



VET Student Handbook

VET Quality Framework

RTO 30052

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Introduction

Welcome to students undertaking a vocational education and training (VET) course this year. The purpose of this handbook is to provide all VET students with information about the VET programs offered. It also outlines your rights and responsibilities as a VET student studying at Blackwater State High School. Take the time to read everything in this handbook as you will be required to sign that you understand its contents. If there is anything that you do not understand, please ask your teacher about it. You may need to refer to this handbook throughout your period of enrolment in your VET course/s. Please note that the Policies and Procedures covered in this handbook are edited to provide you with the key concepts. You can access the full copies of all the policies and procedures at any time by making a request to your RTO Manager.

Blackwater State High School (RTO 30052) is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and as such, is able to deliver and assess Nationally Recognised Qualifications under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF). Information about Blackwater State High School as an RTO can be accessed at:

www.training.gov.au

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Certification and Credit Transfer

Students must inform the RTO Manager if they have completed a previous qualification or unit of competency prior to delivery. If a student has completed a unit of competency previously and retains a Statement of Attainment from the Registered Training Organisation (RTO), they can apply for credit transfer of that unit. Students must contact the RTO Manager if this is the case.

Students who meet the training and assessment requirements of the training package or VET accredited course, will be awarded a Nationally Recognised Qualification under the Australian Qualification Framework. The RTO Manager will ensure that the student retains a verified USI prior to awarding of the certificate or statement of attainment. All certificates or statements of

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attainment will be awarded within 30 calendar days of course completion, providing all fees have been paid.

A replacement qualification can be requested through the RTO Manager at any time but will incur a fee. Reprint of certificate or statement of attainment \$20 plus additional \$5 if postage is required.

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Unique Student Identifier (USI)

Every student who enrolls in a VET qualification must provide their USI number before commencement of studies. This is a requirement of the [Student Identifiers Act 2014](#).

A Unique Student Identifier (USI) is a reference number made up of numbers and letters that gives students access to their USI account. A USI will allow an individual's USI account to be linked to the National Vocational Education and Training (VET) Data Collection allowing an individual to see all of their training results from all providers including all completed training units and qualifications.

The USI will make it easier for students to find and collate their VET achievements into a single authenticated transcript. It will also ensure that students' VET records are not lost.

The USI is available online and at no cost to the student. This USI will stay with the student for life and be recorded with any nationally recognised VET course that is completed from 1st January 2015.

Further information on the USI and how to create one can be viewed on Blackwater State High School website:

[Blackwater State High School Website](#)

Process

Enrolment and Induction Procedures

1. All students will receive information about VET courses available at Blackwater State High School in Year 10.
2. Should any VET Course be over-subscribed, interviews according to set criteria, where applicable, will be used to make selections. When interviews are not possible, students will be selected, in consultation with staff members, based on the students' demonstrated interests and aptitudes.
3. At the beginning of the year, all VET students will receive an induction in the form of direct instruction and a copy of this handbook. VET teachers will also ensure that you are informed about assessment and the specific competencies covered in the first lesson. During this induction, you will be reminded about School Work Health and Safety procedures.

Fees and Refund Policy

Blackwater State High School does not charge students fees for services. Levies are only collected for consumable costs or other additional services such as the issuing of a replacement qualification testamur. Any fees and charges that do occur for additional services will be made known to students prior to enrolment.

Blackwater State High School must have certain teachers and equipment to run these VET courses. If Blackwater State High School loses access to these resources, Blackwater State High School will provide students with alternative opportunities to complete the course and the related qualification. Blackwater State High School retains the right to cancel the course if it is unable to meet requirements.

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Student Support and Guidance

Blackwater State High School will provide any educational or support services, as required. These may include things like:

- a) study support and study skills programs;
- b) language, literacy and numeracy component of the course will be supported through the study of maths and English subjects;
- c) equipment, resources and/or programs to increase access for learners with disabilities and other learners in accordance with access and equity;
- d) learning resource centres;
- e) mediation services or referrals to these services;
- f) flexible scheduling and delivery of training and assessment;
- g) counselling services or referrals to these services;
- h) learning materials in alternative formats, for example, in large print;
- i) any other services that Blackwater State High School considers necessary to support learners to achieve competency.

There are many people on staff who will be able to assist you if you are in need of help. People involved in support and guidance services at this school include:

Principal – Ms Rebecca Godfrey
Deputy Principal – Mr Chris Smith
Head of Senior Schooling – Ms Kristy Paskin
Youth Support Coordinator & School Based
Traineeships Coordinator – Mrs Julie Chadwick-Lyall
Guidance Officer – Mrs Kerri Hancock

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Support

You are undertaking a VET subject which has embedded units of competency from a Training Package and as such you will find that basic literacy/numeracy elements have been incorporated. This should help you learn these basic literacy/numeracy components more readily, as they are being delivered/ assessed in the context of the VET area of your choice.

