



Student Handbook

Aakira Pty Ltd trading as Training Ahead Australia

RTO Code: 45462

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Introduction

Purpose of this handbook

This Participant Handbook is to provide participants with information about Training Ahead Australia and to assist in resolving any questions that they may arise during the course of study. In this handbook participants will find information regarding:

- The structure and operations
- Training & assessment services on offer
- Procedures for recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- Complaints and appeals processes
- Policies regarding safety and discrimination
- Participant services and the privacy of your information

Please refer to this handbook to support you in your study. The information contained within this document is consistent with our approved policies and procedures. If the information contained is not clear or you require further clarification/direction or wish to view our full suite of policies and procedures, please contact our team on 1300 355 900.

Training Ahead Australia take responsibility and follow processes to ensure our training and assessment practices comply with the National Vocational Education and Training Act and Training Regulator Act 2011.

Participant induction and acknowledgement

Before you complete and sign your enrolment form for a Training Ahead Australia course, please be sure that you have read through this handbook and understand its contents. If you do not understand something, please contact us on 1300 355 900 to speak to one of the friendly team. By completing, signing, and submitting your enrolment form, you are acknowledging that you have read this handbook and understand its contents.

This handbook contains the information students need prior to their enrolment and during their enrolment. Training Ahead Australia reserves the right to alter policies at any time without prior notice. Policies may have only been partially reproduced in this booklet. For a complete overview of Training Ahead Australia policies and procedures, please request a copy by emailing us at bookings@trainingahead.com.au.

Not all policies and procedures are listed in this handbook.

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General Information

Training Ahead Australia strives to deliver high quality, engaging training that is contextualised, relevant and up to date with current industry expectations and needs. Our focus is on good quality outcomes for individuals that result in continual development of skills and knowledge required for work in the rail sector.

Training Ahead Australia is a registered training organisation (RTO) with the Vet Regulator. And provide a range of training courses relevant for works in the Rail industry in Australia, including the following:

- Rail Infrastructure
- Safeworking and Track protection
- Track vehicle operations
- Rail Welding

Training Ahead Australia’s RTO code: 45462

As an RTO, Training Ahead Australia is bound to comply with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (SRTOs) 2015.

Our Office and Hours

Address: 8-10 Sloane St, Maribyrnong VIC 3032

Opening Hours

Our office is open between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays).

We can be contacted on 1300 355 900 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or via bookings@trainingahead.com.au

After Hours Emergencies

In the event of an emergency the Support Officer can be contacted on 0420 430 939.

Our Training Venues

Training Ahead Australia currently train out of the following venues:

- Newport Rail Academy – Shea St, Newport VIC 3015
- Training Ahead training facility

Training Delivered Under Our Scope of Registration

TAA delivers a combination of units of competence and Qualifications and the full scope can be found at training.gov

Students can choose to enrol in whole qualifications or individual units depending on their learning needs and career goals. Please contact our office on 1300 355 900 to discuss with any one of our helpful staff if you or your organisation has specific training needs.

Accredited Training

Participants who successfully completed accredited training and assessment will be issued with either a Qualification or a Statement of Attainment. This means that successful participants possess transferrable skills and knowledge that can be recognised nationally in Australia. Both documents will be clearly identified with the Nationally Recognised Training Logo as you see to the right.



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Participant rights and responsibilities

Assessment

All assessment tasks must be completed and submitted within the timeframe allocated in the assessment tool. If a participant is having any difficulty completing an assessment they should speak to the assessor as soon as is realistically possible. This way the trainer/assessor may be able to provide assistance in terms of additional support or time where relevant. There may be conditions or penalties associated with extensions

Assessment Misconduct

Assessment Malpractice may impact any assessment judgement made by an assessor and as such Training ahead Australia has policies and procedures in place for any Assessment misconduct reported or identified during a course assessment period.

Examples of assessment misconduct are outlined below:

Cheating -

All assessment tasks must be completed with participants adhering to the instructions outlined in the assessment tool. The use of another person’s work or completing the task(s) in a way that breaches the assessment instructions will be considered cheating and will be dealt with in accordance with Training Ahead Australia’s policies and procedures.

Collusion

Completing an assessment activity with unauthorised assistance from other participants or other outside sources, or copying work completed by another participant and attempting to submit it as your own will be considered collusion and will be dealt with in accordance with Training Ahead Australia’s policies and procedures. It is a participant’s responsibility to ensure other participants are not given an opportunity to copy your work.

Plagiarism

Copying from an online source or published work without proper referencing is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with in accordance with Training Ahead Australia’s policies and procedures. This includes presenting work that has been copied in part, or wholly, from another person(s).

Attendance

As part of Training Ahead Australia’s RTO obligations and subsequent Occupational Health and Safety obligations training course attendance will be taken each day.

Participant attendance is required in order to provide maximum opportunity for each participant to develop key skills and knowledge required for satisfactory completion of training and assessment activities integrated in the training course.

It is an expectation that participants arrive prior to the scheduled course commencement time and are present at the allocated training facility ready to commence at the scheduled start time. If a participant is running late or may need to leave early, they must speak to the trainer/assessor to make appropriate/relevant arrangements if and when possible.

If a participant is aware that they are going to be absent for a scheduled class or assessment activity they are to, as soon as is possible, advise their trainer/assessor or a member of the Training Ahead Australia administration team so other arrangements can be made.

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Behaviour

Training Ahead Australian is committed to providing learning and assessment environments that are free from bullying, harassment, and unlawful discrimination. As such participants are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and behave in a manner that is conducive to this type of environment.

Any identified or reported unreasonable behaviour will be taken seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with Training Ahead Australia’s policies and procedures

Examples of unreasonable behaviour may include (but are not limited to)

- Shouting, constant criticism or humiliation of an individual or group of individuals in private or in front of their peers
- An individual being treated less favourably by another individual or group of individuals, including, but not limited to, bullying or intimidation; forcing an individual to participate in an “initiation” process; the playing of practical jokes or forcing an individual to undertake demeaning tasks
- Sniggering or gossiping behind someone’s back
- Laughing at someone which is intended to make them feel uncomfortable or distressed
- Continuously and deliberately excluding someone from activities including ignoring or keeping individuals isolated from relevant communications about relevant issues.

