

DETERMINING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING ENTITLEMENT AND OTHER SUBSIDISED TRAINING IN TASMANIA

GUIDELINES FOR REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS 2015

The Tasmanian Government helps pay for the cost of training by generously subsidising a wide range of qualifications. This includes qualifications up to Certificate III under the national training entitlement and qualifications at all levels that are not covered under the entitlement.

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the requirements for assessing a potential student's eligibility for the national training entitlement and other state subsidised training.

NATIONAL TRAINING ENTITLEMENT

Tasmania, together with all other States and Territories has agreed to implement a national training entitlement. The national training entitlement is an entitlement to government subsidised training for an individual's first Certificate III qualification, including foundation skills or lower qualifications contained within the Certificate III qualification.

SUBSIDISED TRAINING

The level of Government subsidy for qualifications up to Certificate III level is higher ('entitlement' level of subsidy) for students eligible for the national training entitlement. In addition, as a matter of social and economic priority, apprentices, trainees and students who have already completed a Certificate III (or higher) qualification, but are deemed to be priority students for equity purposes, will also be entitled to the entitlement level of subsidy for additional Certificate III qualifications and, where required, Certificates I and II leading to a Certificate III.

Students who are not eligible for the national entitlement will generally be eligible to access subsidised training for Certificates I, II and III at a slightly lower level of subsidy. Tasmanians will generally also have access to Tasmanian Government subsidised training for Certificate IV and higher qualifications.

The Skills Tasmania website lists all subsidised training qualifications, including those available under apprenticeship/traineeship arrangements, together with the registered training organisations (RTOs) that are subsidised to deliver the training.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

I. Eligibility for subsidised training (including national entitlement)

To be eligible an individual must meet the following criteria:

- Australian or NZ citizen; or
- Australian permanent resident; or
- State sponsored visa on a pathway to permanent residence; and
- Of working age.
- Not at school (other than a school based apprentice).¹ and

¹ Separate Department of Education funding arrangements apply for VET in schools programs.

- Reside or work in Tasmania.

2. Eligibility for an entitlement level of subsidy for Certificate III and below

The following are **automatically eligible** for the entitlement level of subsidy regardless of prior qualifications:

- People who have a current contract of training (apprentices and trainees) ·
- People who are unemployed.²
- People who have been retrenched in the last year and are training in a new occupation.
- People who completed their qualification whilst at school.
- Ex-offenders who have been released from prison in the previous 12 months.

To be eligible for an entitlement level of subsidy individuals, other than those with **automatic eligibility**, individuals must meet the following prior qualification rules:

- Not have a Certificate IV or higher qualification.
- Not have completed a Certificate III qualification (including apprenticeship or traineeship) in the last five years.
- Not be currently enrolled in another publicly subsidised Certificate III qualification (other than approved dual or matched qualifications) at TasTAFE or another RTO as an entitlement student.

3. Determining prior qualification eligibility

For the purposes of applying the eligibility criterion relating to the highest qualification held, the following are not taken into account:

- Qualifications listed in the Pre-paid Foundation Courses list (TasTAFE).
- Any VET qualification completed as part of a senior secondary qualification.
- Non Australian qualifications except where equivalency has been formally established with a qualification within the AQF.
- Qualifications obtained by existing workers funded under the Skills Tasmania Skills Fund with an employer contribution.
- Qualifications at Certificate III levels that have not been completed. Note that Skills Tasmania may determine that an individual is no longer eligible for entitlement level funding if a large number of Certificate III units have been undertaken over the last five years and substantially completed.
- Skill sets.

² People who are actively seeking work and registered with Centrelink will be considered unemployed

RTO ROLE IN ASSESSING STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSIDISED TRAINING

Prior to the commencement of training an RTO must:

- Assess an individual's eligibility for subsidised training.
- Assess eligibility for an entitlement level of subsidy against the eligibility criteria for Certificate III and below qualifications.
- Identify entitlement students in their student management system and have provision for this to be included in claims for payment through *Laurel*.

Skills Tasmania may require, for audit and review purposes, information from the RTO relating to the assessment of an individual for an entitlement level of subsidy. .

It is emphasised that these are guidelines only, and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) may negotiate with Skills Tasmania where they believe eligibility criteria are not practical in certain circumstances.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Number of qualifications in which an individual can enrol in 2015

An individual may enrol in more than one subsidised qualification. Where a student eligible for an entitlement level of subsidy enrolls in more than one Certificate III qualification at the same time, one of the Certificate III qualifications must be selected as the entitlement qualification (unless both Certificates are identified as part of an approved dual apprenticeship or matched qualification). The other Certificate III will be subsidised at the non-entitlement rate.

Determining Student Eligibility for Training Entitlement and Subsidised Training

