



In recent years the Victorian vocational education and training (VET) system has changed significantly through the introduction of an individual entitlement to a subsidised training place, and the opening of the market to competition between providers. The government is retaining and strengthening these market fundamentals, to ensure that businesses and students continue to have choice over what and where they study. At the same time, the government is implementing new arrangements to improve quality; improve system responsiveness to the needs of industry; focus investment in areas of greatest public benefit; and ensure sustainability of the system into the future.

## What's staying the same?

All Victorians will continue to have an entitlement to a government-subsidised training place subject to age and upskilling requirements:

- Victorians aged under 20 years will continue to have access to a government-subsidised training place at any level. Those aged 20 years and over can gain a government-subsidised place for qualifications higher than those already held.
- Victorians of any age wishing to study as an apprentice will continue to have access to a government-subsidised training place in an apprenticeship course of any level regardless of their previous qualification.
- Victorians of any age wishing to study a foundation course will continue to have access to a government-subsidised training place in a foundation course of any level regardless of their previous qualification.
- Existing arrangements that allow certain members of the community to access government-subsidised training without having to meet the eligibility criteria, such as a small number of asylum seekers and parents referred to training under the National Partnership for Single and Teenage Parents, will continue.
- The Victorian training entitlement remains more generous than the minimum national entitlement agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in April 2012.

## What's changing?

From 1 July 2012, Victorians of any age whose highest qualification is VCE or VCAL will become eligible for a place in a

government-subsidised course at Certificate II level. Currently, someone over 20 years of age with VCE or VCAL cannot access a government-subsidised place at Certificate II level.

'Zero-fee' training places will be made available for young Victorians living in out-of-home care under the custody or guardianship of the State.

'Zero fee' training places will also be made available for any Victorians aged 21 or under who have recently transitioned from out-of-home care, having previously been under the custody or guardianship of the State.

No further general exemptions from the eligibility criteria will be issued to providers beyond 2012. In their place, the government will establish a new Industry Transition and Specialist Training Initiative. This will fund actions to meet critical industry skills needs, including support for retrenched workers and workers in industries in transition who are ineligible for a government-subsidised place but need to re-skill to remain in or re-join the workforce.

## What does this mean for training providers?

Providers can continue to offer a range of government-subsidised training options for Victorians.

An expression of interest process will identify those providers to be contracted to deliver 'zero fee' places to young people in out-of-home care and recent care leavers.

## What does this mean for students and/or employers?

Access to a government-subsidised training place continues for all eligible Victorians. The training entitlement continues and, in some instances, has been expanded.

Vulnerable young people with a history of living in the care of the State will have more affordable access to training.

## Where can I go for more information?

For further information on how the government is refocusing Victorian VET, including what it means for students and training providers, go to [www.education.vic.gov.au/refocusingvet](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/refocusingvet)