



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Training**  
and **Workforce Development**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
DELIVERED TO SECONDARY STUDENTS FUNDING POLICY**

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (the Department) is committed to ensuring that its funding for vocational education and training (VET) delivered to secondary students is prioritised for training that:

- industry deems is appropriate for school students;
- is consistent with workforce development priorities for Western Australia; and
- assists school students to achieve the requirements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The Policy also promotes the development of career discovery skills to assist students to make informed choices for their senior secondary VET program.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all training providers contracted by the Department to deliver training to enrolled school students in Western Australia. It does not apply to training delivered on a fee-for-service basis or training funded by another government agency.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

The *VET delivered to secondary students funding policy* is based on the following principles.

1. *Transparency* – Department funding arrangements for VET delivered to secondary students are transparent to all stakeholders including training providers, schools and students.
2. *Maximising Access* – funding available for courses undertaken outside of school-based apprenticeship or traineeship arrangements will be managed to ensure that the maximum number of school students have access to high quality training at a TAFE college or with one of the Department's preferred private providers.

## 4. BACKGROUND

The Department is responsible for funding all school-based apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia.

The Department also provides a fixed amount of funding for other VET delivered to secondary students that is aligned to the workforce development needs of the State. This funding is prioritised for students in their final two years of compulsory schooling who undertake VET as part of the requirements for achieving the WACE.

The list of courses eligible for funding through a Department funded program for school students is the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*, available on the Department's website. The list is comprised of:

- courses undertaken as part of a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship;
- courses and approved skill sets considered by industry as suitable for delivery to school students; and

- courses subject to program-specific funding arrangements.

Some courses are designated only for funding when delivered to school students in regional areas. This occurs where the Department considers, in liaison with the Department of Education, that there are sufficient course delivery options for the school sector in the metropolitan region, or where existing levels of course delivery to school students are high relative to labour market demand.

This policy outlines the eligibility of enrolled school students to access funded courses listed in the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*. The list is reviewed annually and may be updated throughout the year to reflect changes in training package qualifications, accredited courses and approved skill sets.

It is intended that the specified funded list continue from year to year and only minor amendments change, such as discontinuation of courses due to training package changes, or significant changes to government policy. Should this occur, the Department will work with TAFE colleges and funded providers on transition strategies. The rationale of this approach is to provide greater certainty for schools and RTOs for planning and scheduling purposes.

## 5. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

**Enrolled school student** means a student who is enrolled at school.

**Funded course** means a qualification, accredited course or skill set included on the *VET delivered to Secondary Schools funded list*.

**School** means a government school or a non-government school, as defined in the *School Education Act 1999*.

**School-based apprenticeship or traineeship** means a structured paid employment based training program that leads to school-based apprentices or trainees gaining a nationally recognised qualification. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships are part time and subject to conditions stipulated on the *Register of Class A and B qualifications*.

**Skill set** means a Department of Training and Workforce Development approved skill set included on the *VET delivered to Secondary Schools funded list*.

**VET** means vocational education and training.

**VET delivered to secondary students** means any VET undertaken by an enrolled school student.

***VET delivered to secondary students funded list*** means the list of courses funded by the Department for delivery to secondary students.

**WACE** means the Western Australian Certificate of Education.

## 6. PROCEDURES

1. The *VET Fees and Charges Policy* applies to Department funded VET delivered to secondary students. This means enrolled school students are exempt from course and resource fees if they are undertaking a Department funded VET course.
2. An enrolled school student is eligible to access any school-based apprenticeship or traineeship listed on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*, provided that the student is legally able to be employed.
3. There is no restriction on the number of funded school-based apprenticeships or traineeships listed on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list* that an enrolled school student may access.
4. An enrolled school student is eligible to access no more than two completed funded courses on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*, except where the third or subsequent course is a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.
5. A non-completed funded course does not count towards an enrolled school student's eligibility to access two completed funded courses on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*.
6. Where an enrolled school student in Year 11 or 12 completes a funded skill set, they are ineligible to access a second funded skill set. Enrolled school students in Year 10 are ineligible to access a funded skill set.
7. An enrolled school student in Year 10 is eligible to access no more than one completed Certificate II funded qualification or accredited course on the *VET delivered to secondary school students funded list*, except where the second or subsequent course is a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.
8. An enrolled school student in Year 9 or 10 is eligible to access 52891WA – Course in Early Career Discovery. Completion of this course does not count towards an enrolled school student's eligibility to access two completed funded courses on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*.
9. An enrolled school student in Year 10, 11, or 12 may be eligible to access specific courses included in the Department's Aboriginal School-based Training (ASBT) program, subject to meeting the program's eligibility requirements.
10. Completion of a course through the Department's ASBT program does not count towards an enrolled school student's eligibility to access two completed funded courses on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list*.
11. Where an enrolled school student's eligibility is reduced to one completed funded course, they cannot undertake two funded courses on the *VET delivered to secondary students funded list* concurrently.

## Summary of eligibility for VETDSS

| VETDSS Commencement     | Year 10                                    | Year 11                                                                            | Year 12                                                                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Commencement in Year 10 | Completed Certificate II qualification     | Completed qualification or completed skill set                                     |                                                                                    |
|                         | Completed Course in Early Career Discovery | Two completed qualifications, or a completed qualification and completed skill set |                                                                                    |
| Commencement in Year 11 |                                            | Two completed qualifications, or a completed qualification and completed skill set |                                                                                    |
| Commencement in Year 12 |                                            |                                                                                    | Two completed qualifications, or a completed qualification and completed skill set |

### Notes:

1. Qualification means qualification or accredited course.
2. Eligibility of Year 10 students for VETDSS in Years 11 and 12 is subject to any completed school based apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken in Year 10.
3. Does not show additional school based apprenticeship and traineeship eligibility.

## 7. EXEMPTIONS

From time to time, training providers may seek an exemption from a condition of the policy or to deliver a qualification not specified on the VETDSS Funded List, based on exceptional circumstances.

The Department will assess all exemption requests on a case-by-case basis and each request will be subject to approval by the Deputy Director General, Skills Strategy and Policy in consultation with the Deputy Director General, Training Markets and Workforce Services.

## 8. RELATED POLICIES AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- *VET Fees and Charges Policy*
- *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Policy*
- *VET Qualifications Register for Secondary Students*
- *VETDSS Funded list*

## 9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996*
- *Vocational Education and Training (Colleges) Regulations 1996*
- *Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009*
- *School Education Act 1999*
- *School Education Regulations 2000*
- *Children and Community Services Act 2004*

## **10. REVIEW DATE**

This policy is to be reviewed by 31 December 2027.

## **11. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Training and Workforce Development  
Djoekanup  
16 Parkland Road  
OSBORNE PARK WA 6017  
E: [VETfees@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:VETfees@dtwd.wa.gov.au)