In line with Training Ahead Australia’s commitment to providing a learning environment that is free from health and safety risks and one that strives to create positive relationships all participants are expected to observe the following behaviour standards including:

- Being polite and courteous to others
- Being respectful of the differences between Individuals and their circumstances
- Ensuring they do not engage in any bullying behaviour(s) towards others in, or connected with the learning environment which includes all individuals
- Ensuring they do not assist, or encourage others in the learning environment, or in connection with the learning environment to engage in bullying behaviour(s) of any type
- Adhering to the complaint procedure if they experience any bullying behaviour(s) personally
- Reporting any bullying behaviour(s) they see happening to others in the learning environment
- Keeping information confidential if involved in any investigation of bullying

Breaks

The trainer will outline the course schedule at the beginning of the day including all relevant break times and they are subject to change and may vary. The following break times are typical of a training course:

- 15 minutes short morning and afternoon breaks
- 30 minutes lunch break

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Disciplinary action

Training Ahead Australia may implement disciplinary action in alignment with their policies and procedures if a participant is found to be acting inappropriately due to assessment malpractice or unreasonable behaviour.

Initial inappropriate actions will result in a minimum of a verbal warning and subsequent discussion, further disciplinary action may include:

- Participant may be required to provide, verbally or in writing, justification and/or apology for their behaviour
- Participant removal from the training room
- Participant removal from the assessment task/activity
- Participant removal from the training course

Dress requirements

Training Ahead Australia has an expectation that participants dress appropriately for their training courses, appropriate clothing includes the following:

- Comfortable, tidy clothing for classroom/theory sessions
- Full rail approved PPE for workplace training or practical/simulated workshops or sessions which includes the following:
 - Hard Hat
 - Protective eyewear
 - Long sleeve shirt
 - Rail approved hi-visibility vest/clothing (orange)
 - Long pants
 - Ankle supportive, steel capped, lace up work boots

Duty of care

Under Occupational Health and Safety legislation all participants have a duty of care to themselves and all other participants. To ensure this duty of care is maintained the following should be followed:

- If a participant is involved in an accident that involves personal injury and/or property damage the trainer/assessor must be immediately notified
- Any health concerns or issues that may impact a participant during the training or assessment process should be reported to a Training Ahead Australia staff member prior to beginning the course.
- In the event of an emergency or evacuation all participants must follow the designated evacuation and emergency response plans

Participants are reminded that they have duty of care to:

- Avoid negatively impacting other persons health and safety
- Refrain from recklessly misusing any tools or equipment provided by Training Ahead Australia in the interests of health and safety to themselves and others
- Cooperate with health and safety directives given by any member of the Training Ahead Australia staff
- Not attend training if impaired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol

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Feedback

Participants are encouraged to provide feedback at any stage throughout the training and/or assessment process to help Training Ahead Australia continually improve training products and services.

A feedback form will be provided at the conclusion of the training course; however, a feedback form can be requested at any point in time by speaking to a Training Ahead Australia staff member.

Learning Support

Training Ahead Australia understands that personal challenges and situations may arise that can impact a participant’s ability to undertake a training course. As such, participants are asked to identify their individual needs as they arise. Additionally, TAA personnel monitor the progress of all participants and their readiness for assessment as they progress through their course.

Delivery materials and methods may be adapted for the special needs of clients. Some examples may include enlarging print materials for vision requirements, provision of ICT equipment and support, accessing interpreter services or using individual delivery methods.

A range of support services, including LLN assistance, may be accessed as required for participant needs.

Property loss

Training Ahead Australia makes every reasonable effort to keep the training facilities and rooms secure participants are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for their own belongings.

Training Ahead Australia does not accept responsibility for any personal belongings that may be lost or stolen.

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Course Information

Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN)

Depending on the program participants enrol in you may be required to complete the following tasks:

- Read and interpret textbook information
- Follow written and verbal instructions
- Prepare a range of documents using office equipment
- Present written & verbal information in a range of contexts
- Conduct research
- Communicate and/or work with individuals and groups
- Use a computer at basic skill level

All potential participants will be assessed in order to ascertain if their Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) skills are sufficient to successfully undertake the program. This is done through an appropriate assessment task conducted by our trainers prior to enrolment, additionally, a one-on-one interview may be required to satisfactorily determine participant LLN level. You will be advised of these requirements upon course enquiry. If a participant does not meet the minimum LLN requirement they will not be enrolled in the training course. Those who may require further assistance during the training course can be referred to a range of education support services. Any costs incurred will be the sole responsibility of the participant.

Training and Assessment Personnel

Training Ahead Australia have personnel with appropriate qualifications and experience, with up to date knowledge to deliver the training and facilitate the assessments of the identified qualifications and units of competence in this handbook. It is a minimum requirement that all trainers and assessors hold the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Assessment will meet the National Assessment Principles including recognition of prior learning and credit transfer.

Training Ahead Australia trainers and assessors adhere to standards in the National Code of Practice for Assessors and as per the ASQA Standards for Registered Training Organisations.

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Program Timeframes

Type of training course	Training course timeframe
Workshop / Classroom Based	Participants will be advised of timetable for the training program prior to commencement. Sessions will be led and directed by a qualified Training Ahead Australia Trainer.
Project Model	Participants will complete their learning and assessment through a well-designed project and the timeframe will depend on the course, the attendance hours, and work to be completed outside the training session/s.
Self-Paced	Timeframes for this method of delivery will be negotiated with your trainer/assessor and will be negotiated on the basis of qualification requirements and individual characteristics of the participant (previous experience, availability, learning requirements).
Traineeships	These are a contractual agreement that may be for full-time employees meaning their training is completed in 12 months, or for part-time employees meaning their training is completed in 24 months.
Site Specific	Your employer will advise of program, as we contextualise our program design, delivery, assessment, and scheduling to meet workplace requirements.

Attendance and Participation

Upon enquiry and/or enrolment, participants will be advised of the timetable specific to their program – including classes, workshops, and assessments. It is expected that participants will attend all agreed sessions. Non-attendance will require participants to complete work in their own time to ‘catch up’. Depending on the availability of trainers and/or assessors, this may be with or without support. Obviously, circumstances will vary on an individual basis. Students are to contact the office as soon as possible to advise of non-attendance.

Rescheduling or extension of time is available (not guaranteed) for participants to complete their training – with a written letter and relevant documentation (for example doctor’s certificate) detailing grounds for your application.

Courses that are not accredited will be clearly identified and participants will be issued with a Statement of Participation.

Learning Resources

Different programs delivered will have different resourcing requirements. For most qualifications and training courses, resources have been factored into the overall course pricing, however, for others there is the option to purchase or hire the textbooks. Additionally, Training Ahead Australia will advise the participant of any resources or equipment they are required to provide or bring to the training. The details relevant to the training you have selected will be specified ***prior to enrolment***.

