

educator news june 2022

Where the bloody hell are the new quals?

Yep, AMT has been sweating on them too.

The new Cert IV Massage Therapy, Diploma of Remedial Massage, and two pain management skills sets were signed off by the State and Territory Skills Ministers in November last year, and have essentially been locked and loaded ever since. The final step of having them listed on training.gov.au has been delayed because one of the elective units, which is taken from another qualification (Individual Support Cert III), is still awaiting approval from Skills Ministers.

At a recent meeting of the Complementary Health Industry Reference Committee, SkillsIQ was unable to confirm when everything would be finalised. It is unclear how much the recent change of government will further exacerbate the delays.

Experiencing deja vu? Let's hope the delay is not quite as long as last time we went through VET reform.

In the meantime, AMT has been working in earnest on developing resources to support RTOs deliver the new HLTMSG016 Apply principles of pain neuroscience unit of competence, which forms part of the new Diploma and both the pain management skills sets. We aim to have these resources finalised in time for the release of the qualifications on TGA.

Has your RTO embraced the clean air revolution?

Introducing AMT's Clean Air Massage Register

You are no doubt familiar with the work that AMT's Biosecurity Committee completed throughout 2020 and 2021, providing risk assessment resources and fact sheets to help therapists navigate the COVID pandemic.

Now that the scientific consensus clearly points to the airborne nature of COVID-19 transmission and the limited role of fomites in transmission, AMT is keen to support and promote our members and RTOs that have pivoted accordingly and embraced clean air protocols in their clinics.

To that end, AMT has established a register of Clean Air Massage Clinics in the 'Find A Therapist' section of the AMT website. We're also promoting clean air massage therapy clinics across our social media platforms, both to raise public awareness of the importance of clear air and promote members who can make specific guarantees about how they mitigate the risks of airborne transmission of viruses within their clinics.

This clean air register is also open to our RTO partners and so too the opportunity for social media promotion. Please get in touch if you have any questions. You can [complete and return our form](#), and supply us with a photograph of your student clinic space if you'd like us to promote this on our social media channels.

ASQA announced as training package assurance body

You may recall that AMT hosted a representative from the Department of Education,



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Skills and Employment at the AMT National Educators' Forum in December last year. VET reform and upcoming changes to the sector were the focus of discussion, particularly the replacement of the Australian Industry and Skills Committee and the formation of Industry Clusters in place of Skills Service Organisations. To the surprise of many, including AMT, the Government announced on 22 March that the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) will be the independent body responsible for training package assurance from 1 January 2023.

What does this change mean? Well, this is taken from ASQA's March announcement:

"This independent assurance function, which forms part of a broader suite of Australian Government reforms to the vocational education and training (VET) system, will see ASQA assessing training packages for compliance against standards and policies set by Skills Ministers, delivering enhanced transparency, accountability and confidence, and ensuring training packages are high quality and meet the needs of employers and students."

"Under the new function, ASQA will also work to build the capacity of Industry Clusters by providing guidance and support on common and emerging issues and risks that arise during the training package development process. This educative function will support the continuous improvement of training package development, particularly during the formative stages of the new arrangements."

You can read the full ASQA statement [here](#).

This will not impact the current HLT training package updates that are currently under way but will obviously have implications for new iterations from 2023.

AMT on-demand webinars

AMT has been hosting monthly webinars to support AMT members to achieve their annual professional development obligations. We believe that a few of these regular webinars may also be useful for your student cohorts, so we are pleased to provide the following links to two relevant AMT webinars:

[Managing Practice Risk](#) (presented by Fenton Green, AMT's preferred insurer)

[Record Keeping - back to basics](#)

AMT Mid-Year National Online Educators' Forum

As discussed at last year's AMT National Educators Forum, we're looking forward to connecting with our RTO partners on a more regular, less formal basis. With this in mind, we kindly invite you to our mid-year online National Educators Forum. This will be another great opportunity for us all to connect, and share ideas and experiences so that we can continue to thrive in this amazing industry.

We'll have some updates and information that we look forward to sharing, so please pencil **Friday 29 July 2022, 12pm AEST** into your diary. We will send out an informal agenda and registration details soon but please let us know if there are any particular items you would like to bring to the table for discussion.