

Validation: Why? What difference does it make?

David Garner



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David Garner is the Principal Consultant at [consult dg] and provides advice, development and research to the VET sector. He has worked in a variety of compliance related roles for over 15 years. He also currently works in staff roles for two RTOs delivering a range of courses to overseas students in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Most recently, as the General Manager Regulatory Operations for the Australian Skills Quality Authority, David was responsible for implementing ASQA's regulatory strategy nationally.

David was also Director, Training Quality, in the Queensland Department of Education and Training. Prior to joining the Queensland department in 2005, David worked in and managed training providers for many years. David also has been active in sports administration for over 30 years.

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WHAT WE'LL COVER

1. What is validation?
2. When do we validate?
3. Why do we validate?
4. How does validation benefit:
 - Schools
 - Teachers
 - Students?
5. Maximising benefits

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WHAT IS VALIDATION?

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VALIDATION ...

involves confirming that assessment tools produce suitable evidence to enable reasonable judgements to be made as to whether a learner has achieved competency.

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VALIDATION ...

involves review by person/s independent of the assessment process being validated and who have the characteristics required by the Standards for RTOs.

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WHEN DO WE VALIDATE?

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TIMEFRAMES

Every RTO (school or otherwise) must have and implement a plan for validation that ensures all scope items are validated at least once every five years.

The QCAA Web site provides details and tools.

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VALIDATION: WHY?

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TYPE INTO THE CHAT WINDOW

Q: Why do **you** participate in validation processes?

a) Because I'm told to

b) Because the Standards say we have to

c) Because I want to check what I'm doing is ok

d) To make sure assessment meets the principles of assessment and rules of evidence

e) Other (type into the chat window)

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WHY?

Obvious answer:
Completing validation is a requirement to retain registration as an RTO.

However, this is far from the only reason.

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PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENT

A comprehensive validation program will test your assessment against all the principles, but particularly validity.

Fairness, flexibility and reliability benefit from a team-based approach to validation.

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RULES OF EVIDENCE

A comprehensive validation program will test your assessment against all the rules, but particularly validity and sufficiency.

Authenticity is a growing issue as more assessment moves to remote methods.

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A QUALITY REVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Validation gives you an opportunity retrospectively review assessment tools and processes, and consider areas for improvement.

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VALIDATION BENEFITS:

**SCHOOLS
TEACHERS
STUDENTS**

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BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

Schools can have confidence that assessment materials are suitable, particularly where these are commercially purchased.

Independent validators provide valuable feedback on assessment practices.

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BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

Schools benefit from conducting validation particularly where teachers from other schools are involved.

The experiences of teachers from other schools delivering the same qualification improves reliability of assessment.

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BENEFITS TO TEACHERS

Validation can give teachers more confidence that their assessment practices are sound.

Acting as an independent validator for other schools provides insights into how other teachers are managing assessment.

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BENEFITS TO TEACHERS

Currency is a natural outcome of effectively participating in assessment validation.

By actively taking part in validation activities (regardless of the vocational area being validated), teachers are 'informing' their training and assessment practices.

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BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Validation assures a consistent experience for students in assessment and one which allows them to demonstrate competence in a manner consistent with their capability.

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BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Validation also ensures that students are provided with current and relevant learning and assessment opportunities.

Confirms students are trained and assessed in 'real-world' knowledge and skills that align with job outcomes/industry expectations.

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MAXIMISING BENEFITS OF VALIDATION

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MAXIMISING BENEFITS

Completing validation is relatively simple, but how can schools gain the maximum benefit from these activities?

Viewing validation as beneficial rather than a burden is a good start.

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MAXIMISING BENEFITS

- Document outcomes clearly
- Share outcomes widely
- Look for improvement rather than being defensive
- Participate in validation whenever possible.

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WHAT WE COVERED

1. What validation is
2. When we validate
3. Why we validate
4. How validation benefits:
 - Schools
 - Teachers
 - Students
5. How to maximise benefits

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ONE LAST THOUGHT...

Validation is about assuring and improving the quality of assessment, not about adding to a compliance burden.

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ABOUT [CONSULT DG]

A boutique consulting business, located on the Gold Coast, providing a range of consultancy, advice, development and research services to the vocational education and training sector throughout Australia

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