Training and Assessment

Delivery for the Achievement of Competence

Competency may be achieved:

- in the industry workplace via workshops and project based learning and assessment
- formal training sessions [workshop based, online]
- self-paced options [Assessment only, RPL, creation or collection of a portfolio of evidence]
- combination of formal and self-based delivery
- work experience including working in a voluntary capacity
- participants may apply for one-on-one training if required

Additional Tutoring / Coaching / Mentoring

Additional client support services are available to individual participants. A participant requiring additional client support, beyond what is available within the delivery program (and trainer/assessor timetables) should contact Training Ahead Australia as soon as possible, and are advised that additional fees may apply.

Additional support services available include:

- additional tutoring/coaching/mentoring. This may be phone or email.
- access to subject matter experts for additional discussion of course content
- extra assistance in project preparation
- provision of specialist accessible format materials, subject to appropriate notice
- Having a qualified trainer visit and conduct in workplace training

Participants are encouraged to speak with their trainer as soon as they identify they are having difficulties, rather than wait for assessment. You can approach your trainer and speak with them directly or contact them via telephone or email to discuss your options.

Assessment Methodologies

The objective is for the participant to prove they have achieved competency against the specifications of the unit of competence and to the standards expected in the industry and/or the workplace.

Participants **may** be assessed by one or more of the following methods outlined in the table below:

Assessment Method	Description
Observation	The completion of a specified task or set of procedure/s, normally performed under close supervision, using a detailed checklist
Oral Questioning	A verbal response is provided by the participant to a series of questions presented in order to demonstrate understanding of principles or reasoning behind the action taken
Logbook / Training Record Book	This document is completed by the participant and will require sign off by their supervisor and/or Training Ahead Australia assessor. It may record information relating to their tasks completed on the job and what they have learnt
Case Study	An opportunity to display problem solving and decision-making skills is provided in a simulated context

Multiple Choice	A question or incomplete statement followed by several options [usually 4 – 5] from which the participant selects the appropriate answer/s
Written Short Answer	A written response item consisting of a question/s with answers of a single word, a few words, a sentence, or a paragraph
Project	An exercise or investigation based on a real-life situation, generally requiring a significant part of the work being carried out without supervision, and involving the completion of a project report
Third Party Reporting	A third-party report is a document that Training Ahead Australia will provide you with, and needs to be signed off by an appropriately qualified, designated person from within the workplace of the individual
Portfolio of Evidence	A collection of evidence from the individual’s experience and/or workplace to prove the demonstration of the performance criteria, elements, required skills and required knowledge.
Online	Tasks, projects, case studies and questioning delivered through the online platform Moodle or Axcelerate and supported by the submission of evidence through the platform or electronic formats.

Assessment methodologies will be discussed before or at the commencement of training with the participant and/or the employer. Additionally, Training Ahead Australia may provide these details through printed materials prior to enrolment. Participants should advise their trainer/assessor of any concerns (e.g. medical, learning, physical, time constraints) relating to the assessment process. Assessments are conducted in conjunction with the procedures and policies of Training Ahead Australia and are validated to ensure compliance with the Principles of Assessment and Rules of Evidence.

Reasonable adjustment

Participants with disabilities are encouraged to speak with Training Ahead Australia in relation to any ‘reasonable adjustments’ that may be required to assist them in their performance of learning and/or assessment tasks included in their training course.

Training Ahead Australia will make careful considerations to any request made and, where reasonably practicable, adjustments will be made.

An adjustment is reasonable in relation to a student with a disability if it balances the interests of all parties affected. In assessing whether a particular adjustment for a student is reasonable, Training Ahead Australia has regard to all the relevant circumstances and interests, including the following:

- The student’s disability
- The views of the student or the student’s associate
- The effect of the adjustment on the student, including the effect on the student’s:
 - Ability to achieve learning outcomes; and
 - Ability to participate in courses or programs; and
 - Independence;
- The effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including Training Ahead Australia, personnel and other students; and
- The costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

Assessment of Not Yet Satisfactory

If your assessments are determined to be not yet satisfactory your Trainer and/or Assessor will provide constructive feedback on where your assessment did not meet satisfactory levels and what is required to achieve an assessment result of Satisfactory. This may involve reassessment using similar processes, reassessment utilising an alternate assessment process or the development of an action plan to support progression towards competence. Up to a further 3 months may be granted to complete the program, with a reassessment process and date specified. It is essential to speak with your Trainer and/or Assessor for details and/or clarification.

Non-Completion

If it is identified that a participant is unable to successfully complete the program, by Training Ahead Australia staff, the participant will be provided with:

- Clear explanation
- Copies of all completed learning materials
- Copies of all assessments
- Transcript of competency footprint
- Recommendations and referral options if available and relevant

If an individual identifies they are not able to complete training or assessment they can apply for deferment as detailed below or should advise their trainer in writing of their inability to complete.

Participants Deferring Training

If a Participant indicates that they wish to defer their studies, Training Ahead Australia makes every effort to assist students to continue training where possible.

If a participant proceeds with the deferral of their studies, Training Ahead Australia only permit a deferral of no more than twelve (12) months from the date of receipt of notice from the participant.

Training Ahead Australia advises participant of the fee implications of deferring their studies in accordance with the individual’s relevant fee arrangements.

Participants who do not recommence studies within a twelve (12) month period of deferral are considered to have discontinued their studies with all records and reports processed as per the discontinuance process below. Training Ahead Australia keeps records of all requests for/notices of deferral or keep a file note or log of such requests/notices together with evidence of all deferrals made.

Discontinuing Students

If a participant indicates they wish to discontinue their studies without completing their course, Training Ahead Australia ascertains if the reason for discontinuing relates to the performance of Training Ahead Australia.

If that is the case, Training Ahead Australia ensure that reasonable efforts are made to address concerns of the participant related to the delivery and assessment of training.

If a participant proceeds to discontinue their studies, Training Ahead Australia:

- Attempts to obtain formal notification from the participant of the date their studies will end
- Provides any refund of any applicable fee
- Gives the exiting participant information that includes all fees applied and any fees refunded, if applicable

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- Issues the participant with a Statement of Attainment and associated transcript for completed units of competency
- Updates the Training Plan listing all units of competency where an outcome has been achieved, commenced but not completed and/or not commenced
- Provides the updated Training Plan to the participant
- Returns results of any outstanding completed training activities and/or assessments to the participant
- For Apprentices or Trainees, notifies the relevant AANP and government authorities within 14 days of notification of the discontinuation of training and
- Finalises any other government reporting requirements

Training Ahead Australia keeps records of all requests for/notices of discontinuation or keep a file note or log of such requests/notices together with evidence of all discontinuations made.

