

Understanding Access and Equity

The principles of Access and Equity promote equal participation and opportunity for every student in learning, regardless of their background, location, disability, or special needs. In the context of a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), these principles ensure equal access to training and potentially equal outcomes from training.

- **Equity** - In the RTO context, providing 'equity' involves ensuring that all learners have equal access to training.
- **Access** - Providing 'access' involves creating opportunities for learners to enter training. This can be achieved through:
 - Providing physical access to a training venue.
 - Using non-discriminatory selection criteria for course entry.
 - Identifying and removing other barriers to training.

Implementing Access and Equity

The Users' Guide to the Standards for RTOs 2015 suggests that RTOs should:

- Provide equitable access to all required educational and support services.
- Ensure no learner is disadvantaged regardless of their mode of study or location.

RTOs that apply Access and Equity principles to their operations may need to implement strategies such as:

- Allowing more learning time for different learner cohorts.
- Making 'reasonable adjustments' in assessment.
- Implementing legislative requirements such as Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination considerations.

The ways in which an RTO provides this equitable access can be individual to each RTO. However, it is recommended that RTOs:

- Have a documented policy and procedure for addressing Access and Equity.
- Build some of the strategies for access to training into their Training and Assessment Strategies.

Note: This VET Fact Sheet provides general information and should not be considered as legal advice.