

Contract notification

CN number:	2026-04	Date:	02 March 2026
To:	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent		
Purpose:	Variation to contract		
Scope:	All 2026 VET funding contracts		
Subject:	Release of version 1.1 of 2026 VET funding contracts, guidelines about eligibility and guidelines about fees		

Purpose

This contract notification is to tell you about:

- an administrative update to the Asylum Seeker VET program requirements in the contracts and guidelines about eligibility
- an update to the guidelines about fees for retaining evidence of concession verified through a gateway service provider
- updates to the TAFE and dual sector contracts for the Free TAFE Information Technology pathway requirement.

Background

We published final 2026 VET funding contracts and guidelines on SVTS on 4 December 2025.

Main points

Administrative update for the Asylum Seeker VET program

In the Asylum Seeker VET program eligibility criteria, we include individuals who hold a bridging visa and have a yet to be determined application under section 417 or 48B of the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958 (the Act).

We've now updated the contracts and guidelines about eligibility to remove the references to specific sections of the Act. Instead, we refer more generally to individuals who've 'lodged an application for ministerial intervention'.


This is because the Act has changed and these same powers are now in section 351 and 48B. We've used general terms to avoid confusion when sections of the Act change from time to time.

This administrative update doesn't change the meaning of the clauses, the eligibility criteria or the evidence you sight and retain.

See attachment 1 for the detail of the changes we made to the contracts and guidelines about eligibility.

Guidelines about fees – retaining evidence of concession verified through a gateway service provider

We've updated the requirement for retaining evidence of concession verified through a gateway service provider in the guidelines about fees, to line up with a similar change we made in the guidelines about eligibility.



We no longer specify that the transaction record of the check must show the student's name. This is because some gateway service providers redact personal information after a given amount of time.

The transaction record just needs to show that their name and concession card number were verified to match a current and valid concession entitlement in the DVS.

See attachment 1 for the detail of the change we made to the guidelines about fees.

Free TAFE Information Technology pathway - Certificate IV in Cyber Security

In 2025 we introduced a requirement that students enrolling in the Certificate IV in Cyber Security with a Free TAFE fee waiver must hold a Certificate III in Information Technology. This applied from 1 January 2025. We've now made 2 updates to this requirement.

Sighting and retaining evidence of eligibility

The 2026 evidence of eligibility and student declaration form now requires students enrolling in the Certificate IV in Cyber Security with a Free TAFE fee waiver to declare whether they hold the Certificate III in Information Technology.

Considering this, we've adjusted the wording in the Free TAFE contract clause to remove the reference to sighting evidence. The student's response to the question on the student declaration now meets the evidence requirement.

Students who commenced the Certificate IV before 1 January 2025

Students who started training in the Certificate IV in Cyber Security before 1 January 2025 and are recommencing their training are no longer required to hold the Certificate III in Information Technology. They can pick up their training in the Certificate IV using their original Free TAFE fee waiver.

This aims to help those students who commenced before this requirement was introduced stay engaged in training.

See attachment 1 for the detail of the changes we made to the TAFE and dual sector contracts.

We've also updated the Free TAFE fact sheet to reflect this change.

Resources

See the documents section of SVTS for:

- 2026 standard contract (version 1.1)
- 2026 TAFE contract (version 1.1)
- 2026 dual sector contract (version 1.1)
- Guidelines about fees (version 1.1)
- Guidelines about eligibility (version 1.1)
- Free TAFE fact sheet (version 5)

Critical dates

The updated contracts and guidelines take effect immediately.

Oanh Vindurampulle

Acting Executive Director

Training Operations and Assurance

Attachment 1: edits to the contracts and guidelines

Strikethrough = deleted text; highlight = new text

Contract or guideline	Clause	Details
All contracts	13.1(a)(iv) of schedule 1	<p>We made the following amendment to the clauses about eligibility for the Asylum Seeker VET Program:</p> <p>You may exempt an individual from the citizenship/permanent residence eligibility criterion (as set out in Clause 2.2(a) of this Schedule 1) if they:</p> <p>a) either:</p> <p>iv) hold a bridging visa and have lodged an application for ministerial intervention under section 417 or section 48B of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> (Cth) which is yet to be determined; and</p>
Guidelines about eligibility	2.7(a) and (b)	<p>In the table about sighting and retaining evidence of eligibility for the Asylum Seeker VET program, we made the following edit in the 'retaining' column at both (a) and (b):</p> <p>in the case of a bridging visa, a written declaration attached to the student's file stating you have sighted a document from the Department of Home Affairs acknowledging the student has lodged an application for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa; or under section 417 or section 48B ministerial intervention under the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) which is yet to be determined.
Guidelines about fees	3.11(c)	<p>In the table about sighting and retaining evidence of concession, we made the following amendment to the 'retaining' column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a transaction record generated by securely logging in to the administrative platform provided by the Gateway Service Provider, that shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the concession holder's name; and that their name and concession card number were verified to match a current and valid concession entitlement in the DVS; and a record of the type of concession card the student holds, attached to the student's file.



Contract or guideline	Clause	Details
TAFE and dual sector contracts	16.10 of schedule 1	<p>We made the following amendment:</p> <p>You must not grant a Fee Waiver for an individual to commence the Certificate IV in Cyber Security unless you have sighted evidence that they hold a Certificate III in Information Technology.</p> <p>The only exception to the requirement to hold a Certificate III in Information Technology is where a student is recommencing training in the Certificate IV in Cyber Security that they commenced before 1 January 2025.</p>