

Broadening competencies while enabling consistent outcomes in Australia

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Overview

- Australian VET system
- Relevant areas of reform
 - Broadening competencies
 - New standards for Training Packages
 - Review of the regulation of VET
 - Key challenges for implementation

Australian VET system

- Complex – shared responsibility between industry, government, regulators and training providers
- Depth and breadth of VET qualifications
 - Certificate I to Vocational Graduate Diploma across vocational related occupations
- Governance arrangements – separation of the standards-setting body and regulators
- Moving to a fully national system

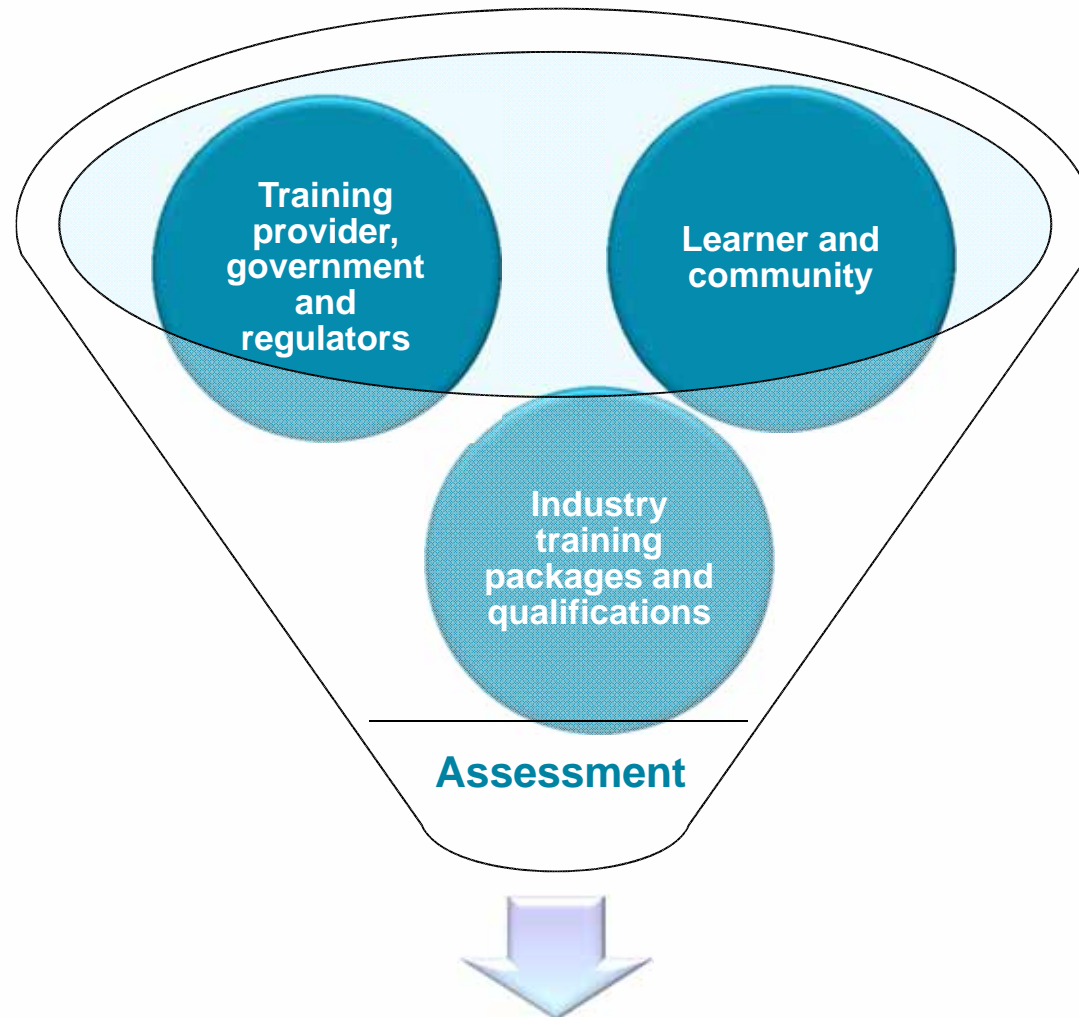
The way the Australian VET system works

- Standing Council for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
- National Skills Standards Council
- National Industry Skills Councils
- VET Regulators
- Registered Training Providers

Australian VET reform

- Key to growing productivity through employment outcomes
- Since 2006, reform has included:
 - a broadened definition of competencies
 - a revised Australian Qualifications Framework
 - new standards for industry training packages (composed of competencies and qualifications)
 - a review of the standards for the regulation of VET
- The aim is to support innovative training and assessment leading to consistent outcomes

Broadening competencies



Consistent learner outcomes

Broadening competencies

- Units of competency are the building blocks of *Qualifications* and *Industry Training Packages*
- A broader definition of competency was introduced in 2009 to support qualifications development and flexible training delivery:

“...consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. It embodies the ability to transfer and apply skills and knowledge to new situations and environments...”

Australian Qualifications Framework

A revised AQF was introduced in 2011 with a focus on:

- Ensuring applicable outcomes across AQF levels irrespective of accreditation or training pathway (i.e. VET, higher education, schools)
- Increasing pathways across all education sectors (i.e. greater capacity for articulation)
- Reflecting ‘volume of learning’ to assist qualification development and accreditation

Industry Training Packages

An integrated set of nationally endorsed competency standards, assessment guidelines and Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications for a specific industry, industry sector or enterprise.



Industry Training Packages

- Training Packages are groups of qualifications for specific industries, i.e. *Health Training Package*
- Qualifications are units of competency grouped together to enable a specific level of skills outcome, i.e. *Diploma of Nursing*
- Units of competency are discrete competency outcomes, i.e. *Apply First Aid*

Industry involvement in VET system

- National Industry Skills Councils design and develop Training Package qualifications
- Training Providers consult industry in the development of training and assessment strategies
- Significant involvement by industry (in design and implementation) where qualifications are industry regulated (about 33% of Australian qualifications)
 - e.g. plumbing, electrical & nursing qualifications

New Standards for Training Packages

New standards will be introduced in 2012 to ensure that training packages provide:

- Clearer **performance standards** in units of competency
 - expressed in work place-based outcomes
 - using plain English used for multiple audiences
- Greater specification of **assessment requirements** (linked to units)
 - performance and knowledge evidence
 - frequency and volume of assessment specified
 - assessor requirements described

Standards for VET Regulation

Standards for the regulation of VET are being reviewed and will consider, among other things:

- Alignment with the reforms of Industry Training Packages and the AQF
- Greater capacity for industry engagement in the implementation of training and assessment
- Validity and quality of assessment outcomes
- Improved transparency, enabling consumers to be more informed and able to exercise choice
- Ensuring a nationally consistent approach to regulation

Key Challenges for Implementation

Quality of the VET workforce

- Qualification requirements of VET trainers and assessors and how qualifications are delivered
- Professional development of the VET workforce
- Building assessment expertise
- Paucity of VET workforce data

Further information

VET Products for the 21st Century

<http://www.nssc.natese.gov.au/21c>

Australian Qualifications Framework

<http://www.aqf.edu.au/>

Database of Australian Training Packages

<http://training.gov.au/>