

educator news august 2012

Health training package review

As you are aware, the training package is currently under review. The massage therapy subject matter expert group (SMEG) has been convened and is meeting for the first time on 11 September. AMT is endeavouring to facilitate broad consultation and is pleased to note the Victorian Network's commitment to providing feedback to the SMEG. A group of NSW educators will also be meeting prior to 11 September to provide input to the review.

Partnership with ASQA

AMT is still in close dialogue with ASQA, working through the ongoing issues that were thrown into sharp relief in the aftermath of the Nobel College qualification fraud. Evidence of inadequate and shonky RPL practices across the industry is a serious ongoing concern, as the marketplace is at risk of being flooded by under-qualified or completely unqualified therapists operating as fully fledged health fund providers.

ASQA requested a formal statement from AMT outlining our position on hours and duration of training for the HLT40307 and HLT50307. AMT's position statement is appended to this document. We are very interested in feedback on this issue from the network and would be happy to convey this to ASQA.

VET sector rorts in the media

The ABC's 7.30 Report has been running a series of stories on rorts within the VET sector. Thus far, the reports have focused on apprenticeships in the building and construction industry, and featured several dodgy RTOs in Victoria whose training standards were suspect to say the least (staged evidence collecting and assessments, tick and flick site visits etc).

The stories ran on three consecutive nights from August 7 to 9, culminating in an interview with the Minister for Skills, Chris Evans, on Thursday 9th. You should still be able to view them on ABC iView: <http://www.abc.net.au/iview>

Apparently, the program has since been inundated with calls and emails from people reporting the same kinds of problems across the entire VET sector. It seems likely that the program will feature more stories in a similar vein.

Adele Horin has also weighed in on the impact of budget cuts: <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/beware-the-rise-of-worthless-training-20120615-20f5z.html>

National Educators' Forum

The program for the National Educators' Forum has now been released. We are very pleased to confirm that ASQA Commissioner, Michael Lavarch, will be presenting at the forum. Bronwyn Walker from the CSHISC will also be talking about the review of the training package.

AMT is once again sponsoring the Educators' forum so the first registration from an RTO is free.



in good hands

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Established 1966



AMT Position Statement

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Recommended minimum hours of study:

HLT40307/12 Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice

HLT 50307 Diploma of Remedial Massage

AMT is a national, not-for-profit association representing qualified Massage Therapists and Massage Therapy Students. Established in 1966, we are the oldest association in Australia to represent massage therapy in its own right. We advocate vigorously on behalf of our members to advance the profile and standing of massage therapists, and promote the health benefits of massage therapy.

The Health Training Package (HTP) is the foundation on which AMT's current membership criteria is built. As a competency-based system, the HTP is designed around the achievement of workplace skills and demonstration of knowledge to the standard required in the workplace, rather than the more traditional, academic curriculum. As such, the units of competency in HLT40307/12 and HLT50307 are descriptive in nature, rather than prescriptive. This means that their mode of delivery and assessment is open to interpretation, including the hours and time period over which competencies can be achieved.

With its emphasis on workplace outcomes, the competency-based system relies on rigorous assessment of competence by an appropriately qualified trainer and assessor. This must include assessment in a simulated work environment, covering a range of workplace scenarios.

AMT is aware that there is a very wide range of training schedules and approaches to delivering the HLT40307/12 and HLT50307 across Australia.

Although AMT cannot use hours-based criteria as a requirement of admission to membership due to the nature of the training package, AMT does **not support, endorse or recommend:**

- fast track training programs and RTOs that market on the basis of fast track programs
- qualifications that are delivered wholly or predominantly via distance learning
- programs that deliver practical components via distance learning
- programs that do not include substantial supervised clinical practice.

AMT strongly recommends the following as a guide to minimum hours to achieve the required competencies at Certificate IV and Diploma Level:

Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice

720 hours over 9 months, including at least 50 hours of supervised clinical practice.

Diploma of Remedial Massage

1080 hours over 18 months, including at least 100 hours of supervised clinical practice.

Distance learning

Within the VET sector generally, e-learning is actively encouraged in line with current educational standards that focus on student-centred and flexible delivery principles. However, although AMT supports appropriate flexible learning and delivery strategies, we do not support qualifications that are delivered either wholly or predominantly via distance education. AMT's position is that the practical components of the HLT40307/12 and HLT50307 should be delivered and assessed face to face.

The background is a solid teal color. On the right side, there are several overlapping, abstract shapes that resemble leaves or petals, rendered in various shades of teal and light blue, creating a sense of depth and movement.

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