Behaviour Management Policy and Attendance

Every family in Blackwater State High School has access to the Behaviour Management Policy. Please make sure that you read it as its application is also relevant to all School VET programmes. Attendance in VET classes complies with Blackwater State High School's Attendance policy.

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Flexible Learning and Assessment Procedures

At Blackwater State High School, all VET students will be fully informed of the VET assessment process and requirements and will have the right to appeal.

The mode of delivery will be specific to each subject area. A combination of the following will occur:

- Face-to-face
- Online delivery and/assessment
- Blended delivery
- Private study

The following information represents some general information about the VET assessment process adopted at Blackwater State High School.

Competency-based Assessment

Blackwater State High School will comply with the assessment guidelines from the relevant Training Package or accredited course. Assessment will be competency-based (See [Appendix 1: Definitions](#))

Essentially, students are considered to be competent when they are able to apply their knowledge and skills to successfully complete activities in a range of situations and environments, in accordance with the standard of performance expected in the workplace, as specified in the training package or VET accredited course.

Principles of Assessment

Blackwater State High School's delivery and assessment of VET courses are designed to promote valid, reliable, flexible and fair assessment that is also informative in its context and purpose. These principles comply with Blackwater State High School's Assessment Policy which is available on request.

This means that:

- a) Students will be given clear and timely information on assessment, including:
 - advice about the assessment methods
 - assessment procedures
 - the performance criteria against which they will be assessed
 - when and how they will receive appropriate feedback
 - the mechanism for appeal.
- b) Sufficient evidence will be gathered to enable a fair and accurate judgment of each Student's competence.
- c) The assessment approach chosen will cater for the language, literacy and numeracy needs of students.
- d) Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment strategy to ensure equity for all students, while maintaining the integrity of the assessment outcomes as stated in the Training Package.
- e) Opportunities for feedback and review via surveys of all aspects of assessment will be provided to students.
- f) Clearly documented mechanisms for appeal against assessment processes and decisions will be available to students.
- g) All students have access to reassessment on (informal) appeal.

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Flexibility

All VET courses are flexible and they are designed to give every student an opportunity to demonstrate competence. This means that if you have an identified need, the conditions of the assessment task that you do may be changed. For example, a learning support aide may read the tasks to you or they may act as a scribe. These conditions for assessment must still comply with training package requirements. Your teacher, together with the Learning Support staff, will decide what adjustment needs to be made. In making an adjustment, the rigor or difficulty level of the task will not change as you will still need to be judged 'competent' in order to gain the qualification. The fact that the conditions under which the task was performed has changed will be noted on your assessment task sheet.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

When you commence a VET programme, you may think there are some units of competency you can already do and therefore, make you competent. You can apply for 'recognition' for those specific units of competency. If you do, you will need to provide evidence that you can in fact already do these particular tasks. You may need to perform a 'skills test' to support your claim.

Process

If you believe that you have sound reasons to apply for recognition ask your teacher to guide you through the process listed below.

1. Discuss the recognition process with your teacher.
2. Obtain a copy of the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy from the RTO Manager
3. Ensure that you understand the full recognition application process, including the Appeals process.
4. Collect evidence of your prior learning from a variety of sources. Evidence can take many forms, and will usually include such things as:
 - a. letters or testimonials from employers
 - b. photographs, videos, reports
 - c. awards, certificates and qualifications
5. Discuss your self-assessment with your teacher. If there are full units of competency for which you and your teacher feel recognition may be given, you will be encouraged to complete a *Recognition of Prior Learning Application Form* which is available on request.
6. Complete and submit the *Recognition of Prior Learning Application Form*.
7. You will know the outcome of your application within 15 days of application.
8. Should you wish to appeal the decision, complete the Complaints and Appeals Form which you can get from the RTO Manager.

Note: If you have a Statement of Attainment from another Registered Training Organisation for any units of competency which are the same as those in any of the School's VET programmes, you will be awarded automatic recognition and it will not be necessary for you to apply. You must make the VET teacher aware if this is the case.

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Complaints and Appeals

You may approach Blackwater State High School if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of your VET program. This includes:

- an administrative matter such as, for example, the non-issue of qualifications/statements within the prescribed timeline;
- another person in the school (student or teacher);
- a complaint about any aspect of the course or its delivery;
- a complaint about the results of an assessment or about the way the assessment was undertaken.

