Welcome to the February 2011 National Update from the national VET regulator taskforce.

The taskforce is committed to keeping stakeholders up to date on the progress towards establishing the national regulator.

We will continue to provide monthly updates through this newsletter, which is sent to state and territory regulators, and where possible, directly to RTOs and industry.

TASKFORCE UPDATE

The taskforce is continuing its work with the first group of states and territories making a full transition to the national system—New South Wales, the ACT and the Northern Territory. The new commencement date for these states is 1 July 2011.

Work with these states and territories has progressed from preliminary discussions into detailed planning. This planning will ensure that the transition is smooth and effective and provides business continuity for the VET sector. It is addressing a range of issues, including planning the transfer of files and data required to ensure that training delivery continues without disruption.

Work is also continuing with Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia, which will be making the transition later in 2011.

The taskforce will meet with Victorian and Western Australian regulators to develop working arrangements once the agreement between the Commonwealth and these states is finalised.

Other priorities

Taskforce staff are also working on:

- refining processes for implementing the national regulatory model
- developing an information technology system
- developing a website
- preparing to transfer and train staff from state and territory agencies, and
- developing governance policies and procedures, including the fees schedule.
SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRY

On 10 February 2011, the Senate referred the national VET regulator legislation to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Senate Committee for inquiry and report. The Committee is seeking written submissions from interested individuals by 1 March 2011.

The Committee is to report back to the Senate by 21 March 2011, after it considers the three Bills that will establish the national VET regulator—the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Bill 2010 [2011], National Education and Training Regulator (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010 [2011], and the National Education and Training Regulator (Consequential Amendments) Bills 2011.

We remain hopeful that the legislation will be considered by the Parliament in March 2011 in order to meet the new commencement date of 1 July 2011.

For further information about the inquiry or to make a submission, visit the Senate website.

COMMUNICATION WITH RTOs

Interim website

The taskforce will launch an interim website once the national legislation has passed. The site will provide up to date responses to frequently asked questions and information about the national regulator and the transition process (including how it will affect RTOs and course owners).

In most cases, RTOs and course owners should not have to make special efforts to prepare for the changeover. The arrangements in the National Education and Training Regulator (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010 [2011] will ensure the transition is as seamless as possible.

All RTOs and course owners should continue to work with their state or territory regulator until the date their state or territory makes the transition to the national regulator.

RTOs in Victoria and Western Australia

National and state regulatory arrangements are being finalised for Victoria and Western Australia. Information outlining any special requirements for RTOs in these states will be available well in advance of the national regulator’s start date.

Questions about your registration or accreditation

In the meantime, if you have enquiries about your registration or accreditation, contact your existing regulator. If you have specific questions about the establishment of the national regulator, you can direct them to vetregulator@deewr.gov.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit www.deewr.gov.au/vetregulator for further information about the progress of the national VET regulator, to subscribe to updates and read frequently asked questions.

Copies of the National Update are now available to download and view from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) website.

If you have any comments or questions, please direct them to vetregulator@deewr.gov.au.