Fee Exemptions – Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What are the changes to the Victorian Training Guarantee (VTG) eligibility settings?
From 1 January 2016, TAFE institutes and dual sector universities will be able to provide an exemption from the VTG upskilling requirement under certain conditions. This will enable individuals to access government subsidies for training at the same or at a lower level qualification than they already hold.

These eligibility exemptions are to apply for students who commence training in 2016, and are in addition to any other current VTG exemptions (e.g. workers in transition).

What is the purpose of this initiative?
Changes to VTG eligibility settings are in line with the recent expansion of the Back to Work Scheme and the Government’s response to the VET Funding Review.

This initiative will enable students to access government subsidies for training at a lower level qualification than they already hold, to reskill and re-enter employment and reengage with the economy and their community. This is critical, as it will support people to enter new fields of employment and assist those who may have used their VTG entitlements on poor quality training.

Who is eligible for an exemption?
Exemptions are intended to support new students commencing in 2016, who would otherwise not have undertaken training. The exemption is applied to those students who are seeking to reskill and move within and across industries and occupations.

How are the exemptions applied?
This measure is limited to TAFE institutes and dual sector universities, which will have discretion in how to apply the exemptions.

Preferences should be given to those cohorts identified as ‘vulnerable’ as part of the VET Funding Review. This includes, the long-term unemployed (over 52 weeks), retrenched workers and individuals with qualifications older than seven years. Also targeted should be individuals who, in recent years, have been influenced by training providers to undertake training in areas without any real prospect of a job and who have ‘burnt’ their VTG entitlements as a result.

The Skills and Job Centres are expected to play a key role in offering guidance on the most suitable qualification to complement previous training undertaken. This will be accompanied by individual pre-training assessments.

Can all training providers offer exemptions to students?
No. Only TAFE institutes and dual sector universities are eligible to provide a VTG exemption.

Private providers are able to offer similar exemptions to eligible employees for training packages under the Government’s expanded Back to Work Scheme.
How does the 15 per cent cap work?
The exemptions will be limited to no more than 15 per cent of VTG course commencements at the institute. Institutes are expected to track commencements to ensure they remain within that limit.

The Department appreciates that exemption levels will vary on a monthly basis and does not expect Institutes to be compliant on a weekly or monthly basis. The Department does, however, expect that the 15 per cent limit be reconciled over the 2016 calendar year across the organisation’s faculties or schools. As a guide, it is recommended that institutes use your 2015 enrolment figures to determine the potential number of exemptions you may be eligible to support for the 2016 training year.

Can I hire extra staff to support the implementation of this initiative?
No additional resources will be provided to support implementation of this change in eligibility rules. TAFE institutes and dual sector universities are expected to reprioritise resources, or draw on existing capacity to administer the exemptions.

I have a Certificate IV in Automotive Manufacturing that is 15 years old. I am 37 years old and I am looking to reskill with a Certificate III in Automotive Diesel Engine Technology. Am I eligible to claim VTG funding for my qualification.
As you are reskilling you may be eligible for an exemption to the upskilling requirement for a VTG funded place. Speak with a TAFE institute or dual sector university that offers your chosen qualification to determine your eligibility for an exemption.

I completed a Diploma of Nursing two years ago. I have recently injured my leg and now have a disability. I am no longer able to work in my chosen field. I wish to move into the aged care industry as my injury will not limit my working capacity. I wish to study a Certificate IV in Community Services. Am I eligible to claim VTG funding for my qualification?
The Victorian Government is committed to supporting those who are seeking to reskill and move across occupations. You may be eligible for an exemption of the upskilling requirement for a VTG funded place. Speak with a TAFE institute or dual sector university which offers your chosen qualification to determine your eligibility for an exemption.

I have a Certificate IV in Training Assessment and Education. I have not been able to find a job in this field but am not able to get funding to retrain in another field. I am currently working only part-time and have a Health Care Card. Is there some way I can get a government subsidy to help me retrain and find a job?
Under the new program, you may be eligible for an exemption. The program aims to help people retrain and re-enter the workforce. Speak to your local TAFE or dual sector university. You should also talk to your local Job Active provider, which should be able to advise you of your options and help you with your application.