Complaints and Appeals Procedure

Persons with a complaint against Blackwater State High School on how it conducts its responsibilities with regard to:

- The RTO, trainers and assessors or other staff
- A third party providing services on Blackwater State High School's behalf, its trainers and assessors or other staff or
- Another learner of Blackwater State High School
- Appeal of an assessment decision made by either Blackwater State High School or a Third Party providing services on behalf of Blackwater State High School.

have access to the following procedure:

Informal complaint or appeal:

1. the initial stage of any complaint or appeal shall be for the complainant to communicate directly with the Trainer and Assessor (teacher), who will make a decision and record the outcome of the complaint
2. person(s) dissatisfied with the outcome of the complaint or appeal may then apply to the relevant Head of Department (HOD) or equivalent, who will make a decision and record the outcome of the complaint or appeal.
3. person(s) dissatisfied with the outcome of the complaint or appeal to the relevant HOD may initiate a 'formal complaint or appeal'.

Formal complaint or appeal:

1. the complainant may put in a formal complaint or appeal *without* going through the informal complaint process if they feel it is warranted.
2. the complaint or appeal and its outcome shall be recorded in writing on the *Complaints and Appeals form*.
3. on receipt of a formal complaint or appeal the principal shall convene an independent panel to hear the complaint or appeal; this shall be the 'complaint and appeal committee'
4. the complaint committee shall not have had previous involvement with the complaint or appeal and should include representatives of:
 - a. The principal
 - b. The Teaching Staff
 - c. an independent third party
5. the complainant shall be given an opportunity to present their case to the committee and may be accompanied by one other person as support or as representation.
6. the relevant staff member shall be given an opportunity to present their case to the committee and may be accompanied by one other person as support or as representation.
7. the complaint committee will make a decision on the complaint or appeal.
8. the complaint committee will communicate its decision on the complaint or appeal to all parties in writing within 5 working days of making its decision.
9. If the complaint or appeal will take more than 60 days to finalise, written notification will be given to all people involved explaining the delay.

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Work Health and Safety

The safety and wellbeing of the staff and students of this school is one of our greatest responsibilities. All of us, including you, have responsibilities to ensure a safe environment.

You are required to:

- Use and take reasonable care of any equipment that is provided
- Obey any reasonable instructions in relation to health and safety
- Not interfere with or remove any safety devices from machinery
- Report unsafe acts or equipment to a teacher and observe good housekeeping practices
- Report all injuries or near misses to a teacher
- Ensure that your conduct does not interfere with:
 - School property;
 - School staff safety or welfare, or with their ability to perform their duties; or
 - School student safety or welfare, or their ability to benefit from instruction.

First Aid is available at the School Administration Office. Students or staff should not handle injuries which involve spilled blood without wearing gloves, and all blood spills must be cleaned appropriately by trained School personnel.

An ambulance will be called in case of an emergency.

Access to Records

You can have access to your own personal assessment records at any time, by approaching the VET Teacher concerned. If the matter is not related to any one specific subject you should approach the Head of Department.

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Appendix 1: Definitions

Assessment means the process of collecting evidence and making judgements on whether competency has been achieved, to confirm that an individual can perform to the standard required in the workplace, as specified in a training package or VET accredited course.

Competency means the consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. It embodies the ability to transfer and apply skills and knowledge to new situations and environments.

RTO means a Registered Training Organisation

Statement of attainment means a statement issued to a person confirming that the person has satisfied the requirements of the unit/s of competency or accredited short course specified in the statement.

Training Package means the components of a training package endorsed by the Industry and Skills Council or its delegate in accordance with the Standards for Training Packages. The endorsed components of a Training Package are: units of competency; assessment requirements (associated with each unit of competency); qualifications; and credit arrangements. The endorsed components form part of the requirements that an RTO must meet under these Standards. A training package also consists of a non-endorsed, quality assured companion volume/s which contains industry advice to RTOs on different aspects of implementation.

Unit of competency means the specification of the standards of performance required in the workplace as defined in a training package.

VET means vocational education and training

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Appendix 2: Legislation

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 provides a framework for managing health and safety risks in Queensland workplaces. The objective of the Act is to prevent fatalities, injuries and illnesses caused by a workplace, by workplace activities or by a specified high risk plant.

Workplace Harassment, Victimisation and Bullying

[Industrial Relations Act 1999](#)

The principal objective of the Industrial Relations Act 1999 is to provide a framework for industrial relations that supports economic prosperity and social justice.

Anti-Discrimination

[Anti-Discrimination Act 1991](#)

The Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 aims to promote equality of opportunity for everyone by protecting them from unfair discrimination in certain areas of activity, including education and training. The services developed by RTOs, including their administrative practices and assessment processes, must take into account the principles established by this legislation.

Privacy

[Information Privacy Act 2009](#)

The Information Privacy Act 2009 is an Act to make provision to protect the privacy of individuals, and for related purposes. The Federal Privacy Act contains eleven Information Privacy Principles. It also has ten National Privacy Principles (NPPs).

