to start a pathway, **or** to do one additional non-pathway program.

You must report training in Free TAFE pathway programs in the same way you would report any Free TAFE program. We will implement changes in SVTS to avoid triggering warnings or rejects, and provide further advice about this in the new year.

Eligibility exemptions initiative removed

This initiative will stop from 1 January 2023.

The eligibility exemptions initiative is no longer necessary due to the removal of the upskilling requirement and the '2 at level in a lifetime' limit. This means that more students will be able to access Skills First training.

Resources

We published the following documents in the 'Documents' section of SVTS to replace versions 1.0:

- 2023 Standard VET Funding Contract (version 2.0)
- 2023 TAFE VET Funding Contract (version 2.0)
- 2023 Dual Sector VET Funding Contract (version 2.0)
- 2023 Guidelines About Eligibility (version 2.0)
- 2023 Guidelines About Fees (version 2.0).

We highlighted all changes in grey in each document.

See **Attachment 1** for a list of changes to the contract and guidelines.

We've updated our 2023 fact sheets and guidance documents to reflect the changes to eligibility, and will publish them soon.

Critical Dates

Version 2.0 of the contracts and guidelines take effect from 1 January 2023.

Meena Naidu

Acting Executive Director
Training Market Services

Attachment 1: list of changes

Contract type	Clause	Description of change
All	2 of Schedule 1	We removed previous clauses 2.3 and 2.4 under the heading 'Impact of age on eligibility' as these clauses described the 'upskilling' requirements.
All	2.3 of Schedule 1	Under the 'Limits on the amount of training that can be subsidised' , we removed the maximum of 2 commencements in government-subsidised programs at the same AQF level in a lifetime (the '2 at level in a lifetime' rule).
All	2 of Schedule 1	As a result of these deletions, we re-numbered sub-clauses and updated in-clause references.
All	Part C of Schedule 1	We removed the Eligibility exemptions initiative (previously clause 14) from Part C.
All	Part C of Schedule 1	As a result of this deletion, we re-numbered the Training to support the 10-year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response initiative to clause 14, and the Skills First Youth Access to clause 15 and updated in-clause references.
TAFE/Dual Sector	16 of Schedule 1	We re-numbered the Free TAFE initiative to clause 16 and updated in-clause references.
TAFE/Dual Sector	16.3 of Schedule 1	We amended the clause that describes when students can receive an additional Free TAFE fee waiver to include the new selected Free TAFE pathways. We removed specific references to the Auslan and Early Childhood qualifications, as these are now included in the selected Free TAFE pathways.
TAFE/Dual Sector	16.5 of Schedule 1	We amended this clause to clarify that Free TAFE students who are transitioning to a superseding qualification can continue to receive their Fee Waiver.
TAFE/Dual Sector	16 of Schedule 1	We removed a clause describing eligibility exemptions for Auslan qualifications (previous clause 17.7), as the exemptions are no longer needed following removal of the upskilling and '2 at level in a lifetime' requirements.
Guidelines About Eligibility		
N/A	N/A	We removed the clauses that described the upskilling requirement (previous clauses 1.3-1.5).
N/A	N/A	We removed the clauses that described the '2 at level in a lifetime' limit (previous clauses 1.10 and 1.11) and the clause that noted that this didn't apply for Foundation Skills (previous clause 2.12).

Contract type	Clause	Description of change
N/A	2.5	We removed the 'Keypass card' from the table about sighting and retaining evidence of eligibility. This card only evidences age, which is no longer relevant to eligibility.
N/A	1.3, 1.5, 2.8, 2.11, 2.12	We removed references to the student's age from these clauses as it is no longer relevant to eligibility.
N/A	Attachment 1	<p>We amended the Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration form to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove the section on evidence of age from Section A • remove questions about a student's education history in line with the removal of 'upskilling' and the '2 at level in a lifetime' limit • include all questions about qualifications and skill sets into a simplified Section B1 • include an additional question for Free TAFE in Section B to identify whether a student is entitled to receive an additional Fee Waiver because they are training in a Free TAFE pathway. <p>As a result of these changes, the Student Declaration becomes Section B2, and the Training Provider Declaration becomes Section C.</p>
Guidelines About Fees		
N/A	2.3(d)	We made an administrative edit to update the clause reference for Free TAFE to clause 16 of Schedule 1.

Attachment 2: Free TAFE pathway programs

COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Certificate III in Community Services		
Certificate IV in Community Services	Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs	Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention
Certificate IV in Mental Health	Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work	Certificate IV in Youth Work
Diploma of Community Services		
NURSING AND PERSONAL CARE		
Certificate III in Individual Support		
Certificate IV in Ageing Support	Certificate IV in Disability	Certificate IV in Leisure and Health
Diploma of Nursing		
ACCOUNTING		
Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping		
Diploma of Accounting		
AGRICULTURE		
Certificate II in Agriculture		
Certificate III in Agriculture	Certificate III in Dairy Production	
Certificate IV in Agriculture		
ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING		
Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance		
Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance		
Diploma of Nursing		

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Certificate III in Concreting

Certificate III in Construction Waterproofing

Certificate IV in Building and Construction

Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services

Diploma of Building and Construction (Building)

Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

Certificate III in Civil Construction

Certificate III in Civil Construction (Plant Operations)

Certificate IV Civil Construction Supervision

DENTAL

Certificate III in Dental Assisting

Certificate IV in Dental Assisting

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Certificate III in Information Technology

Certificate IV in Cyber Security

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Certificate III in School Based Education Support

Certificate IV in School Based Education Support

EARLY CHILDHOOD (Existing Pathway)

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care

AUSLAN

Diploma of Auslan

Diploma of Interpreting (Auslan)

Advanced Diploma of Interpreting (Auslan)