

Contract Notification

CN No.	2020-10	Date:	27 July 2020
To:	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent		
Purpose:	Variation to Contract		
Scope:	All 2018-19 VET Funding Contracts (extended to 31 December 2020)		
Subject:	Updates to the 2020 Guidelines About Fees and the 2020 Guidelines About Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence		

For all Training Provider staff

Purpose

- This Contract Notification is to advise training providers that:
 - version 1.0 of the 2020 Guidelines About Fees (the Fees Guidelines) is replaced with version 2.0
 - version 1.0 of the 2020 Guidelines About Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence (the Eligibility Guidelines) is replaced with version 2.0.

Background

- The Fees Guidelines are updated to include courses added to the Free TAFE for Priority Courses List and to update superseded Free TAFE courses.
- The Eligibility Guidelines are updated to:
 - include new (or new versions) of Foundation Skills List courses
 - reflect the increase from 10 to 30 per cent for TAFE and Learn Local Eligibility Exemptions
 - reflect that training in specific Infection Control Skill Sets provided to individuals in response to COVID-19 is not to be counted when determining if an individual meets the '2 at a time', '2 in a year' or '2 at level in a lifetime' requirements.
 - implement improvements to the clarity and readability of the section of the Guideline describing evidence to be sighted and retained when granting exemptions allowed under Part C of Schedule 1 of the VET Funding Contract.

Main Points

All variations in the revised Guidelines about Fees and the Eligibility Guidelines are highlighted in grey.

Updates to the Guidelines about Fees

Free TAFE for Priority Courses List

- The Free TAFE for Priority Courses List (Attachment 1 to the Fees Guidelines) is updated to include three new courses, as announced by the Minister for Skills and Training on 7 July 2020. These are:
 - CHC43515 - Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work
 - HLT33115 - Certificate III in Health Services Assistance, and
 - RII30815 - Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations

- The Free TAFE for Priority Courses List is also updated to include new versions of two recently superseded courses. The new courses are:
 - MEM40119 - Certificate IV in Engineering
 - ICP20120 - Certificate II in Printing and Graphic Arts

Updates to the Eligibility Guidelines

Foundation Skills List

- The Foundation Skills List (Attachment 1 of the Eligibility Guidelines) is updated to reflect inclusion of the following new courses which recently replaced expired courses:
 - 22554VIC - Course in Initial Adult Literacy and Numeracy
 - 22555VIC - Certificate I in Initial Adult Literacy and Numeracy
- The Foundation Skills List is also updated to reflect that there are new versions of three superseded courses that were inadvertently excluded from earlier versions of the list, and are now added retrospectively to be effective from the date they were added to the Funded Courses Report:
 - FSK10219 - Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways
 - FSK10119 - Certificate I in Access to Vocational Pathways
 - FSK20119 - Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways

Eligibility exemptions for up to 30% of commencements at TAFEs and Learn Locals

- On 1 July 2020, training providers were advised via CN 2020-06 that the 10 percent limit for TAFE and Learn Local Eligibility Exemptions (under Clause 18 of Schedule 1 of the VET Funding Contract) was increased to 30 percent. Clause 2.2.1 of the Eligibility Guidelines has been updated to reflect the new 30 percent limit.

Infection Control skill sets

- As part of the Government's response to COVID-19, from 1 July 2020, TAFE, Dual Sector and a number of non-TAFE training providers are providing training in three industry focused infection control skill sets.
- Clauses 1.3 and 1.4 of the Eligibility Guidelines have been updated to reflect that these skill sets are not to be taken into account when determining the number of courses an individual is eligible to commence/undertake in a calendar year, or the number of courses previously commenced.

Continuous improvement – re-formatting requirements for evidence to be sighted and retained where eligibility exemptions can be granted under particular initiatives

- As part of the Department's efforts at continually improving the VET Funding Contract and supporting Guidelines, a new Attachment 5 has been added to the Eligibility Guidelines.
- Attachment 5 replaces the previous Clause 2.21 and instead places the information into a table. It is intended as an easy reference tool to help training providers apply the rules for specific initiatives. To be clear, there are no changes to the existing initiatives and programs that allow exemptions from the eligibility settings. The change is only to the format of the information.

Resources

- Version 2.0 of the 2020 Guidelines About Fees and version 2.0 of the 2020 Guidelines About Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence are available in the 'Documents' section of SVTS.

Critical dates

- The new versions of the Guidelines take effect from 27 July 2020.

Greg Norton

Executive Director

Training Market Services