



Professional development resources

A reference guide for trainers, assessors and managers in automotive and mining Vocational Education and Training (VET) contexts

Part of the AUSMASA Trainer and Assessor VET Career Framework

About this reference guide

Staying connected to the broader VET sector supports professional development in ways internal training alone cannot.

Professional associations, networks and research organisations offer access to current practice, peer communities, sector developments and events. These help trainers, assessors, and managers remain informed and engaged throughout their careers.

The organisations and resources listed in this guide are examples of what is available, not endorsements or recommendations. What is most relevant will depend on a trainer and assessor's role, career stage and specific development interests.

Some organisations on this list offer free access to resources and events, while others operate on a membership or subscription basis. Some RTOs hold institutional memberships that provide access for all staff.

It is recommended that you check with your manager before paying for individual access, as your organisation may already have a subscription or preferred relationship that covers what you need. Where no subscription exists, individual courses, webinars or annual memberships are typically available.

VET-specific professional development providers

Several organisations deliver professional development specifically for VET trainers and assessors, including content focused on teaching and assessment practice, compliance, digital delivery and sector developments. These providers offer contextualised learning for the specific demands of the VET sector. Note that these are not vocational industry-specific but apply across the VET sector.

Resource	What it offers
VELG Training	National VET professional development provider offering webinars, workshops and an annual national conference. Covers compliance, assessment, teaching practice, leadership and digital delivery. Online and face-to-face options. Runs Australia's largest annual national VET conference. Individual and organisational membership options are available.
vetr	Digital learning community for the Australian VET sector. Offers microlearning video courses, live webinars, compliance resources, and an annual subscription model. Covers assessment, compliance, teaching practice and sector developments. Content is VET-specific and regularly updated. Organisational subscriptions provide access for all staff.



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Resource	What it offers
VET Development Centre (VDC)	Professional development organisation for the VET workforce offering online and face-to-face workshops, a national teaching and learning conference and a self-paced learning platform (VDC Learn). Some programs are government-funded for eligible providers. Covers assessment, teaching practice, quality and compliance.
Clued In Education	VET-specific professional development provider offering workshops, consulting and resources for registered training organisations (RTOs). Search online for current offerings.
Education Matters	Provider of VET professional development and RTO resources. Search online for current offerings.
Coastwide Training Solutions	Provider of VET professional development, compliance resources and RTO consulting. Search online for current offerings relevant to your context.
Centre for Assessment and Quality Assurance (CAQA)	Provider of VET resources, professional development and compliance support for RTOs. Offers resources covering assessment tools, standards compliance and training practice.

Professional associations and membership bodies

Professional associations offer trainers, assessors, and managers access to peer networks, sector updates, events and in some cases, formal recognition of professional standing. Membership is typically individual, though some organisations offer organisational or group membership options.

Resource	What it offers
Australian Institute of Training and Development (AITD)	Peak is a not-for-profit membership body for learning and development professionals in Australia, offering networking events, webinars, a continuing professional development (CPD) program, an annual conference and access to sector resources. Members include trainers, assessors, instructional designers, coaches and human resource professionals. Individual and organisational membership available.



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Resource	What it offers
Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA)	<p>Professional association promoting quality VET research and practice. Hosts an annual national conference and provides opportunities to engage with VET research findings.</p> <p>Particularly relevant for advanced and expert trainers and assessors interested in evidence-informed practice and contributing to sector knowledge.</p>

Professional certification

Trainers and assessors in VET do not currently hold individual professional registration in the way that nurses, doctors or school teachers do. This is an area actively discussed within the sector.

One initiative that has emerged recently is the RTO Certified Professionals Institute (RTOCPI), operated through the RTO PD Hub. It is a voluntary certification scheme for RTO trainers and assessors. Offering certification across role categories, including trainer and assessor, validator and RTO manager, with annual CPD requirements to maintain certification.

It is worth noting that voluntary certification schemes for VET trainers and assessors have been attempted previously but have not achieved lasting national traction.

About RTOCPI

RTOCPI is a new and emerging initiative. It is privately operated, voluntary, and not formally recognised by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), state regulators, or any government body. It does not confer regulatory standing or compliance benefits. It represents one organisation's attempt to foster professional identity and a commitment to ongoing learning within the VET sector.

It may be worth exploring for trainers and assessors interested in demonstrating a commitment to their professional development.

It should not be confused with formal registration or regulatory compliance.



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Research and information resources

Staying informed about VET research, policy and sector data supports reflective practice and helps trainers and assessors understand the broader context in which they work. The following resources are publicly accessible at no cost.

Resource	What it offers
National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)	The national body responsible for VET research, data and statistics. Publishes research reports, sector data and the VOCED database of VET literature. Resources are freely available and cover workforce development, training outcomes, sector trends and policy analysis. A useful starting point for trainers, assessors, and managers wanting to understand the evidence base for VET practice.
VOCED plus	International tertiary education and research database maintained by NCVER. Includes research publications, policy documents, sector overviews and the VET Knowledge Bank. Free to access. Useful for trainers and assessors who want to explore research on specific topics, including professional development, assessment practice, and industry engagement.
AUSMASA	The Jobs and Skills Council for the automotive and mining sectors, responsible for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automotive Retail, Service and Repair Training Package (AUR) • Automotive Manufacturing Training Package (AUM) • Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package (RII). Publishes workforce data, training package updates and sector guidance relevant to trainers and assessors in these industries. The Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance (AUSMASA) VET Workforce Blueprint and associated guidance suite are available through the AUSMASA website.



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A note on provider selection

The organisations listed above are examples of what is available. When deciding where to invest time or money in professional development, consider:

- whether the content is current and relevant to your delivery context
- what delivery format suits your schedule and learning preferences
- whether your organisation has existing access or a preferred relationship
- whether other trainers and assessors in your network have found the organisation useful.

Talking to an experienced colleague before committing to a membership or course is often the most reliable starting point.

Further reading

The following publications from the NCVER provide useful background on professional development in the VET workforce. All are freely available through the NCVER website at ncver.edu.au.

Continuing professional development for a diverse VET practitioner workforce (Tyler and Dymock, 2017¹) – A stocktake of CPD developments for VET trainers and assessors covering industry currency, the dual nature of the role and the debate around professional associations. Highlights that no single approach to CPD suits the diversity of the VET workforce and that CPD has historically been institutionally driven rather than nationally systemic.

Building capability and quality in VET teaching: opportunities and challenges (Misko, Guthrie and Waters, 2021²) – Examines professional capability frameworks, approaches to attracting trainers and assessors from industry and stakeholder views on CPD, registration and accreditation. Directly relevant to trainers, assessors, and managers thinking about workforce development.

Attracting industry experts to become VET practitioners: a journey, not a destination (Tyler and Dymock, 2021³) – Explores how RTOs recruit and retain industry experts as VET trainers and assessors. Covers dual professionalism, transition support, mentoring and the ongoing challenge of maintaining both vocational and teaching currency.



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¹ Reference: Tyler, Mark and Dymock, Darryl. *Continuing professional development for a diverse VET practitioner workforce*. NCVET (Adelaide), 2017.

² Reference: Misko, Josie, Guthrie, Hugh and Waters, Melinda. *Building capability and quality in VET teaching: opportunities and challenges*. NCVET (Adelaide), 2021.

³ Reference: Tyler, Mark and Dymock, Darryl. *Attracting industry experts to become VET practitioners: a journey, not a destination*. NCVET (Adelaide), 2021.

Learn more about the Trainer and Assessor VET Career Framework

Explore more practical tools, guides and resources supporting VET capability, wellbeing, industry engagement and career development