VET & Apprenticeships/Traineeships

[National VET Regulator Act 2011](#)

An Act to establish the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator, and for related purposes

Work Experience

[Education \(Work Experience\) Act 1996](#)

An Act regulating work experience provided to students as part of their education.

A work experience arrangement is an arrangement made between a student's educational establishment and a person (the 'work experience provider') under which the person will provide experience ('work experience') to the student as part of the student's education. An educational establishment may make work experience arrangements for its students.

The work experience arrangement must be in writing. A work experience arrangement may be made for a student only with the approval of the principal of the student's educational establishment.

Further information on legislation is available on the State government web site www.legislation.qld.gov.au and the Commonwealth government website: www.comlaw.gov.au

Please ensure the following three pages are Signed and Returned to the school for our records. We cannot allow you to begin a course without these

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Privacy Notice and Student Declaration

Privacy Notice

Under the *Data Provision Requirements 2012*, **Blackwater State High School** is required to collect personal information about you and to disclose that personal information to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

Your personal information (including the personal information contained on this form and your training activity data) may be used or disclosed by **Blackwater State High School** for statistical, regulatory and research purposes. **Blackwater State High School** may disclose your personal information for these purposes to third parties, including:

- school — if you are a secondary school student undertaking VET, including a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship
- employer — if you are enrolled in training paid for by your employer
- Commonwealth and State or Territory government departments and authorised agencies
- NCVER
- organisations conducting student surveys
- researchers.

Personal information disclosed to NCVER may be used or disclosed for the following purposes:

- issuing a VET statement of attainment or qualification, and populating authenticated VET transcripts
- facilitating statistics and research relating to education, including surveys
- understanding how the VET market operates, for policy, workforce planning and consumer information
- administering VET, including program administration, regulation, monitoring and evaluation.

You may receive an NCVER student survey which may be administered by an NCVER employee, agent or third-party contractor. You may opt out of the survey at the time of being contacted.

NCVER will collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), the VET Data Policy and all NCVER policies and protocols (including those published on NCVER's website at www.ncver.edu.au).



Student Training Agreement Form

BLACKWATER STATE HIGH SCHOOL- RTO 30052
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Student Details				
Name:				
LUI Number:				
USI Number:				
Registered Training Organisation (RTO) details:				
School RTO Name	Blackwater State High School			
National Provider No.	30052			
Address	PO Box 148, Blackwater QLD 4717			
Contact Name	Mr Chris Smith			
Phone	4986 5555	Email	Csmit1076@eq.edu.au	
Qualification/s Enrolled				
Qualification Code	Qualification Title	Enrolled	Commencement Date	Planned Completion Date
BSB10115	Certificate I in Business	<input type="checkbox"/>		
BSB20115	Certificate II in Business	<input type="checkbox"/>		
MEM20413	Certificate II in Engineering Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>		
MSF20516	Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ICT20115	Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>		
MSM10116	Certificate I in Manufacturing Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>		
FSK20113	Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Specified units of competency per qualification or accredited course are outlined in the Subject Selection Form (or similar document) or in the VET subject course outline

School Responsibilities

Blackwater State High School must have certain teachers and equipment to run this course. If the school loses access to these resources, it will provide students with alternative opportunities to complete the course and the related qualification. Blackwater State High School retains the right to cancel the course if it is unable to meet requirements.

If a student enrolls late into a vocational Education and Training course, that student may not complete all competencies to enable them to attain the full Qualification. If this is the case, the student will receive a Statement of Attainment outlining the competencies they have completed.

Student Responsibilities

I am aware that the RTO will ensure that I am provided with the opportunity to complete the training and assessment as agreed. If circumstances arise that affect my ability to complete this course (e.g. loss of a teacher and unable to obtain suitable replacement) then the RTO must arrange for training and assessment to be completed by another suitable training organisation (I am aware that this may incur costs for me as a learner). Prior to the transfer to another RTO, I will be formally notified of the arrangements and an agreement to those arrangements, including any refund or fees associated, will be obtained.

I am aware that if I have entered the course after the start date and have been provided with a negotiated program of units which may lead to a statement of attainment/s only.

I acknowledge that I have read the VET Student Handbook and understand that I can access further information on some of these topics should I wish to do so from the RTO Manager or RTO website

Consent

I _____, a senior student at Blackwater State High School, hereby consent to the school providing relevant information about me to the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), and any other government organisation in order to facilitate the recording of my results and the issuing of relevant certification.

I understand that student work is required in order to satisfy the QCAA that all assessment is correct and to industry standard. This acknowledgement form will be valid for the full delivery period of any certificated vocational course spanning Years 10, 11 and/or 12.

Student Name:		Signature:	
Parent/ Guardian		Signature	
School Contact:		Signature:	