

Understanding Third-Party and Partnership Arrangements

A third party refers to any entity that offers services on behalf of the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) but does not include a contract of employment between an RTO and its staff member. RTOs may choose to engage with a third party for various functions, which include, but are not limited to:

- Marketing and Recruitment Services
- Provision of Facilities and Resources
- Training and Assessment of a Training Product

Third parties play a significant role in supporting RTOs. However, it is vital that these partnerships are carefully managed and regulated, to ensure adherence to the prescribed standards and deliver high-quality education and training services.

Standards for RTOs 2015

According to the Standards for RTOs 2015, specific guidelines are set to regulate the interaction between an RTO and its third-party service providers.

- **Clause 2.3 and 2.4** - These clauses necessitate a written agreement between an RTO and its third-party providers. They require the RTO to consistently oversee the delivery of services by a third party, ensuring constant compliance with the Standards.
- **Clause 8.3** - This clause obliges the RTO to notify the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) within stipulated timeframes about any instance where a third-party agreement is made or ceases to exist.

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