



COVID-19 Information for VET providers

Information for the VET Sector

This information sheet outlines how we can work together to mitigate the risk of exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19) and potential disruptions to the VET sector, taking informed decisions in line with the latest medical advice.

Advice for VET providers and students

The [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) (ASQA) has published information about adaptive measures for VET providers, including compliance with regulations and policy.

It is important to stay up to date with advice published by the [Department of Health](#), as well as by your state or territory health authority. The Department of Health provides regular health updates and alerts. It also provides a range of information about COVID-19 including how to protect yourself, staff and students, social distancing, personal hygiene, when and how to isolate if required.

When is a staff member or student required to self-isolate

For information on when individuals are required to self-isolate, please refer to the [Department of Health](#) website.

Individuals who meet the self-isolation criteria, are also excluded from vocational educational facilities.

If a staff member or student has recently travelled internationally

As of midnight on 28 March 2020, all arrivals to Australia are required to undertake mandatory quarantine in hotels in the city of their arrival. From 20 March 2020 at 9pm (AEDT) only Australian citizens, residents and immediate family members can travel to Australia. More information about travel restrictions is available on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) website

If a staff member or student has recently travelled internationally, they must follow the mandatory quarantine requirements and the advice of health authorities. Please refer them to the information published by the [Department of Health](#).

Provider shutdown or closures

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, students who may have had direct contact with the individual must be notified. Providers should consult with relevant State and Territory health authorities about possible closure of the facility and advice to students. Advice on cleaning and disinfection can be found on the [Department of Health website](#).

If your organisation needs to implement temporary measures to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, remember to advise ASQA. These measures could include:

- changes to where you deliver training
- where you have temporarily ceased all or part of your training operations
- where you have made adjustments to delivery modes or methods.

To help make it easy to meet your reporting obligations in relation to temporary changes, ASQA has released an [online submission form](#).

Any permanent closures can continue to be reported in asqanet. All electronic student records must remain up-to-date. In the event of a permanent closure, an electronic copy of the records for each student needs to be forwarded to ASQA.

Attendance at classes

Classes should continue as usual, unless the Department of Health or Chief Medical Officer advises otherwise. However, you should consider existing flexibility to conduct classes by online methods as appropriate. Please contact ASQA to discuss availability of flexible arrangements to suit your particular circumstances.

There are a number of providers who have concerns and questions relating to delivery and assessment of some practical aspects of courses, in particular concerning work placements in the health, aged care and early childhood sectors. ASQA has developed responses to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that provide further guidance on this and issues relating to online delivery. Please refer to [ASQA](#) for the most up to date information.

Who to contact if concerned

The [Australian Industry Skills Council](#) would like to hear about any challenges faced by the industry such as problems with training package requirements, issues with the delivery of training or your concerns relating to workforce pressures. The information you provide will inform decisions that will ensure RTOs remain supported, operational and responsive throughout this crisis. Information can be provided via [ASQA's website](#).

There is a range of information on COVID-19 on the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#) website. Providers impacted by COVID-19 should contact ASQA's Info Line on **1300 701 801** or to email enquiries@asqa.gov.au to discuss any adaptive measures being considered.

Further Information

In addition to advice issued by the [Department of Health](#) you can contact the 24/7 National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080 which provides health and situation

information on the outbreak. Call 131 450 for translating or interpreting services. The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee](#) has also published some useful information about COVID-19.

You might also find it useful to review recent advice from [Safe Work Australia](#) on the work, health and safety implications for your staff.

For the most up to date regulatory advice and information, please refer to [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) .

State and Territory health related information can be found at:

[New South Wales](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Queensland](#)

[Western Australia](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

Frequently asked questions

How does the health information apply to individual providers?

All providers and students should familiarise themselves with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. It is important that you all keep abreast with the most up to date health advice and ensure that you follow the protocols relating to hygiene, notification of known cases, self-isolation and cleaning in the event of confirmed cases onsite. COVID-19 [infection control training](#) that covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control is also available.

What assistance is available for my organisation in the event it is no longer viable for us to stay operational?

In a joint Media Release on 12 April 2020, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business announced the [Higher Education Relief Package](#). This is aimed at providing incentives to educational institutions and students to focus on developing critical skills to meet industry needs.

On 30 March 2020, the Government announced the \$130 billion [JobKeeper payment](#) to be paid to businesses as a wage subsidy to keep employees in work during the crisis. This follows the \$66.1 billion plan announced on 22 March 2020, to [support Australian workers and business](#). This is in addition to a \$17.6 billion [economic plan](#) aimed at helping small and medium sized businesses, which was announced on 12 March 2020. Some of the measures in the stimulus package are likely to be relevant to your business, and you are encouraged to access these measures if eligible.

How do we prepare for online delivery?

Providers wishing to switch to online delivery may find it useful to look at models used by the higher education sector. Individual universities set up their own mechanisms for online course delivery. A number of articles ([Lessons learnt from previous pandemics](#), [Teaching online](#) and [What you need to know](#)) have been published about online course delivery that you may find useful.

What happens if we cannot undertake online delivery and facilitate work placements?

ASQA is currently working with a range of stakeholders to determine a way forward. Please refer to [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) for the latest information.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/higher-education-relief-package>