

Contract Notification

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| CN No | 2023-07 | Date: 11 July 2023 |
| To: | Chief Executive Officer or equivalent | |
| Purpose: | Variation to Contract | |
| Scope: | All 2023 VET Funding Contracts 2023 Guidelines About Eligibility | |
| Subject: | Updated versions of 2023 Contracts and Guidelines About Eligibility. | |

Purpose

This Contract Notification is to advise training providers that updated VET Funding Contracts and Guidelines About Eligibility are published in the 'Documents' section of SVTS. These reflect changes to:

- eligibility for the Asylum Seeker VET (ASVET) Program
- eligibility for the Youth Access initiative
- the Literacy and Numeracy Support (LN Support) program
- include an additional method for sighting a digital Medicare card using the MyGov app for the purpose of checking evidence of Australian citizenship/permanent residence
- apply a regional loading to the fee waiver contribution amount for Free TAFE programs, in addition to the current loading on training subsidies (TAFE and Dual Sector only).

Background

It is standard process that we may vary the VET Funding Contract and Guidelines to reflect changes to policy, reflect new or updated initiatives or to make minor administrative edits. See **Attachment 1** for a list of changes to the Contracts and Guidelines.

Main points

Expansion of eligibility for the Asylum Seeker VET Program

The Asylum Seeker VET program is changing from only allowing access for individuals who hold a particular visa or visa subclass from a specific list. Instead, the program is now available to more asylum seekers in a more flexible way.

Who is now eligible?

From 1 July 2023, eligibility to participate in the Asylum Seeker VET program is for individuals or dependants of individuals, who:

- hold any humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa in Australia, or
- have applied for a humanitarian, protection or refugee visa and hold a bridging visa for this purpose.
- have made an application under s.417 or s.48b of the *Migration Act 1958 (Cth)* which is yet to be determined and hold a bridging visa.

Individuals must have study rights, and work rights are required for programs that include work placement.

How to check

There are 3 ways you can check eligibility to participate:

1. If you're registered with the Department of Home Affairs to use the Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) system, you can ask the student for permission to check the type of visa they hold and the status of their study and work rights.
2. You can accept a VEVO record that a student has generated themselves. You'll need to check that the details on the record match the name, date of birth and document number of their foreign passport or Immicard.
3. You can accept a letter of referral from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

When a student has a bridging visa, you'll need to sight additional evidence that they're applying for a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa or making an application under s.417 or s.48b of the *Migration Act 1958 (Cth)*.

Resources

You should review the updated Eligibility Guidelines carefully to check for full details on what evidence you'll need to sight and retain.

Attachment 2 has a sample VEVO record that shows where to find relevant information.

Attachment 3 has general list of refugee and humanitarian visas, but please note that this is not a complete list and may be subject to changes.

If you have questions about visa types, please contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#).

Expansion of eligibility for the Youth Access initiative

We've made some changes to the Youth Access initiative to expand eligibility to participate to young people (24 years of age or under) who:

- have been, or are currently supported by, the Refugee Minor Program; or
- have participated, or are currently participating in, the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service.

This will improve access to training in line with the Victorian Government's priorities for supporting these marginalised groups.

We haven't made any changes to who can refer young people to training or who can deliver training under the initiative.

Resources

An updated Youth Access guidebook reflecting the expanded eligibility will be published shortly.

Changes to the Literacy and Numeracy Support program

We've made some changes to help students who need extra support to complete their qualification take advantage of the Literacy and Numeracy Support program (LN Support program). These take effect from 1 July 2023.

You can offer LN Support to students if you have the subjects (or the-accredited VET program or training package qualification) on your scope of registration. This will already be on your funded scope.

Improved student access to support

We've added the LN Support program as a Free TAFE Short Course so students can do literacy and numeracy subjects at a TAFE or Dual Sector University free of tuition fees.

The program is no longer treated as a foundation skills program. We've updated the funded programs report to reflect this change.

As it is no longer treated as a foundation skills program, you can now enrol students who hold a Diploma (or higher qualification) in literacy and numeracy support subjects if they have an identified need.

In addition, a student's participation in LN Support subjects **will not** count towards the following limits on Skills First training:

- 2 skill sets in a year
- 2 programs at time.

We haven't made changes to any other foundation skills program.

Administrative changes

TAFE and Dual Sector University training providers will now have an allocation for Literacy and Numeracy Support documented in their Schedule 2.

For all other training providers, enrolments in LN Support subjects will now count towards your commencement allocation for skill sets. This means the group of subjects reported under the 'LNSUPPORT' program code for an individual student will consume one skill set allocation. **If you don't currently have a skill set allocation and you intend to start delivering LN support, please contact us prior to enrolling students.**

LN support is treated as a skill set. All training providers must report LN Support training activity via the SVTS using:

- the 'LNSUPPORT' program code,
- the funding source identifier – state training authority GSP.

TAFEs and Dual Sector Universities only must also report:

- the fee exemption/concession type identifier (second character) 'Y'.

Resources

The Literacy and Numeracy Support Implementation Guide will be updated to reflect the changes.

Sighting a Medicare Card in the MyGov app

In March 2023 Services Australia introduced the option for Medicare card holders to add their card to the digital wallet in the MyGov Application.

