

Contract notification

CN number:	2025-09	Date: 21 August 2025
To:	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent	
Purpose:	General information	
Scope:	All 2024-25 VET funding contracts	
Subject:	The 2026 contracting process	

Purpose

This contract notification is to advise you about the contracting process for 2026.

Background

The current 2024-25 contract expires on 31 December 2025. We're inviting currently contracted training providers to be considered for a one-year duration 2026 contract, unless we've told you otherwise.

The offer of a new contract is conditional on your participation in the process as outlined below. We cannot guarantee you will get a 2026 contract.

Our decisions about the Skills First program for 2026 will consider Victoria's priority training and workforce needs, and the available funding. We will target our investment in priority-needs courses where tuition fees are a significant barrier for student enrolment, and where the fees are not usually covered by an employer.

The 2026 contracting process

This year, we will have a streamlined process where:

- **you can opt-in or out of the 2026 contracting process**
- **you don't have to submit program delivery plans** - this is because we expect priorities to remain similar to those in 2025.

What you must do

To be considered for a 2026 contract, you must:

1. **Complete our [2026 Skills First contracting form](#)** to tell us if you'd like to be considered for a 2026 contract. If we have not received your completed form by 2 October 2025, then we will presume you do not want to be considered for a 2026 contract.
2. **Take part in an independent financial assessment, if required.** Check your SVTS enquiries to find out if you must do an assessment.
If you must do a financial assessment and you don't participate, we will exclude you from consideration for a 2026 contract. You will not be able to commence students in Skills First training in 2026.

Our assessment

Whether we offer you a new contract remains at our absolute discretion. This includes us being satisfied with the outcomes of any independent financial assessment and our due diligence assessment.

2026 contracts and course lists are under development

We will publish the 2026 contracts, guidelines and approved course lists, such as the 2026 training needs list and Free TAFE list, in mid-late September.

This is because we're making broader decisions across the whole Skills First program, subject to finalising government's priorities.

Your 2026 allocations and funded scope

What you can likely expect from your 2026 allocations and funded scope:

- **Commencement allocations are limited to 2025 amounts.** We will not be increasing your commencement allocations for 2026. This means you'll receive no more commencements than in 2025, and maybe fewer.
- **No additions to funded scope.** We will not be adding new programs to your funded scope, nor new enrolment types for programs already on your funded scope. This means your funded scope will not increase in 2026 and might decrease.

No expression of interest process for new training providers

We are not opening an expression of interest process for new training providers to apply for a contract. Current arrangements can meet the demand for priority skills training in areas of occupational and industry need.

Submit an enquiry

For questions about the 2026 contracting process, please submit an SVTS enquiry using the category '2026 contracting process'.

Key dates

We're committed to giving you your 2026 contract outcome as soon as possible. The earliest possible date we expect to communicate contract outcomes is late November 2025.

The table below sets out the key dates in the 2026 contracting process.

Category	Date
2026 Skills First contracting form closes	5:00pm (AEST) Thursday, 2 October 2025
2026 independent financial assessment closes	5:00pm (AEDT) Friday, 31 October 2025
Draft 2026 contracts published Course lists published	September 2025
Most outcomes communicated (including 2026 Schedule 2s) Final 2026 contracts published	November 2025
2026 contract commences	1 January 2026

Ryan Collins

Executive Director

Training Operations and Assurance