Training Ahead Australia will follow up with participants who have outstanding evidence/assessment requirements or reassessments for completion.

Program Deferment

Students must apply in writing for deferments, to the Director, under the following circumstances for up to 12 months:

- medical grounds (doctor’s certificate required)
- special compassionate grounds
- problems associated with employment, *or*
- other special unforeseen circumstances

Applications will be responded to within 7 days, in writing.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Participants may be entitled to recognition of prior learning in the following circumstances:

- Upon successful RPL application.
- If they believe they have obtained the sufficient knowledge and skills outlined in a unit of competency through industry or work related experience

Training Ahead Australia advise all applicants of RPL opportunities on initial enquiry. Applicants who consider that they, have thorough prior learning and experience, or gained the required skills/competencies stipulated for the units of the course may be granted RPL upon substantiation of that claim. The assessment will be professionally conducted and will be valid, reliable, flexible, and fair. Evidence for recognition of prior learning may include:

- Evidence of current competence
- Performance, demonstration, or skills test
- Portfolio, logbook, task book, projects or assignments
- Written presentation
- Interview
- Case studies
- Third party reports
- Completed assessment only workbooks

RPL is available for most units. The training package components set the RPL benchmarks. Participants may make an application on request.

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If there is sufficient evidence in the application and supporting documentation, no further assessment may be necessary. Further assessment required may take any practical form consistent with the assessment criteria for the claimed competencies and the principles of validity, reliability, fairness, and flexibility. The form of assessment may be negotiated with the participant and may consist of interview, written assignment, exam, or any other method. Assessment must be conducted by a qualified assessor.

A standard fee per unit/course will be charged for the RPL assessment. Successful participants are notified promptly of the RPL outcome. The Assessor advises unsuccessful participants of reasons for non-recognition and steps they can take by submitting more evidence and failing that the appeal mechanisms.

NOTE: ANY DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED FOR RPL WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU SEND COPIES AND NOT ORIGINALS.

Mutual Recognition Policy / Credit Transfer

Training Ahead Australia recognise Australian Qualification Framework qualifications and Statements of Attainment which are issued by any other Registered Training Organisation throughout Australia on successful verification.

Fees

Fees are clearly stated on the Training Ahead Australia Price List available on the website and in office. Payments and Refund Policy is attached to the back of this handbook for your reference.

- Fees will be clearly detailed on each invoice.
- Fees may be paid by credit card, direct deposit and/or cash on commencement of training – within the Australian Skills Quality Authority Framework guidelines and the Payment and Refund Policy.
- Training Ahead Australia will manage fees in accordance with the Australian Skills Quality Authority Framework.
- **No** GST is charged for any nationally accredited training.
- Administration costs are included in the fee, except when relating to refunds in some circumstances.
- Training Ahead Australia personnel travel and accommodation is included in the fee unless otherwise negotiated.
- There are no hidden fees.
- Information relating to withdrawal, cancellation and refunds is included in the attached Payment and Refunds Policy.
- Training Ahead Australia charges reissuing fees for nationally recognised training completed – after participants have been issued with their first original copies. This costing is detailed on Training Ahead Australia Pricing List.
- Training Ahead Australia have engaged a debt collection agency, for the collection of unpaid debts.

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Policies and procedures

Complaints Policy and procedure

Purpose

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to outline Training Ahead Australia’s approach to managing dissatisfaction, formal complaints of students, clients, staff, and other members of the community. It provides a transparent approach for all complaints to be addressed in a fair, efficient, and confidential manner.

This Policy and Procedure refers to Standard 6 of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015

“RTOs must implement a transparent complaints and appeals policy that enables learners and clients to be informed of and to understand their rights and the RTO’s responsibilities under the Standards. Enterprise RTOs and volunteer associations that do not charge fees for the training and/or assessment and only provide training to employees or members are not required to maintain a separate complaints and appeals policy in relation to their training and assessment. These organisations must ensure, however, that their organisation’s complaints policy is sufficiently broad to cover the activities as an RTO.”

Policy Statement

Training Ahead Australia acknowledges individual’s rights to lodge a complaint when they are dissatisfied with the training and/or assessment, a service and/or experiences that have been provided.

Training Ahead Australia will ensure that all individuals have access to a fair and equitable process for lodging a complaint.

Training Ahead Australia is committed to maintaining an effective, timely, fair and equitable complaints handling system, which is easily accessible. We do this by:

- Having a culture that views complaints as an opportunity to improve our organisation and how it works
- Having a complaints handling system that is client/student focused
- Ensuring that complaints are resolved promptly, objectively and with sensitivity and in complete confidentiality
- Ensuring that the views of each complainant and respondent are respected and that any party to a complaint is not discriminated against nor victimized
- Ensuring there is a consistent response to complaints
- A complaint can be about any aspect of the business. This includes academic and non-academic matters.

Definitions

- **Appeal** means a request for a decision made by Training Ahead Australia to be reviewed
- **Appellant** refers to the person making the appeal
- **Complaint** means a person’s formal expression of dissatisfaction with any product or service provided by Training Ahead Australia
- **Complainant** means the ‘individual’ who has lodged the complaint
- **Individual** – For the purpose of this document, the term individuals refers to the scope including all students, clients, staff and other members of the community.
- **Services** means training, assessment, related educational and support services and/or activities related to the recruitment of prospective learners. It does not include services such as student counselling, mediation or ICT support

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- **SRTOs** means the Standards for RTOs 2015 – refer definition of ‘Standards’
- **Standards** means the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 of the VET Quality Framework which can be accessed from www.asqa.gov.au
- **Third Party** means any party that provides services on behalf of the RTO but does not include a contract of employment between an RTO and its employee
- **Training Ahead Australia** – Throughout this document, the following abbreviations may be used: TAA, Training Ahead
- **Training Ahead Support Team** refers to a range of staff members at Training Ahead Australia including: Office Manager, Compliance Officer, Accounts Officer, RIWC Support Officer, Administration Officers, Training Coordinators, Management and Trainer and Assessors

Scope

The scope of this policy and procedure applies to:

- Prospective students
- All students (learner of RTO)
- Clients, including companies
- Suppliers
- Staff including Support Staff, Trainer and Assessors and all other staff members
- Other members of the community
- Workplace mentoring and supervisors

Procedure

What is this procedure used for?

