

**NATIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL VET ACTION GROUP - 2009**

FINAL REFERENCE

Purpose

Building on initial work conducted by the NQC in 2008, and acknowledging the extent of Australian VET delivery to international students and its contribution to the Australian economy, the NQC has identified international VET as a priority for 2009. The International VET Action Group may make recommendations to the NQC, but does not have independent decision-making powers.

Objectives

The objective of the International VET Action Group is to make recommendations to the NQC on issues related to the quality assurance of onshore and offshore Australian VET delivery to international students. Recommendations relating to the effectiveness of the AQTF in quality assuring International VET may provide an input into the work of the National Consistency Action Group, particularly the future External Review of the AQTF.

Outputs

The International VET Action Group will:

- report to the NQC about off-shore delivery of VET by Australian RTOs with particular regard to:
 - the extent of current delivery
 - arrangements for monitoring compliance with the AQTF and VET quality systems in the countries of off-shore provision
 - the extent to which training packages meet the needs of off-shore students
 - whether the VET sector can benefit from the experiences of Higher Education (i.e. through AUQA) in monitoring Higher Education quality off-shore
- report to the NQC about the effectiveness of the AQTF in managing quality issues associated with VET delivery by Australian RTOs onshore international students, including reporting and resolving of complaints across jurisdictions, and its relationship to the ESOS act.
- investigate and scope whether the current regulatory arrangements should be altered to allow international providers to register as Australian RTOs, and strategic issues associated with the use and standing of Australian VET qualifications internationally

Consultation and communication requirements

The International VET Action Group will consult with the following groups as relevant in undertaking its activities:

- Peak Provider bodies
- Australian Education International (AEI)
- Recognition and Course Accreditation Bodies
- National Training Statistics Committee (NTSC) and data collection agencies e.g. NCVET and ACER.
- Employee representatives e.g. Unions / professional associations
- Employer representatives
- International student organisations
- AUQA

Governance and Membership

Membership of the Action Group, as per the protocol in place between the NQC and MCVTE, will be approved by the NQC. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be members of the NQC. The Action Group will be chaired by Ms Julie Moss (ACPET), Deputy Chaired by Ms Virginia Simmons (TDA) and will comprise the following representation:

- peak provider representatives (Chair and Deputy Chair)
- Australian Education International (AEI) representative
- employer representatives
- employee representatives
- RCAB representatives

Operational and administrative arrangements

- The Action Group will exist to 31 December 2009.
- The Action Group will meet, either face to face or through teleconference, as required in order to achieve its intended outcomes.
- All government representatives on the Action Group will meet the costs of being associated with the membership of the Action Group (including travel and accommodation). Industry and client group representatives will be assisted, where necessary, with the cost of attending meetings.
- The Secretariat function will be provided by TVET Australia.

Budget

The NQC will allocate a budget to the Action Group on a project by project basis as concept briefs are approved. The Secretariat will be responsible for administering the budget and providing appropriate reports to the Action Group and the NQC.

Milestones and Timeframes

The Action Group will report directly to the NQC on milestone completion and on outcomes and specific recommendations at the completion of its work.

Milestone	Timeframe
Progress report to NQC on outcomes of initial research	25 June 2009
Final report and recommendations to the NQC	10 September 2009

Equity

The operations of the Action Group must be consistent with NQC policies regarding equity and will report to the NQC on the way in which the Council's equity operating principles are incorporated into its practices and outputs.

