

# State Government 2009 Budget Training Announcements Fact Sheet

## Course Fee Exemptions for Unemployed People

### Initiative

To provide course fee exemptions for eligible unemployed people to undertake one vocational education and training qualification. Course fee exemptions will apply for up to 12 months from the commencement of the qualification.

### Cost of initiative

Funding of \$17.6 million over three years has been allocated for this initiative

### Qualifications

Participants will be able to undertake any publicly funded vocational education and training qualification available through a registered training organisation.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for course fee exemptions, an applicant must be identified as unemployed through either a:

- Centrelink Health Care Card – Newstart allowance; or
- Centrelink Health Care Card – Youth allowance – Job seeker; or
- Job seeker ID issued through Centrelink or a Job Network member.

### Participant costs

Participants will not be charged course fees. However, they will be required to pay resource fees where applicable.

### Commencement date

Course fee exemptions for unemployed people will commence as at 1 July 2009. Detailed information about how the course fee exemption is applied and the impact on the enrolment process will be provided shortly.

### Enrolment of students

The Department of Education and Training has commenced the process of amending the *Vocational Education and Training Regulations 1996* to reflect these fee exemptions. If registered training organisations receive requests from unemployed people in the next few weeks, seeking to enrol in a qualification after 1 July 2009, it is recommended that a pending enrolment/waiting list process is commenced and the applicant is not charged any fees, in anticipation of the regulatory changes. The Department will notify registered training organisations when these pending applications can be processed.

### Other requirements

- Applicants will be required to comply with the registered training organisation's application processes, and meet the entrance requirements for the qualification and where applicable, the selection criteria.
- Applicants must provide evidence of their unemployment status.
- Students who apply to transfer to another course are able to do so, and the course fee exemption will still apply, if the transfer occurs within the registered training organisation's official enrolment amendment period. However, if the student wishes to transfer courses outside of this period, the course fee exemption will not apply.
- Registered training organisations should advise concessional applicants who are progressing with an enrolment to contact Centrelink to inform them of their intention to study.

### Further information

Please contact Katie Bray, Principal Consultant, VET, on 9264 4997.

