

Understanding Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)

A Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is any training provider registered to provide specific training delivery and/or assessment services in Vocational Education and Training (VET). These organisations vary widely, including institutions like Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes, private businesses, community organisations, schools, higher education providers, industry organisations, government departments, and enterprise RTOs.

Regulatory Requirements

All RTOs are bound by regulatory requirements that ensure effective operations and achievement of quality training and assessment outcomes, as stated in Standards. ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) is the national regulator responsible for the registration and monitoring of RTOs. Other regulatory bodies include the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and the Training Accreditation Council Western Australia (TAC).

Training providers must successfully apply for registration to the national regulator or, in some cases, a state regulator to become an RTO and deliver VET services. Only RTOs can issue certification for full or partial completion of a nationally recognised and accredited Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) VET qualification.

All RTOs are listed on the national register of VET, training.gov.au. This system ensures consistent, quality training and assessment outcomes, allowing for clear career pathways and a more mobile national workforce.

Functions of an RTO

RTOs offer qualifications at various AQF levels, ranging from Certificate I (level 1) to Graduate Diploma (level 8). Courses offered by an RTO can be delivered in several ways: online, face-to-face, workplace based as apprenticeships and/or traineeships, in a classroom, or a combination of these methods. Aside from delivering training, RTOs may

also help determine training needs, customise learning materials, provide workplace support, develop training plans, and identify existing competencies.

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