This procedure details how to lodge a complaint and the complaint handling process.

Why is this procedure required?

As an RTO Training Ahead Australia needs to ensure that:

- Students have the opportunity to make a complaint
- That all complaints are taken seriously and the individual lodging the complaint is provided with a fair and equitable process without discrimination

Responsibilities

Below lists the following responsibilities by Training Ahead Australia

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO has the following responsibilities:

- Development and implementation of the Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Complete reviews on Policy and Procedure
- Provide consultation with employees

Training Ahead Australia Staff:

Training Ahead Australia staff members have the following responsibilities:

- Follow the procedure
- Treat all complaints with fairness and without discrimination
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained throughout the process

When is the Procedure Reviewed?

This procedure is reviewed every 2 years

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Location of Complaints Policy and Procedure

The complaints policy and procedure are publicly available:

- On the website
- At the Training Ahead Australia office
- In the Student Handbook

Nature of Complaints

The RTO has a Complaints Policy and Procedure to manage and respond to allegations involving the conduct of:

- The RTO, its trainers, assessors, or other staff
- A third party providing services on the RTO’s behalf, its trainers, assessors or other staff
- A learner of the RTO.

Complaints may be made in relation to any of Training Ahead Australia’s Services and Activities such as:

- A third party providing services on the RTO’s behalf, its trainers, assessors, or other staff
- The application and enrolment process
- The quality of training and assessment provided
- Training and assessment matters, including student support, reasonable adjustment, and assessment requirements
- The actions of another student
- Marketing information
- The RTO, its Trainer and Assessors and other staff and the way someone has been treated

How is a Complaint different to a Concern?

Training Ahead Australia’s complaint process is a formal process in which Training Ahead Australia must respond to the complainant. The complaint process also leads to Training Ahead Australia’s appeals process.

A concern is something that is of interest, importance or connected to one or more of the above people, that they feel could be improved, as it is affecting their or others satisfaction with their involvement with Aakira. A concern is when a person is dissatisfied, but not to the extent of discontent or dissatisfaction that they want to raise a complaint. When this person or persons raise a concern, they want to raise the concern in an informal way, not through the complaints process or continuous improvement process.

In summary, a 'concern' is an issue of interest (because of its importance and effect), which is raised informally in order to improve or change a situation.

Principles of Resolutions

Training Ahead Australia is committed to developing a Policy and Procedure that ensures the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are adopted at every stage of the complaint process.

Throughout this Policy and Procedure, Training Ahead Australia ensures that complaints:

- Are responded to in a consistent and transparent manner
- Are at no cost to the individual
- Are responded to promptly, objectively, with sensitivity and confidentiality
- Are used as an opportunity to identify potential causes of the complaint and take actions to prevent the issues from reoccurring in addition to identifying areas for improvement
- Complaints will be resolved on an individual case by case basis

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- Nothing in this Policy and Procedure limits the rights of an individual to act under Australia’s Consumer Protection laws and it does not circumscribe an individual’s right to pursue other legal remedies
- Any complaints will not affect or bias the progress of the individual in any current or future training or services
- Training Ahead Australia will be maintaining the student’s enrolment while the complaint handling process is ongoing

Complaint Process

All complaints shall follow the following process:

- Complaints should be made as soon as possible after the incident occurring
- A complaint can be received by Training Ahead Australia in the following methods

Note: Individuals are not required to put a complaint in writing, as this would be a barrier to the student. Training Ahead Australia allows for a range of methods for Individuals to submit their complaint.

- **In person.** If an individual has a complaint, they are encouraged to speak immediately with their Trainer and Assessor or the Training Ahead Support Team to resolve the issue. Most complaints can be resolved immediately when they are addressed straight away. If you are coming in to discuss your complaint, it is advised to contact us before hand to ensure the appropriate staff member is available to discuss the complaint with you
- **Email.** Email the Training Ahead Support Team at bookings@trainingahead.com.au and you will receive a response via email or phone within 2 business days of your complaint being raised
- **Phone.** Phone 1300 355 900 and speak to the Training Ahead Support Team. After initial contact, you may be directed to another Team Member who is able to provide further assistance, who will return your call within 2 business days
- **A Complaints Form** – If the individual would prefer to complete a Complaints Form, they are welcome to. This is not a mandatory requirement
- When making a complaint, provide as much information as possible to enable Training Ahead Australia to investigate and determine an appropriate solution. This should include where possible:
 - The issue; who, what, when, where and why
 - Any evidence to support your complaint
 - Details of any steps you’ve already take to resolve the issues
 - Any suggestions about how the matter might be resolved
- On receipt of the complaint, Training Ahead Australia securely maintains records of all complaints and their outcomes in the following location:
 - Complaints Register
 - Student Management System (for complaints submitted via students)

Note: Only management and approved staff have access to the Student Management System and Complaints Register

- The Training Ahead Support Team will discuss the complaint with the complainant to resolve the complaint as soon as practicable
- The complaint will be acknowledged in writing and the outcome will be acknowledged in writing

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- If the complaint is unable to resolved immediately, the Training Ahead Australia Support Team will investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint as soon as possible
- If a complaint is unable to be resolved immediately or the complainant is dissatisfied with the result, the CEO is to be notified by Training Ahead Support Team, in either person, phone or email.
- If the complaints process fails to resolve the complaint or the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the complaint, the matter will be referred to an independent third-party for review, at the request of the individual

Timeframes for Resolution

Complaints will be finalised as soon as practicable unless there is a significant reason for the matter to take longer. Complaints, where possible, are to be resolved within 30 days of the initial application.

Where the complaint will take longer than 60 calendar days to finalise, Training Ahead Australia will inform the complainant in writing why more than 60 days are required. The complainant will also be provided with regular updates on the progress of the complaint.

Monitoring and Improvement

The complaints register will be reviewed at the Management Meetings with areas for improvement identified and acted upon (Refer to Continuous Improvement Policy).

By reviewing the Complaints Register, Training Ahead Australia Identifies potential causes of complaints, and takes appropriate corrective action to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.

Independent Third-Party Review

- Training Ahead Australia acknowledges the need for an appropriate independent party to be appointed to review a matter where this is requested by the complainant the internal processes have failed to resolve the matter
- Complainants can find an appropriate independent party by calling the Resolution Institute on 02 9251 3366 or by searching the following directory, according to their locality and area of concern: <https://www.resolution.institute/disputeresolverdirectory>
- Training Ahead Australia may also appoint the independent party to be involved in the resolution of a complaint where it is deemed necessary, or the complaint was unable to re-resolved
- Training Ahead Australia will provide complete cooperation with the external mediator investigating the complaint and will be bound by the recommendations arising out of this process
- The CEO will ensure that any recommendations made are implemented within twenty (20) days of being notified of the recommendations. The complainant will also be formally notified in writing of the outcome of the mediation
- The complainant may request a different Independent third-party, at the appellants own cost, unless a prior arrangement is made with Training Ahead Australia

Appeals Policy and Procedure

Refer to the Appeals Policy and Procedure in regard to the management of all Appeals.

