

Understanding the VET Quality Framework (VQF)

The vocational education and training (VET) Quality Framework (VQF) is a comprehensive set of standards and regulations designed to ensure the quality and integrity of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) in Australia. This VET Fact Sheet outlines the four main elements of the VQF, including three legislative instruments and one framework.

To attain and maintain registration, RTOs must comply with each of these four elements and their associated components. This framework ensures the consistent delivery of high-quality, reliable training across Australia.

Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015

This federal legislative instrument, enabled by the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 (NVR Act 2011), ensures that RTOs maintain high standards in their delivery of vocational education and training. Following is a summary of the Standards:

- **Standard 1** - The RTO's training and assessment strategies and practices are responsive to industry and learner needs and meet the requirements of training packages and VET accredited courses.
- **Standard 2** - The operations of the RTO are quality assured.
- **Standard 3** - The RTO issues, maintains and accepts AQF certification documentation in accordance with these Standards and provides access to learner records.
- **Standard 4** - Accurate and accessible information about an RTO, its services and performance are available to inform prospective and current learners and clients.
- **Standard 5** - Each learner is properly informed and protected.
- **Standard 6** - Complaints and appeals are recorded, acknowledged and dealt with fairly, efficiently and effectively.
- **Standard 7** - The RTO has effective governance and administration arrangements in place.
- **Standard 8** - The RTO cooperates with the VET Regulator and is legally compliant at all times.

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National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Financial Viability Risk Assessment Requirements) Instrument 2021

This federal legislative instrument outlines the requirements of RTOs to demonstrate financial viability, ensuring business continuity and the capacity to deliver quality VET outcomes. Financial viability risk is defined as the assessed financial performance, operations, and capacity of an organisation as an ongoing concern to deliver quality training and assessment services and outcomes for the duration of its registration and the potential of it losing this capacity. The legislated Financial Viability Risk Assessment Requirements 2021 document comprises FOUR parts:

Part 1: Preliminary

Part 2: Context and intent of these requirements

Part 3: Financial viability risk assessment requirements

Part 4: Form and content of financial viability risk assessment

Data Provision Requirements 2020

The Data Provision Requirements 2020 are holistically legislated within the current Standards for RTOs 2015 at Clause 7.5 which states: The RTO provides accurate and current information as required by the Data Provision Requirements as updated from time to time.

This legislative instrument requires RTOs to provide accurate and comprehensive data about their business operations to the regulator and the national VET data collection agency. It clarifies what information must be provided to the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and reduces duplication to help registered training organisations (RTOs) meet their existing obligations. The document comprises two parts:

Part 1: Preliminary

Part 2: Data Provision Requirements

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)

The AQF is Australia's national policy for regulated qualifications, encompassing qualifications attained through higher education, VET, and schools. It describes the standards for Australian qualifications through a series of levels from one to ten. The levels, and the qualifications associated with each level, are categorised according to the learning outcomes, the relative complexity and/or depth of achievement expected at each level.

The Qualification Structure within the Framework covers 10 levels:

1. Level 1 = Certificate I
2. Level 2 = Certificate II
3. Level 3 = Certificate III
4. Level 4 = Certificate IV
5. Level 5 = Diploma
6. Level 6 = Advanced Diploma
7. Level 7 = Bachelor Degree
8. Level 8 = Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma
9. Level 9 = Master Degree
10. Level 10 = Doctoral Degree

As a policy, the AQF contains information to guide education and training providers on the requirements associated with aspects of the framework, such as the accreditation and issuing of qualifications, student pathways, qualification pathways and other governance features.

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