To reflect this, we've updated the Guidelines About Eligibility to include the MyGov mobile application as an additional option for sighting a student's green Medicare Card for the purpose of checking evidence of Australian citizenship/permanent residence. Like the Express Plus Medicare application, the student can show you the card in a digital wallet on their mobile device and you'll need to retain a declaration that you've sighted it.

Regional loading added to Free TAFE fee waiver contribution

A regional loading of 10% will now be applied to your Free TAFE fee waiver contribution, applicable from 1 January 2023. We'll apply the fee waiver loading for delivery in regional Victoria under the same conditions as the current regional loading paid for training subsidies. We've updated Schedule 1 Clause 11.8 of the 2023 TAFE and Dual Sector VET Funding Contract to reflect this change.

We expect to start making payments from the early September payment run via SVTS. This will include a one-off 'catch-up' payment to reconcile training delivered from 1 January 2023.

Resources

The updated contracts and guidelines, published in the 'Documents' section of SVTS are as follows:

- 2023 Standard VET Funding Contract (version 3.0)
- 2023 TAFE VET Funding Contract (version 3.0)
- 2023 Dual Sector VET Funding Contract (version 3.0)
- 2023 Guidelines About Eligibility (version 3.0)

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Executive Director
Training Market Services

Attachment 1: list of changes

| Contract type | Clause | Description of change |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| All | 5.3 (TAFE/Dual Sector) 5.10 (Standard) | As the Literacy and Numeracy Support program is no longer treated as a Foundation Skills Program, we've removed the reference to it in this clause about the Foundation Skills Approved Provider List. |
| TAFE/Dual Sector | 11.8 of Schedule 1 | We've updated the clause describing how fee waivers are calculated to include the calculation for the new regional loading applying to the Free TAFE fee waiver reimbursement. |
| All | 13 of Schedule 1 | <p>We've updated the settings for exempting an individual from the citizenship/permanent residence criterion for the Asylum Seeker VET Program</p> <p>We deleted the specific list of visa types. Eligibility is extended to individuals or dependants of individuals who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hold any humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa or • have applied for a humanitarian, protection or refugee visa and hold a bridging visa for this purpose or • have made an application under s.417 or s.48b of the <i>Migration Act 1958 (Cth)</i> which is yet to be determined and hold a bridging visa and • have study rights, and work rights if relevant to their enrolment. |
| All | 15 of Schedule 1 | <p>We've updated the Youth Access Initiative to expand eligibility to participate to young people (24 years of age or under) who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been, or are currently supported by, the Refugee Minor Program; or • have participated, or are currently participating in, the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service. <p>The name of the initiative has been simplified from "Skills First Youth Access Initiative" to "Youth Access Initiative".</p> |
| Guidelines About Eligibility | | |
| N/A | 1.4 and 1.6 | <p>We've included participation in Literacy and Numeracy units as a scenario that does not count towards the following limits on Skills First training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 skill sets in a year • 2 programs at a time. |
| N/A | 2.5(d) | We included the MyGov application as an additional way to sight a green Medicare card for the purposes of checking evidence of citizenship. |
| N/A | 2.6 | <p>We've added a new table of requirements for sighting and retaining evidence for Part C Initiatives. Requirements for the Asylum Seeker VET Program are added in line with contract change to clause 13 of Schedule 1.</p> <p>Subsequent clauses have been renumbered as a result.</p> |
| N/A | Attachment 1 Section A | We've clarified wording, and added check boxes for sighting and retaining VEVO checks for permanent residents. |

| Contract type | Clause | Description of change |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| N/A | Attachment 1 Section A | We've simplified the check boxes for sighting evidence of citizenship/residency or for eligibility for the Asylum Seeker VET Program. We've updated the sections on viewing and retaining evidence in line with the new table of requirements at 2.6. |
| N/A | Attachment 1 Section B1 | We deleted references to skill sets in Question 1 of Section B1 of the Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration Form to correct an administrative error. |

Attachment 2

If a student presents a VEVO record they've generated themselves, look for the Department of Home Affairs logo as below and check that their details match those on their passport or Immicard.

Check the highlighted sections for relevant information about the type of humanitarian, protection, refugee or bridging visa a student holds.



Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO)

Visa Detail Check

Valid as at Tuesday July 04, 2023 09:28 51 (AEST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Family name | [name] |
| Given name(s) | [name] |
| Visa description | [description] |
| Document number | [number] |
| Visa class / subclass | BB / 155 |
| Visa applicant | Primary |
| Visa grant date | 13 April 2022 |
| Location | Onshore |
| Visa status | In Effect |
| Entries allowed | description |
| Must not arrive after | 13 April 2027 |
| Period of stay | [period] |
| Visa type | [check type here] |

Work entitlements

The Visa Holder has unlimited Work Entitlements

Workplace rights

All employees in Australia are protected by workplace laws, including visa holders, for further information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/work-rights-and-exploitation>

Study entitlements

The Visa Holder has unlimited Study Entitlements

Attachment 3

The following is a general but **incomplete** list of refugee and humanitarian visas. If you're unsure about a visa type, please contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#).

- Global Special Humanitarian (subclass 202)
- Humanitarian (Temporary) (subclass 449)
- Protection visa (subclass 866)
- Refugee visa 200 Refugee
- Refugee visa 201 In-country Special Humanitarian
- Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785)
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786)
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790)
- Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)
- Refugee visa 203 Emergency Rescue
- Refugee visa 204 Woman at Risk