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Appeals – Policy and Procedure

Purpose

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to outline Training Ahead Australia’s approach to managing appeals to assessment outcomes. This includes managing requests for a review of assessment decisions, including those made by third party training and assessment providers who provide services on behalf of Training Ahead Australia. It provides a clear process and is transparent approach for all appeals to be addressed in a fair, efficient, and confidential manner.

This Policy and Procedure refers to Standard 6 of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015

“RTOs must implement a transparent complaints and appeals policy that enables learners and clients to be informed of and to understand their rights and the RTO’s responsibilities under the Standards. Enterprise RTOs and volunteer associations that do not charge fees for the training and/or assessment and only provide training to employees or members are not required to maintain a separate complaints and appeals policy in relation to their training and assessment. These organisations must ensure, however, that their organisation’s complaints policy is sufficiently broad to cover the activities as an RTO.”

Policy Statement

Training Ahead Australia acknowledges that clients have the right to appeal an assessment decision, based on valid grounds for appeal.

Training Ahead Australia has provision for clients to appeal against assessment decisions, including those made by a third party partner.

Training Ahead Australia is committed to maintaining an effective, timely, fair, and equitable appeals handling system, which is easily accessible. We do this by:

- Having a culture that views appeal as an opportunity to improve our organisation and how it works
- Having an appeal handling system that is client/student focused
- Ensuring that appeals are resolved promptly, objectively and with sensitivity and in complete confidentiality
- Ensuring that the views of each appellant and respondent are respected and that any party to appeal is not discriminated against nor victimised
- Ensuring there is a consistent response to appeals

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Definitions

- **Appeal** means a request for a decision made by Training Ahead Australia to be reviewed
- **Appellant** refers to the person making the appeal
- **Complaint** means a person’s formal expression of dissatisfaction with any product or service provided by Training Ahead Australia
- **Complainant** means the ‘individual’ who has lodged the complaint
- **Individual** – For the purpose of this document, the term *individuals* refers to the scope including all students, clients, staff and other members of the community.
- **Services** means training, assessment, related educational and support services and/or activities related to the recruitment of prospective learners. It does not include services such as student counselling, mediation or ICT support
- **SRTOs** means the Standards for RTOs 2015 – refer definition of ‘Standards’
- **Standards** means the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 of the VET Quality Framework which can be accessed from www.asqa.gov.au
- **Third Party** means any party that provides services on behalf of the RTO but does not include a contract of employment between an RTO and its employee
- **Training Ahead Australia** – Throughout this document, the following abbreviations may be used: TAA, Training Ahead
- **Training Ahead Support Team** refers to a range of staff members at Training Ahead Australia including: Office Manager, Compliance Officer, Accounts Officer, RIWC Support Officer, Administration Officers, Training Coordinators, Management and Trainer and Assessors

Scope

The scope of this policy and procedure applies to:

- Prospective students
- All students (learner of RTO)
- Clients, including companies
- Suppliers
- Staff including Support Staff, Trainer and Assessors and all other staff members
- Other members of the community
- Workplace mentoring and supervisors

Procedure

What is this procedure used for?

This procedure details how to lodge an appeal and the appeal handling process.

Why is this procedure required?

As an RTO Training Ahead Australia needs to ensure that:

- Students have the opportunity to make an appeal
- That all appeals are taken seriously and the individual lodging the appeal is provided with a fair and equitable process without discrimination

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Responsibilities

Below lists the following responsibilities by Training Ahead Australia

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO has the following responsibilities:

- Development and implementation of the Appeals Policy and Procedure
- Complete reviews on Policy and Procedure
- Provide consultation with employees

Training Ahead Australia Support Staff:

Training Ahead Australia staff members have the following responsibilities:

- Follow the procedure
- Treat all appeals with fairness and without discrimination
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained throughout the process

When is the Procedure Reviewed?

This procedure is reviewed every 2 years

Location of Policy and Procedure

The policy and procedure are publicly available:

- On the website
- At the Training Ahead Australia office
- In the Student Handbook

Nature of Appeals

Training Ahead Australia has an Appeals Policy and Procedure to manage requests for a review of decisions including:

- Assessment decisions, made by Training Ahead Australia or a third party providing services on the Training Ahead Australia behalf

Principles of Appeal Resolutions

Training Ahead Australia is committed to developing a Policy and Procedure that ensures the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are adopted at every stage of the appeal process. Throughout this Policy and Procedure, Training Ahead Australia ensures that appeals:

- Are responded to in a consistent and transparent manner
- Initial appeals are at no cost to the individual
- Are responded to promptly, objectively, with sensitivity and confidentiality
- Are used as an opportunity to identify potential causes of the appeal and take actions to prevent the issues from reoccurring in addition to identifying areas for improvement
- Appeals will be resolved on an individual case by case basis
- Individuals have the right to lodge an appeal against a decision if they feel they were unfairly treated during an assessment and/or where they feel the decision is incorrect and they have grounds for an appeal
- Nothing in this Policy and Procedure limits the rights of an individual to take action under Australia's Consumer Protection laws and it does not circumscribe an individual's right to pursue other legal remedies
- Any appeals will not affect or bias the progress of the individual in any current or future training or services

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- Training Ahead Australia will maintain the student’s enrolment while the appeal handling process is ongoing
- In all cases, either the CEO or a Director will endorse the final conclusion
- Every appeal is heard by a suitably qualified independent Assessor or panel; who will be asked to make an independent decision

Appeal Process

All appeals shall follow the following process:

Prior to Lodging an Appeal

In the first instance, individuals should approach the Assessor of the assessment task regarding the assessment process/outcome and their concerns. All individuals have available to them a second attempt at an assessment task prior to seeking appeal.

