

FINAL REFERENCE 2010

PURPOSE

The NQC has established the Quality of Assessment Action Group to address the widely held perceptions across the national training system that the quality of assessment practices needs to improve within the Australian VET sector, including within the schools sector as might apply to the assessment of the VET in Schools program. The Quality of Assessment Action Group may make recommendations to the NQC, but does not have independent decision-making powers.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Quality of Assessment Action Group are to:

- oversee finalising of the Report of the National Strategic Industry Audit of TAA04 (Stage 1)
- oversee preparation of a high level strategic report to inform Stage 2 of the National Strategic Industry Audit of TAA04 project
- oversee implementation of Stage 2 of the National Strategic Industry Audit of TAA04
- oversee implementation of recommendations from the Stage 2 Quality of Assessment project;
- oversee development of resources to support industry / enterprise and RTO partnerships;
- oversee development of resources to support best practice in validation and moderation
- promote pathways from school to VET through strategies to improve the quality of assessment of VET delivered in schools.

OUTPUTS

The Quality of Assessment Action Group will achieve the following outputs

Final Report on the National Strategic Industry Audit of the TAA04 Training Package (Stage 1)

- a report which provides recommendations arising from the National Strategic Industry Audit of the TAA04 Training Package (Stage 1)

A high level strategic report

- a report which pulls together the findings from the IBSA Review of the TAA04 Training Package and the National Strategic Industry Audit (Stage 1) and provides a strategy to communicate and disseminate outcomes

Implementation of the National Strategic Industry Audit (Stage 2) which might include:

- implement recommendations arising from the National Strategic Industry Audit, and the high level strategic report;

- undertake communication and dissemination of the outcomes of the Strategic Industry Audit and the high level strategic report;
- implement strategies designed to strengthen delivery and assessment outcomes in the VET sector (including VET in Schools) , which may include the development of a national resource and an associated professional development program directed at improving assessors capability to make quality assessment judgements; and
- develop advice to RTOs (including schools) on strategies to implement a framework for initial and ongoing skills development of VET practitioners and professionals.

Implementation of agreed recommendations from the Stage 2 Quality of Assessment project

- investigate the feasibility with fully developed options for how a clearinghouse for assessment resources should/could be implemented, and the required resourcing;
- prepare a strategy to address gaps in assessment support materials and requirements for critical materials development; and
- develop reference/fact sheets as part of a glossary of assessment related issues, focussed particularly on areas identified as being gaps in assessment support material, suitable for use within the VET sector including within VET in Schools.

Resources to support industry / Enterprise and RTO partnerships

- Following on from the 2008 project that looked at successful strategies used in partnerships, this project will draw on material used from the action learning sites to develop a guide and associated resources for:
 - Industry and enterprises working with RTOs (with a focus on industry and enterprises as the audience);
 - RTOs working with industry associations and enterprises (with a focus on RTOs as the audience); and
- provide for a series of interactive information sessions in each State and Territory to disseminate the guide and supporting resources. This strategy will be designed to be inclusive of the VET sector, including schools that are delivering VET in Schools.

Resources to support best practice validation and moderation

- Following on from the 2008 project that developed “A Code of Professional Practice for Validation and Moderation”, and an “Implementation Guide”, this project will develop:
 - Additional guidelines and support materials for alternative approaches to consensus meetings as a validation strategy, through case studies, as might be used by diverse RTOs which deliver and assess in a range of contexts; and
 - National case study approaches to validation of specified qualifications in a range of industries. Case studies will include participants that are inclusive of the VET sector, including of schools delivering VET in Schools.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Quality of Assessment - Schools and VET Action Group will consult with the following groups as relevant in undertaking its activities:

- DEEWR
- STAs
- RCABs

- Peak employer and employee industry bodies
- Peak RTO bodies
- NVEAC
- Regulatory/occupational licensing bodies
- NCVER
- NISC
- IBSA

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Quality of Assessment Action Group will report directly to the NQC on milestones and achievement of outputs and will make specific recommendations at the completion of its work.

Membership of the Action Group, as per the protocol in place between the NQC and MCVTE, will be approved by the NQC. The Action Group will have as Chair, Ms Mary Hicks and as Deputy Chair, Ms Jennifer Taylor and will comprise the following representation:

- State and territory government representatives
- Employer and employee industry representatives – including the Chair and Deputy Chair;
- Representative/s of provider and/or client groups
- IBSA

OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- The Quality of Assessment 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 Quality of Assessment 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.
- Activities/projects for which concept briefs will be developed include:
 - Strategic Industry Audit of the TAA Training Package – Stage 2 (including preparation of a high level Strategic Report)
 - Implementation of recommendations from the Stage 2 Quality of Assessment project:(includes feasibility study for clearing house for assessment related materials, development of a strategy to address gaps, and development of fact/reference sheets
 - Industry / Enterprise and RTO partnerships – development of a guide and resources
 - Validation and Moderation – development of additional guidelines and conduct of case studies

MILESTONES AND TIMEFRAMES

The Action Group will report directly to the NQC on milestones and achievement of outputs and will make specific recommendations at the completion of its work.

Milestone	Date
Strategic Industry Audit of the TAA Training Package – Stage 1 <i>Progress report</i> <i>Final report</i>	 <i>8 April 2010</i> <i>17 June 2010</i>
Strategic Industry Audit of the TAA Training Package – Stage 2 <i>Progress report</i> <i>Final report</i>	 <i>17 June 2010</i> <i>9 September 2010</i>
Implementation of recommendations from the Stage 2 Quality of Assessment project: <i>Progress report</i> <i>Final report</i>	 <i>9 September 2010</i> <i>9 December 2010</i>
Industry / Enterprise and RTO partnerships – development of a guide and resources <i>Progress report</i> <i>Final report</i>	 <i>17 June 2010</i> <i>9 September 2010</i>
Validation and Moderation – development of additional guidelines and conduct of case studies <i>Progress report</i> <i>Final report</i>	 <i>9 September 2010</i> <i>9 December 2010</i>

EQUITY STATEMENT

The Quality of Assessment Action Group will operate in accordance with the NQC policies regarding equity.