

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GLOSSARY

Accreditation

The process of formal recognition of a course based on assessment of content by an expert group constituted for that purpose. In HE accreditation is the responsibility of individual universities. In VET accreditation is the responsibility of State Recognition Authorities or their delegates and is based on National Accreditation Principles forming part of the ARF. Accreditation is only applicable to courses where no Training Packages have been developed and/or for customised qualifications derived from existing Training Packages.

Advanced Standing

A waiving of the obligation to undertake a part or parts of a qualification on the basis of recognising the value of prior learning or uncredentialed achievement. Advanced Standing represents the outcome of the process of Recognising Prior Learning (RPL).

Articulation

The process of linking two or more qualifications into a sequential and integrated pathway so that individuals can progress from one qualification to the next in a continuum that provides an agreed and transparent quantum of credit for achievement of the prior qualification(s) in relation to the destination qualification.

The Australian National Training Authority (ANTA)

A Commonwealth Government Statutory Authority, governed by an industry board, that is responsible to a Ministerial Council of Ministers of VET for the provision of advice on national policies and strategies in vocational education and training. The key roles of ANTA include:-

- developing a draft strategic plan
- coordinating national initiatives and undertaking policy reviews
- development, management and promotion of the National Training Framework
- developing advice on planning for future growth
- developing advice on key performance measures and reporting objectives
- evaluation and research on national priorities
- administering programs requiring national delivery
- provision of statistical data.

Australian Qualifications Framework

A comprehensive policy framework of post compulsory educational recognition within Australia, comprising twelve qualifications that are linked together into a unified and cohesive system through an agreed set of Guidelines which define the criteria for each qualification title in the Framework, the relationships between these qualifications and the requirements for issuance.

Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board

A Board comprising representatives of each education sector, the community, the Commonwealth government and ACACA, which is responsible to the Ministers of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) for the provision of advice relating to implementation and monitoring of the AQF.

Australian Recognition Framework

The quality assurance and national recognition arrangements that underpin the National Training Framework in VET. The key elements of the Australian Recognition Framework are the registration of Training Organisations (providers) by State and Territory Training Authorities against a set of agreed Principles and Standards of Registration and supported by audit arrangements.

Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee

The peak organisation representing Australian universities nationally and internationally comprising a council of all Australia's university presidents (Vice-chancellors) which seeks to advance higher education through voluntary, cooperative and coordinated action.

Award

A synonym for qualification.

Certification

The provision of a certificate, qualification or Statement of Attainment to an individual in recognition of their achievement in meeting the outcomes or partial outcomes and requirements of a course or qualification.

Combined Award/Integrated Award

An integrated cross-sector qualification that combines a VET award or awards with components of a HE award to create a new qualification structure that results in attainment of two or more awards achieved in one continuous period of simultaneous study/assessment.

Competency/Competency Standard

The specification of knowledge and skill and the application of that knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. Competency standards reflect a range of functions relevant to work and are applicable in an enterprise, industry or cross-industry context.

Course

A structured sequence of learning built around a range of specific learning outcomes usually delivered in an educational/training institution environment through a curriculum. In some instances, completion of a course may lead to a recognised AQF qualification; in other instances it results in other forms of recognition and certification.

Credential

A synonym for qualification.

Credit(s)

The agreed value of the achievement or partial achievement of one qualification when related to another qualification. This value translates to the student as equivalent to an exemption from undertaking a component or components of the destination qualification based on the acceptance that these components have already been completed through previous formal study. This exemption reduces the amount of time and learning required in achieving the second qualification.

Credit Transfer

The process of evaluating the components of one qualification for the purpose of determining the overlap/equivalence with the components of another qualification to establish credits for individuals.

Cross-sector Qualification Linkage

Any formal connection between a VET qualification or the parts of a VET qualification and a HE qualification or parts thereof that is developed to create a cross-sectoral learning pathway or learning model, negotiated by organisations in both sectors with the authority to develop and/or issue qualifications.

Curriculum

A structure or framework for achieving the desired learning outcomes of a course and/or qualification, specified through a sequential approach to learning that incorporates the learning objectives, content, and assessment requirements of the individual components of the course/qualification.

In VET, curriculum is generally organised as a related combination or series of modules which must address endorsed competency standards. In a Training Package context, a curriculum can be developed as one of many approaches to Training Package Support Materials.

Dual-Sector Award

An integrated cross-sector qualification that combines a VET award or awards with components of a HE award, to create a new qualification structure that results in attainment of two or more recognised qualifications achieved in one continuous period of sequential study/assessment.

Endorsement (Training Packages)

The formal recognition process of the competency standards, qualifications and assessment guidelines components of Training Packages, within the Australian Recognition Framework, carried out by the National Training Framework Committee of ANTA.

Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs)

Organisations established by ANTA to provide advice on vocational education and training matters within specific industries. ITABs develop Training Packages, market the benefits of recognised VET and advise government on the VET needs and priorities of their respective industries.

Module

A specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the achievement of stated learning outcomes. Modules may be stand-alone and/or linked together as the basis of a curriculum structure.

National Training Framework (NTF)

The overall national policy framework for the operations of VET embodied through the key components of Training Packages and the Australian Recognition Framework.

National Training Framework Committee

A Committee comprising government and industry representatives that has responsibility for providing advice to the ANTA Board on matters relating to the development and implementation of the NTF and responsibility for endorsing Training Packages.

Qualification

The formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs.

Pathway

A guide that identifies the different routes to achievement of a desired qualification. Pathways may involve identifying the linkage arrangements between and across qualifications as well as access and advanced standing from experience and informal learning situations.

Recognition of Prior Learning

A process of identifying and assessing the relevance and value of an individual's prior experience and/or uncredentialled learning against the requirements of a qualification to determine the exemptions or advanced standing that may be granted towards that qualification.

Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

An organisation that is recognised by a State/Territory Training Authority to develop and deliver recognised VET training and/or assessment products and services leading to qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued under the AQF. Registration is determined in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Recognition Framework.

Statement of Attainment

Formal certification issued by RTO to provide evidence of partial completion of a qualification.

Training Packages

Comprehensive, integrated products which provide national benchmarks and resources for delivery, assessment and qualifications in VET developed by a recognised industry (ITAB) or enterprise body for an industry, industry sector or enterprise at the national level. Three components set the benchmarks. These are the nationally endorsed competency standards, assessment guidelines and qualifications. The training and assessment resources for these recognised (endorsed) components are provided through Training Package Support Materials which may include learning strategies, assessment resources and professional development materials.

Training Program

A structured approach to achieving the competencies of a given AQF Training Package qualification and forming part of the Learning Strategies component of this product. A Training Program identifies the specific competencies to be delivered and assessed from the broader combination of competencies included in the qualification specifications and identifies the method and location of achievement.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACACA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities
AIG	Australian Industry Group
ANTA	Australian National Training Authority
ANTA CEOs	ANTA Chief Executive Officers (CEOs of ANTA and STA)
ARF	Australian Recognition Framework
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
AQFAB	Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board
AVCC	Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee
CBT&A	Competency Based Training and Assessment
CAE	College of Advanced Education
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
EFTSU	Effective Full-Time Student Unit
HE	Higher Education
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
ITAB	Industry Training Advisory Board (national)
ITB	Industry Training Board (State)
ITC	Industry Training Company
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
MINCO	Ministerial Council of VET Ministers
NBEET	National Board of Employment, Education and Training
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NFROT	National Framework for the Recognition of Training
NTF	National Training Framework
SRAs	State Recognition Authorities
STAs	State Training Authorities
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UAC	Universities Admissions Centre
VET	Vocational Education and Training