

# MTA NSW Training News

February 2010

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## Introducing AQTF 2010

On 3 December 2009, the National Quality Council (NQC) endorsed key changes to the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Essential Standards for Registration.

The Council of Australian Governments met on 7 December and endorsed the NQC's amendments.

These important changes strengthen the AQTF and ensure regulators have the tools they need to protect the interests of all students undertaking vocational education and training in Australia.

Implementation of the new Standards, including strengthening the AQTF national guidelines for risk management and managing non-compliance, will be completed by March 2010.

For more information about the AQTF 2010 Essential Standards  
[www.nqc.tvetaustralia.com.au/aqtf\\_2010](http://www.nqc.tvetaustralia.com.au/aqtf_2010)

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## Training Packages to go Green

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced that all apprenticeships and vocational education training packages will be reviewed to ensure that they include relevant green skills by March next year, and that all courses will be revised to include the new green skills by the end of 2010.

For more information [click here](#)

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## Updates to AUR05 Training Package

Manufacturing Skills Australia has been moving forward with various planned upgrades to the AUR05 Training Package.

AUR05v2.3 is now available on the [National Training Information Service \(NTIS\)](#)

Upgrades were drawn from work undertaken by Automotive Training Australia in 2008 and include:

- AUR20205 Certificate II in Automotive

## National Regulator for VET coming soon

In a statement, Minister for Education Julia Gillard said the Ministers will recommend to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) that the new vocational education regulator will be a Commonwealth statutory authority.

She also outlined timeframes with the framework for the new regulation to be agreed by the end of May 2010 and the regulator beginning operation from 2011.

Ministers agreed that TEQSA will be an independent body and noted that the Commonwealth Minister intends to establish TEQSA as a statutory authority. Ministers will further discuss the governance arrangements for the authority in the coming months.

The regulatory arrangements were considered in the context of a potential merger in 2013, as Ministers work to achieve a more interconnected tertiary sector.

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## More from the Council of Australian Governments

COAG agreed to begin work on a Unique Student Identifier system. This will help to ensure that current and prospective students will have a complete record of their educational achievements across jurisdictions during the course of their studies.

COAG agreed to modernise Australia's trade apprenticeship system following the recommendations of the Australian Apprentices Taskforce. The changes to the trade apprenticeships system will be designed to strengthen apprenticeship participation and support systems and reduce red tape for employers.

Aftermarket Manufacturing

- Unit AURS241769A Sell product(s) - removed from the Accessory Fitting descriptor
- AUR30405 Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology
- Unit AURV328166A Repair and align motorcycle frames- removed from the Motorcycle descriptor.
- AUR30605 Certificate III in Automotive Specialist
- Unit AURT403645A Overhaul diesel fuel injection systems- removed from the Diesel Fitting and Diesel Fuel descriptors.
- A new descriptor of Trailer Technician (Heavy Vehicle) added with a list of required units for this new descriptor.

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## AUR05 Redevelopment Project 2010

In the latter half of 2009 MSA undertook a scoping project of AUR05 and on the basis of these extensive national industry consultations prepared a Continuous Improvement Plan. In December 2009, Resource Education and Training Pty Ltd was contracted to carry out work in 2010 based on this plan.

The work will be undertaken in stages according to the priorities identified in the Continuous Improvement Plan and the level of change required. The specific issues to be addressed include:

- revision of all current AUR05 qualifications with regard to work role, pathways, AQF level, relevance and usefulness, packaging and flexibility, imported units and their pre-requisites, sector coverage
- revision of existing units of competency with regard to new technology, sector coverage, strengthening literacy and numeracy requirements, embedding

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## Introducing TED10

Innovation and Business Skills Australia recently announced that the TAA training package will shortly be replaced by the TED10 package. In addition to the revised Certificate IV and the yet-to-be revised Diploma, the following qualifications would be included in the new Training Package:

- The recently developed and yet-to-be endorsed Vocational Graduate Certificate of Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LL&N)
- The recently developed and yet-to-be endorsed Vocational Graduate Diploma of LL&N
- From the BSB07 Training Package, the following qualifications:
  - Diploma of International Education Services (BSB50907)
  - Vocational Graduate Certificate of International Education Services (BSB70207)
  - Vocational Graduate Certificate of Management (Learning) (BSB70107)
  - Vocational Graduate Diploma of Management (Learning) (BSB80107).