Lodging an Appeal

- Appeals should be made as soon as possible
- An appeal can be received by Training Ahead Australia in the following methods
 Note: Individuals are not required to put an appeal in writing, as this would be a barrier to the student. Training Ahead Australia allows for a range of methods for Individuals to submit their appeal.
 - **In person.** If an individual has an appeal, they are encouraged to speak immediately with their Trainer and Assessor or the Training Ahead Support Team to resolve the appeal. If you are coming in to discuss your appeal, it is advised to contact us before hand to ensure the appropriate staff member is available to discuss the appeal with you
 - **Email.** Email the Training Ahead Support Team at bookings@trainingahead.com.au and you will receive a response via email or phone within 2 business days of your appeal being received
 - **Phone.** Phone 1300 355 900 and speak to the Training Ahead Support Team. After initial contact, you may be directed to another Team Member who is able to provide further assistance, who will return your call within 2 business days
- When making an appeal, provide as much information as possible to enable Training Ahead Australia to investigate and determine an appropriate solution
- On receipt of the appeal, Training Ahead Australia securely maintains records of all appeals and their outcomes in the following location:
 - Appeals Register
 - Student Management System (for appeals submitted via students)

Note: Only management and approved staff have access to the Student Management System and Appeals Register

- The Training Ahead Support Team will discuss the appeal with the appellant to resolve the appeal as soon as practicable
- The appeal will be acknowledged in writing
- If the appeal is unable to resolved immediately, the Training Ahead Australia Support Team will review and attempt to resolve the appeal as soon as possible
- If the appeal process fails to resolve the appeal or the appellant is not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, the matter will be referred to an independent third-party for review, at the request of the individual

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Timeframes for Resolution

Appeals will be finalised as soon as practicable unless there is a significant reason for the matter to take longer. Appeals, where possible, are to be resolved within 30 days of the initial application.

The appellant will be advised in writing on the outcome of their appeal, within 7 days of the resolution.

Where the appeal will take longer than 60 calendar days to finalise, Training Ahead Australia will inform the appellant in writing why more than 60 days are required. The appellant will also be provided with regular updates on the progress of the appeal.

Monitoring and Improvement

The Appeals Register will be reviewed at the Management Meetings with areas for improvement identified and acted upon (Refer to Continuous Improvement Policy).

By reviewing the Appeals Register, Training Ahead Australia Identifies potential causes of appeals and takes appropriate corrective action to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.

Independent Third-Party Review

- Training Ahead Australia acknowledges the need for an appropriate independent party to be appointed to review a matter where this is requested by the appellant the internal processes have failed to resolve the matter
- Appellants can find an appropriate independent party by calling the Resolution Institute on 02 9251 3366 or by searching the following directory, according to their locality and area of concern: <https://www.resolution.institute/disputeresolverdirectory>
- Training Ahead Australia may also appoint the independent party to be involved in the resolution of an appeal where it is deemed necessary or the appeal was unable to re-resolved
- Training Ahead Australia will provide complete cooperation with the external mediator investigating the appeal and will be bound by the recommendations arising out of this process
- The CEO will ensure that any recommendations made are implemented within twenty (20) days of being notified of the recommendations. The appellant will also be formally notified in writing of the outcome of the mediation
- The appellant may request a different Independent third-party, at the appellants own cost, unless a prior arrangement is made with Training Ahead Australia

Complaints Policy and Procedure

Refer to the Complaints Policy and Procedure in regard to the management of all complaints.

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Occupational Health and Safety Policy

- Training Ahead Australia aim is at all times to protect the health and safety of all persons within the training environment throughout its operations.
- All persons are asked to contact the Manager directly if there are any complaints or concerns relating to OHS.
- Training Ahead Australia training/assessment is conducted in the client’s workplace or an approved training facility.
- At the beginning of each program the facilitator will advise participants of the OHS requirements as per site venue regulations.
- Trainer/supervisors will complete risk assessment of training facility and facility resources prior, during and after each program.
- Training Ahead Australia will seek advice from employers and/or supervisors while conducting training/assessing at their venue.
- Training Ahead Australia trainer/assessor is responsible for the reporting of any incident that occurred during the provision of services regardless of the venue of delivery.

Fees, Charges & Refunds

Training Ahead Australia undertakes to provide course services as outlined in the *Course Fees Agreement*.

Fees and Charges

Prior to enrolment, Training Ahead Australia notifies clients of a range of fee information in a variety of ways; on the Training Ahead website, course information guides for short courses and course fee agreements as a part of training plans for courses that are not listed publicly. This fee information includes:

- All fees payable to Training Ahead Australia, clearly describing all costs involved with the course;
- How and when fees must be paid;
- How to request a refund;
- The conditions under which a refund would be provided; and
- The student’s rights as a consumer, including but not limited to any statutory cooling-off period, if one applies.

Training Ahead Australia publishes all fees and charges. Training Ahead Australia details its fees and charges including, but not limited to:

- Compulsory fees;
- Additional charges or co-contributions;
- Application process for exemptions and concessions;
- Methods of collection; and
- Refund information

Where a student is being enrolled under any loan or delayed payment arrangement, the terms of the arrangement are clearly stated, including:

- Any debt that may be incurred;
- When repayment is required;
- Under what conditions; and
- Any associated fees, indexation or interest.

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Information provided to clients is consistent with Training Ahead Australia course services arrangements. Training Ahead Australia ensures all fees and charges related to the provision of training services are outlined to all parties prior to enrolment. Information provided is clear, accurate and sufficient to enable an informed choice.

Training Ahead Australia fees are designed to minimise the impact of fees and charges, through flexible payment plans, dependent on service type. Training Ahead Australia is committed to cost efficiency for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications and will at all times seek to complete RPL applications at the same cost or lower than normal course delivery costs.

Course Tuition Fees

All fees are published and available on the Training Ahead Australia website. Published fees information includes fee rates for each training product, including full fee for service, subsidised, concession and exemption fee rates for each course and relevant government jurisdiction.

Training Ahead Australia charges students (and/or their employer or school) the mandatory or at least the minimum course tuition fee in accordance with the relevant specific jurisdictional training initiative requirements.

Incidental Expenses Resource Other Fees

There may be some instances of a personal cost to a Student over and above the general course fees. These costs include:

- Essential equipment and other items that the student has the choice of acquiring from Training Ahead Australia, or from a supplier other, that become the physical property of the student, are retained by the student on completion of training, and are not consumed during the training. Example: tool kit.
- An optional charge for an item that is not essential for the Student to complete the training.
- An optional charge for an alternative form of access to an item or service that is an essential component of the training but is otherwise made readily available at no additional fee by Training Ahead Australia.
- Field trips and food, transport and accommodation costs associated with the provision of field trips that form part of the training.
- Any textbook the Student requires for their course that is retained by the Student after completion of the qualification.

