

FINAL REFERENCE 2010

PURPOSE

Building on work conducted by the NQC in 2009, and acknowledging the extent of Australian VET delivery to international students and its contribution to the Australian economy, the NQC has identified international VET as a priority for 2010 and has established the Offshore International VET Action Group.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Offshore International VET Action Group is to oversee three key projects as part of the National Quality Council 2010 work plan and provide expert advice and recommendations to the Council on issues related to the quality assurance of Australian VET delivery to international students.

OUTPUTS

The Offshore International VET Action Group will report back to the NQC on the outcomes of the following projects.

Project 1 – Evaluating the model for offshore quality assurance monitoring against the AQTF

This project will analyse the model outlined in the Foster & Schulze report¹ by:

- conducting a trial of Element 2 of the model - a data collection from all public and private providers regarding programs, enrolments and location of offshore delivery.
- keeping a watching brief on the work of the National VET Data Strategy Action Group, particularly the initiatives on Protocols for Data Sharing and Total VET Activity;
- assessing the costs and practicality associated with progressively implementing the other two central elements to the model (enhanced risk assessment and offshore site visits), taking into consideration the effect of impending changes to VET regulatory arrangements.
- scoping potential implications, feasibility and support for implementing the other three supporting elements (Elements 1, 5 and 6).

¹ Sue Foster & Moira Schulze, *Offshore quality assurance monitoring against the AQTF*, November 2009

Project 2 – Best Practice Guide for Offshore VET Delivery

Develop a VET specific offshore delivery manual/guide for RTOs that:

- builds on the 17 risks/opportunities for best practice identified in the Foster & Schulze report and the 15 best practice reports developed as part of the Transnational Quality Strategy;
- includes detailed advice about best practice in contextualisation of Training Packages for an offshore market.

Project 3 – Contextualisation of Training Package qualifications

Make recommendations to the NQC on how to address issues raised by the contextualisation of Training Packages for the offshore market by:

- identifying the policies, processes and views of the different jurisdictions in relation to the accreditation of courses developed specifically to meet offshore delivery needs;
- investigating options for internationalising all qualifications at the development stage, including a cost/benefit analysis and scoping of current ISC work around the internationalising of Training Package qualifications;
- developing additional material for inclusion in the Training Package Development Handbook Guidelines to encompass international contextualisation and to support best practice amongst Training Package developers;
- further investigating the feasibility of a ‘dual qualifications’ approach to dealing with issues of contextualisation;
- investigating the need for country-specific ‘companion volumes’ or guides to support RTOs in contextualising qualifications offshore.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Offshore International VET Action Group will consult with the following groups as relevant in undertaking its activities:

- Peak education industry bodies
- Australian Education International (AEI)
- DEEWR including personnel establishing the National VET regulator and TEQSA
- Industry Skills Councils
- National Training Statistics Committee (NTSC) and data collection agencies e.g. NCVET and ACER.
- Employee representatives
- Employer representatives
- International student organisations
- AUQA

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Action Group may make recommendations to the NQC, but does not have independent decision-making powers.

Membership of the Action Group, as per the protocol in place between the NQC and MCTEE, will be approved by the NQC. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be members of the

NQC. The Action Group will be chaired by Ms Virginia Simmons (TDA), Deputy Chaired by Mr Andrew Smith (ACPET) and will comprise the following representation:

- peak provider representatives
- Australian Education International (AEI) representative
- employer representatives
- employee representatives
- RCAB representatives

OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Action Group will exist to 31 December 2010. The Action Group will meet either face to face or through teleconference as required to achieve its objectives.

All government representatives on the Action Group will meet the costs of being associated with the membership of the Action Group (including travel and accommodation). Industry and client group representatives will be assisted, where necessary, with the cost of attending meetings.

The Secretariat function will be provided by TVET Australia.

BUDGET

The NQC will allocate a budget to the Action Group on a project by project basis as concept briefs are approved. The Secretariat will be responsible for administering the budget and providing appropriate reports to the Action Group and the NQC.

MILESTONES AND TIMEFRAMES

The Action Group will report directly to the NQC on milestone completion and on outcomes and specific recommendations at the completion of its work.

Milestone	Date
1 st progress report to NQC	Thursday 8 April 2010
2 nd progress report to NQC	Thursday 17 June
3 rd progress report to NQC	Thursday 9 September
Final report and recommendations to NQC	Thursday 9 December

EQUITY

The operations of the Action Group must be consistent with NQC policies regarding equity and will report to the NQC on the way in which the Council's equity operating principles are incorporated into its practices and outputs.