



Australian
Industry and
Skills Committee

Australian Industry and Skills Committee Emergency Response Sub-Committee

Statement on the Sport, Fitness and Recreation and the Tourism, Travel and Hospitality training packages

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some registered training organisations (RTOs) have raised concerns about the impact a lack of access to workplaces is having on the capacity of students to complete workplace requirements incorporated in to qualifications in order for learners to develop real workplace experience. Difficulties experienced by RTOs in accessing real workplaces in order to complete requirements included in qualifications in the Sports, Fitness and Recreation (SIS) and the Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (SIT) training packages have been highlighted in this context.

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) Emergency Response Sub-Committee wishes to issue the following clarifying advice to RTOs in relation to existing flexibilities in the SIS and SIT training packages. This statement also includes general advice about mandatory workplace requirements (MWR) in training packages, and where RTOs should look for information regarding the details of these requirements.

For the purpose of this statement, the term MWR refers to those assessment components that must be completed in a workplace. MWR can include a requirement for workplace placement (including through mandated hours) or assessment that must be demonstrated in a workplace.

This statement is being issued as one of a range of measures being undertaken by the AISC to respond to concerns raised in relation to MWR in training packages (see AISC website for further details).

Sport, Fitness and Recreation (SIS) and Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (SIT) training packages

- Consultation with the Chairs of the Sport and Recreation and Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) has confirmed that **units of competency** included in the Sport, Fitness and Recreation (SIS) and Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (SIT) training packages **do not include a MWR**, and practical training and assessment can be undertaken either in a workplace or in a Simulated Assessment Environment (SAE).
- Where assessment is conducted in an SAE, the assessment must meet all the requirements as specified in the training package. Where indicated, it **must simulate real-life working conditions** with all the relevant equipment and conditions of that working environment, including interactions with clients and co-workers. Assessment **must be conducted in the specified environment** using the equipment and resources mandated in the **Assessment Conditions** field of the **Assessment Requirements**.
- As per the training package specification, it is **essential** that industry relevant conditions are provided for assessment.
- While the Companion Volume for the Sport, Fitness and Recreation (SIS) training package does include strong recommendations for work placements for some qualifications, these are not

mandatory and the subject of regulation. For further information, please see the [SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation Companion Volume](#) or the [SIT Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Training Package Companion Volume](#).

General advice

- Information on MWR is set out in the **assessment requirements** of each unit of competency, including within the **performance evidence** and **assessment conditions**. Work placement hours may also be expressed in the qualification descriptors.
- RTOs should consider the **specific** assessment requirements of each unit of competency when establishing whether there is a requirement for assessment to occur in a workplace.
- In some instances, **assessment requirements** allow for assessment to be conducted in the **workplace** or an **appropriate simulated assessment environment (SAE)**. RTOs should pay particular attention to any limitations the training package may identify in relation to assessment such as whether an SAE can be used for all assessments related to the unit or if it should only be used as one component or in situations where real life examples are rare or could cause safety concerns.
- Where the training product has provision for simulation, RTOs should review the specific training package requirements and consult with their industry stakeholders as per RTOs' requirement under the Standards to engage with industry in the development of their assessment strategies. The **assessment conditions** can provide information about the required facilities, equipment and resources needed to replicate real working conditions.
- Training package **Companion Volumes** can include useful summary information on MWR included in qualifications in training packages. This generally includes information on the rationale for the MWR, as well as lists of the qualifications and units of competency that contain MWR.
- **Companion Volumes** also set out information on acceptable arrangements for simulated delivery where this is allowed under training package rules, and may include **industry recommendations for workplace hours** to be completed.
- While VET regulators do not regulate Companion Volumes, they are a beneficial resource to assist RTOs in developing delivery strategies and materials.
- RTOs should **also provide each student with the appropriate support** to access work placement opportunities. Where simulated delivery is permitted, RTOs may wish to consider **establishing relationships with other RTOs** that have access to the resources/facilities required to support simulated environments.
- RTOs should always **work with and consult their VET regulator** to ensure that all requirements and obligations are being met for regulatory purposes.

Further information

For further information on the existing COVID-19 advice and how the VET regulators are supporting RTOs during this time, RTOs are encouraged to visit their VET regulator website. Search 'COVID-19' for access to a range of support material and advice:

- [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#)
- [Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority](#)
- [Western Australian Training and Accreditation Council](#)