TRAINING PRODUCTS

Training packages and accredited courses, often referred to as *training products,* are key features of Australia's vocational education and training (VET) system. They are used as the basis for most programs delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs), and they are developed and reviewed in accordance with national standards.

QUICK FACTS

The following training products are currently available in the Australian VET system:

- 68 training packages which contain more than 17,000 units of competency, 1,450 qualifications and 1,300 skill sets
- 750 accredited courses which contain more than 3,550 units of competency and modules.

TRAINING PACKAGES

Training packages describe the skills and knowledge that individuals need to perform effectively in the workplace. They are developed through a process of national consultation with industry, and they contain nationally recognised qualifications required for particular occupations.

Training packages contain a set of nationally endorsed components and a collection of non-endorsed components as follows:

NATIONALLY ENDORSED COMPONENTS

Component	Description
Units of competency	Standards of performance required in the workplace
Assessment requirements	Evidence and required conditions for assessment associated with each unit of competency
Qualifications	Packaging rules for qualifications that are consistent with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
Credit arrangements	Existing arrangements between the training package qualifications and higher education qualifications

ACCESSING TRAINING PACKAGES

Training packages are developed with public funds and are available in the public domain.

You can search and freely download training packages from the National Register of VET.

You can search and freely download training package companion volumes from VETNet.

RTOS AND TRAINING PACKAGES

Training packages do not prescribe how an individual should be trained. RTOs use training packages to design learning programs and strategies that assist people to gain – or to demonstrate that they possess – the skills and knowledge specified in units of competency.

TRAINING PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT AND ENDORSEMENT

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee draws on advice from its network of more than 60 Industry Reference Committees (IRCs). The IRCs are made up of people with experience, skills and knowledge of their particular industry sector and are responsible for developing training packages that meet the needs of Australian Industry.

Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) are independent, professional service organisations that support IRCs in their work developing and reviewing training packages.

There are six SSOs funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

They are:

• Artibus Innovation

• Australian Industry Standards

• Innovation & Business Skills Australia

• PwC's Skills for Australia

• Skills Impact

• SkillsIQ.

POPULAR TRAINING PACKAGES

In 2016, the five most popular training packages were as follows:

• Business Services

• Community Services

• Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

• Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework

• Sport, Fitness and Recreation.

ACCREDITED COURSES

Accredited courses play an important role in Australia's VET system. They are developed to address the skill needs and requirements of an industry, enterprise or a community where these are not covered in a nationally endorsed training package. They have the capacity to address changes in skill needs in a responsive manner.

A course can be accredited in one of two ways in Australia's VET system:

• As a short course (the title of this type of course starts with the words 'Course in…' as opposed to 'Certificate in…' or 'Diploma of…', and graduates receive a statement of attainment)

• As a qualification recognised within the AQF (including Certificates I, II, III and IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma).

An accredited course can be based on a combination of the following:

• Nationally endorsed units of competency (imported from training packages)

• Enterprise units of competency (developed as part of the course if there are no available training package units of competency).

ACCESSING ACCREDITED COURSES

Accredited courses are generally developed with private funds and are privately owned. The copyright owner of an accredited course has the discretion to make it available, and can also impose fees or conditions on its use.

While the content of accredited courses is not publicly available, contact details of the copyright owner are listed on the National Register of VET.

RTOS AND ACCREDITED COURSES

When a course has been accredited, it means it is nationally recognised and that an RTO can issue a nationally recognised qualification or statement of attainment following its full or partial completion.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCREDITATION

Anyone can develop a course for accreditation.

Courses are accredited by one of the following three course accreditation agencies, and the choice of agency is dependent on the jurisdiction in which the course is developed:

- Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- Training Accreditation Council (TAC) Western Australia
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

KEY WEBSITES

- Australian Government Department of Education and Training - https://www.education.gov.au/
- Australian Industry and Skills Committee https://www.aisc.net.au/
- Australian Skills Quality Authority https://www.asqa.gov.au/
- My Skills - https://www.myskills.gov.au/
- National Register of VET https://training.gov.au/
- Training Accreditation Council of Western Australia http://www.tac.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx
- VETNet (Training Package Companion Volumes) https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingPackages.aspx
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

RELATED TOPICS

- Australian Industry and Skills Committee
- Australian Qualifications Framework
- Registered Training Organisations