STREAMLINED TRAINING PACKAGES TO FOCUS ON ESSENTIALS

The National Quality Council (NQC) has endorsed a new design model for Training Packages. This reform is a key priority for the VET Products for the 21st Century project and is the culmination of more than two years of research, consultation and development work by the NQC.

Streamlined Training Packages will be characterised by simplified language, as well as shortened and appropriately segmented content that will address concerns that Training Packages have become too complex, bulky and difficult to understand.

The new design will mean

- Easier to use: simpler language, less repetition and greater consistency will make Training Packages much more user-friendly and accessible.
- Greater focus on assessment knowledge and foundation skills: targeted sections of the Training Package will make it easier for RTOs to address these issues.
- More support for RTOs: companion volumes will provide detailed advice on the use and implementation of a Training Package. They include guides on RTO implementation, learning strategies, knowledge, assessment strategies, and will be released concurrently with each Training Package.

Some of the more detailed changes include:

- Units of competency are simplified to be an expression of performance standards only.
• Assessment requirements are strengthened and given their own section, with performance and knowledge evidence linked to the elements and performance criteria in the unit of competency.
• Required skills are now expressed in the ‘elements’ and ‘performance criteria’.
• Foundation skills are explicitly listed in the unit of competency.
• The range statement is renamed RANGE OF CONDITIONS and reflects context and operating conditions only.

The NQC has agreed to a transition period until the end of 2012 for Industry Skills Councils to update all Training Packages to the new design model. In the first half of 2011 a small number of Training Packages will be developed as models to help the transition to the new design. Most of the redevelopment work is expected to occur until early 2012, with the majority of new-look Training Packages likely to become available throughout or towards the end of 2012.

TVET Australia will roll out a comprehensive communication program in the first half of 2011 to help prepare stakeholders for the future impact of streamlined Training Packages. Keep an eye out for events and opportunities to learn more, so that you can be prepared when the changes impact on you.