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## BSB07 Update

Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) has recently completed scoping projects as part of its continuous improvement of BSB07

employability skills, addressing licensing/regulatory and sustainability/environmental issues, updating Evidence Guides, etc

- development of new units and qualifications to address identified issues and gaps
- development of Skill Sets if required
- updating of Volume 1 information such as mandatory Assessment Guidelines, pathways advice, etc.

[AUR05 Continuous Improvement Plan](#) has now been finalised – a detailed project plan is available at <http://www.mskills.com.au/>

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## Apprentice commencements the key in hard times

New research argues that apprentice commencements, more than completions are in need of attention in a recession.

Released by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), *Apprenticeships and traineeships in the downturn* assess the likely impact of the economic slump on apprentices and trainees.

Dr Tom Karmel, Managing Director, NCVER said it is important that we continue to attract apprentices to commence training in order to avoid future skills shortages.

'When times are tough, employers are less likely to take on new apprentices,' Dr Karmel said.

'In a buoyant economy, the high cost to an employer in taking on an apprentice is balanced by benefits such as loyalty and knowing the quality of the training. In an economic downturn these benefits appear less attractive so apprentice numbers go down.

'The research also found that completion rates are likely to increase, as in a downturn employers are more likely to push their apprentices through their training, and with fewer opportunities available, apprentices are

Business Services Training Package in the following areas:

- Management, including Frontline Management
- Innovation
- Marketing, Advertising and Sales.

This will include the development and validation of new and updated units of competency, new skill sets and changes to some qualifications.

A detailed project overview can be found at [IBSA's website](#)

National consultations will occur February/March 2010, involving phone interviews, face to face meetings and workshops; and drafts will be available on IBSA's website for feedback. If you wish to be placed on the project data base for consultation and project updates, please email Eddie Hardman [eddie@ibsa.org.au](mailto:eddie@ibsa.org.au) at or Jayne Crook [Jayne@ibsa.org.au](mailto:Jayne@ibsa.org.au)

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## \$1,428,400 funding for e-learning

New South Wales registered training organisations (RTOs) can apply for a share of \$1,428,400 in funding to develop innovative e-learning solutions and better support the training needs of NSW business and industry.

[E-learning Innovations](#) funding and support, provided by the national training system's e-learning strategy, the Australian Flexible Learning Framework ([Framework](#)), will be awarded to RTOs based on their ability to:

- support business-training provider partnerships that can drive the integration of e-learning into business and training

more likely to stay with their employer.

'The challenge is to ensure that new people are starting apprenticeships so that we are not faced with a lack of skilled workers in the years to come.'

While all areas of education and training are affected by the state of the economy, apprenticeships and traineeships are particularly sensitive because they lead directly to jobs.

However, it is apprenticeships which have been hit by the economic downturn, rather than traineeships. The latest NCVER statistics on apprentice and trainee activity for the March quarter 2009 found that the number of people commencing a trade apprenticeship decreased by 21.9%, compared with the same period in 2008.

The trades in which commencements have been most affected are automotive and engineering, construction, electrotechnology and telecommunications, and the wood trades. Traineeships, on the other hand, actually increased by 1.6%.

To view the full report visit

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2197.htm>  
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## Future look of the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF)

The AQF Council has identified that the existing issuance policy - *Issuing a Qualification* - detailed in the *AQF Implementation Handbook*, needs to be reviewed to improve the clarity of information provided about AQF qualifications.

Stakeholder views are sought on the draft policy - *Qualification Issuance Policy and Protocols*. The consultation period has formally closed and feedback is being integrated into the draft policy.

During 2009 the AQF Council released two discussion papers for comment on

- empower learners through projects which target the needs of individuals in the community or existing and future students of the RTO.

Applications close on Tuesday 2 March 2010 and the successful applicants will be notified from Friday 26 March.

For more information, visit the [NSW E-learning Innovations](#) web page and read the [2010 NSW E-learning Innovations Guidelines for Applicants](#).

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strengthening the AQF:

1. Strengthening the AQF: A Proposal
2. Strengthening the AQF: An Architecture for Australia's Qualifications.

The consultation papers and analysis of feedback are available on the AQF [website](#).

Consultation workshops on the second paper were held with key groups of stakeholders during October. Over 30 written submissions were also received and analysed – all providing valuable input to refining the structure of the AQF.

The next stage of the project will be testing the levels criteria and the qualification type descriptors. This work was commissioned during November 2009 and will commence early in 2010.

If you would like to be involved in the on-line testing process, contact [aqfc@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:aqfc@saugov.sa.gov.au)

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