

Third Party Access for Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Policy

For Access to
TAFE Facilities in Queensland

1. Policy intent

The *Third Party Access for Vocational Education and Training (VET) Policy* ("the Policy") enables third party registered training organisations access to Queensland TAFE institute training facilities to achieve Queensland Government priority training outcomes of the day.

TAFE facilities will be made available to registered training organisations on a commercial basis for training purposes that do not conflict with TAFE institute's requirements to use these facilities for training outcomes in Queensland.

This policy is part of a broader third party access regime to engage industry stakeholders through arrangements that are mutually beneficial to all parties. This includes partnerships between public and private organisations and arrangements such as resource sharing, shared use of facilities or joint-ventures.

The primary objectives of this policy are to:

- respond to Queensland's skills shortages and priority training needs;
- increase the total vocational education and training capacity across the state; and
- provide a financial return on unused assets.

Secondary schools wanting access to TAFE facilities are excluded from this policy. Specific collaborative arrangements should be negotiated locally between secondary schools and TAFE institutes.

Southbank Institute of Technology is also excluded from this policy because any hire arrangements are bound by the Institute's Public Private Partnership obligations.

2. Facilities

Under this policy facilities are defined as learning spaces together with associated training equipment located in TAFE buildings. Learning spaces include workshops and general classrooms. Computer classrooms TAFE computer equipment, systems and software located therein are specifically excluded from this policy.

Facilities potentially available for tenure are detailed in the *Third Party Access for VET Guidelines for Registered Training Organisations* ("the Guidelines").

Where facilities are not being fully utilised by the department, access may be granted to registered training organisations upon application.

3. Application

Registered training organisations may make application to use TAFE facilities by completing a *Request to Access TAFE Facilities* form which is available on-line at:

<http://www.training.qld.gov.au/training-organisations/request-use-tafe-facilities.php>

The Department of Education and Training will only consider submissions from registered training organisations which are registered in Queensland or have mutual recognition to provide training and assessment services in Queensland, under the *Australian Quality Training Framework Standards for Registered Training Organisations* and the *Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000* (as amended or superseded from time to time).

Applications will be evaluated against :

- (a) the availability of suitable facilities;
- (b) government training priorities and the extent the training can address skills shortages;
- (c) the volume and timing of training proposed; and
- (d) the capacity of the registered training organisations to meet training outcomes and legal obligations.

The department may also approach registered training organisations to negotiate the use of TAFE facilities where facilities are underutilised. Such arrangements will be negotiated in terms of the above criteria.

4. Pricing

Commercial charges that comply with the *National Competition Policy* will be negotiated with registered training organisations based on the:

- (a) nature of the arrangement;
- (b) condition of the facility;
- (c) location of the facilities;
- (d) type of facility;
- (e) duration of tenure; and
- (f) local commercial charges for equivalent premises.

In exceptional circumstances the department may respond to specific training priorities or other emergent community needs and vary the commercial charges that would otherwise apply.

5. Legal agreements

If the Department of Education and Training grants access to use TAFE facilities, the registered training organisation must enter into a legal agreement with the department prior to using the facilities. The conditions of the agreement will depend on the nature of the approved arrangement and may result in a licence or lease to occupy the premises.

The agreement will include (but is not limited to):

- Schedule of hire arrangements;
- Hire charges;
- Term of tenure;
- Reporting arrangements (where applicable);
- Indemnity;
- Insurances;
- Make good conditions;
- Dispute resolution processes;
- Duty of care; and
- Other standard legal clauses.

6. Administration of initiative

This initiative is administered by the Department of Education and Training. Inquiries other than applications for access to TAFE facilities may be made at the following address:

TAFE Infrastructure
Training Queensland
Department of Education and Training
Level 2, Education House, 30 Mary Street
LMB 527
BRISBANE QLD 4001

For further information please visit:

<http://www.training.qld.gov.au/training-organisations/tafe-access/index.html>