Other fees may be charged for alternate forms of access to essential goods or services that are otherwise made available by Training Ahead Australia at no additional cost, such as course reading material that is available free of charge through another source.

These fees do not exceed cost recovery. Any increases to the resource fee must not exceed a Perth consumer price index (CPI) increase of 1%. Where appropriate, accountable officers may apply a resource fee to new or existing courses where they have not previously applied.

For each qualification, Training Ahead Australia publishes on its website any additional costs that a Student will or may incur and ensure that Students are aware of these costs prior to enrolment.

Training Ahead Australia provides the student or employer (where relevant) with receipts for any monies collected by Training Ahead Australia for incidental expenses. Training Ahead Australia retains copies of receipts issued.

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Services Not Incurring Fees

Training Ahead Australia does not charge Students separate fees for goods and services that are considered an RTO’s responsibility.

For example, Training Ahead Australia does not charge fees for costs associated with goods and services such as enrolment, records archiving, the purchase or depreciation of equipment or general infrastructure, IT support, and access to general learning and personal support services such as mentoring, study skills programs and career guidance. Separate fees may not be charged for negotiating training plans or determining employers’ capacity to train.

Fees are not charged for any items that will be retained by the student as their own personal property, such as tools, protective clothing or textbooks. Such items are purchased separately by the student.

Embedded Qualifications

In some cases, a qualification may include all the units of competency required to complete a lower level qualification, an ‘embedded’ qualification. The student may wish to be issued with a testamur for the lower level qualification in addition to the higher one they enrolled in.

In this case the student has paid the fee for the higher level qualification. Training Ahead Australia does not charge an administrative fee to produce the additional testamur.

Repeated Assessment

Students are able to attempt assessment to complete a unit of competency on three (3) occasions within their initial course fee. Training Ahead Australia does not levy additional fees for these attempts.

Notifications and Guarantee

Training Ahead Australia notifies clients as soon as practical after any change occurs that may affect the course services being provided. This includes changes of significant impact including:

- Any changes to, or new Third Party arrangements Training Ahead Australia puts in place, for the delivery of services to those specific clients; and
- A change in ownership of the RTO entity should that occur.

Training Ahead Australia guarantees that no additional charges will be imposed during the period covered by the Course Fees Agreement.

All students are offered the option to pay fees across multiple instalments. Where an employer pays fees this is typically paid in one instalment.

Third Party Fee Arrangements

Training Ahead Australia Third Party representatives do not collect fees on behalf of Training Ahead Australia.

Training Ahead Australia Fee Protection

Training Ahead Australia does not collect more than \$1,500 in prepaid fees (fees in advance) from Students at any time for any course service. As such, no further fee protection arrangements are required. The requirements that apply to prepaid fees include all fees that a Student is required to pay, including enrolment fees, tuition fees, materials fees and any other fee component that is a mandatory payment for the course.

Training Ahead Australia is required to protect prepaid fees from individual Students and prospective Students. These requirements do not apply for employers for example, where an employer engage Training Ahead Australia to provide training and/or assessment to its personnel.

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Payment of Fees

Enrolment is not considered complete until statutory and RTO enrolment-based fees and charges are paid, deferred payment arrangements have been made or fees and charges have been waived.

On enrolment, Students must take up one of the following payment options:

- Pay the full amount of fees and charges;
- Present an authority from an employer to invoice that employer for the Student’s fees and charges;
- Pay the fee by instalment; or
- Make application on the grounds of severe financial hardship for fees and charges to be waived for courses below diploma level.

Students who fail to take up one of the above options are not enrolled. Apprentices and trainees are treated the same as other students and are legally liable to pay fees.

Payment Instalments

Students are given a minimum of four weeks from the commencement of the unit to finalise payment when paying by instalment.

Where approval has been given for a student to pay by instalment, Training Ahead Australia is responsible for the collection of outstanding fees and charges. Fair and adequate recovery procedures are in place to manage the collection and recovery of monies.

Students who have fallen behind in their payments are not enrolled in additional units unless appropriate arrangements, agreed to by both the student and present a signed authority from an employer to invoice that employer for the student’s fees and charges, have been put in place to pay the amount outstanding.

Recovery of Outstanding Student Fees

Training Ahead Australia collects all fees to be paid by the student by the time they complete their subsidised training. Training Ahead Australia retains student fees that it collects.

Training Ahead Australia has a robust process for the recovery of outstanding fees from a student, involving:

- Multiple fee statement reminders progressively via email and phone contact;
- Suspension of enrolment due to non-payment of fees; and
- Lodgement of fees for collection in cases of extended non-payment.

The failure by a student to pay a fee owing is considered to be a breach of discipline and can lead to penalties being imposed on the student under Discipline arrangements.

One of the penalties that may be considered is the delay in release of results or testamur(s) as relevant to the student until all fees are recovered, depending on the contractual requirements in each jurisdiction. For significant student debts, formal debt collection actions may also be undertaken.

Refunds

From time to time a refund may be required for specific student cases. Refund information and arrangements are made available to clients prior to enrolment through:

- Training Ahead Australia’s Student Handbook;
- Training Ahead Australia website; and
- As a part of the Agreement completed prior to enrolment.

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Training Ahead Australia has publicly published on its website and makes students aware of this Refund policy before enrolment.

Enrolment Fees

Enrolment fees paid for any course service cover administrative components of service provision and are often mandatory fees in the cases of publicly funded course services. In these cases, enrolment fees are non-refundable once the course service has commenced.

Training Ahead Australia’s general refund arrangements for all course services, including the provision of refunds to employers/industry for additional charges paid beyond the student and government contributions, are as follows:

Refund Arrangements	
Training Ahead Australia is unable to commence the course for which the original enrolment and payment has been made.	Full refund of all fees levied or placement in an appropriate alternate course, as per the clients’ preference.
Student withdrawal before course commencement and/or the ‘withdrawal with no penalty cut-off date.’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full refund of course tuition fees paid. • A full refund of any resource fee if the course is a Diploma or Advanced Diploma course; or • 50% of any resource fee if the course is below Diploma level.
Recognition of Prior Learning and/or Credit Transfer has been granted.	Pro-rata refund paid based on a calculation of the number of units that have received RPL or CT results and the fees paid to date.
Training Ahead Australia is unable to continue to deliver the course as agreed.	Pro rata refund of unit tuition fees levied for units of competency not completed, or placement in an appropriate alternate course, as per the clients’ preference.
Student withdrawal after unit commencement.	No refund payable for units of competency beyond the ‘withdrawal with no penalty cut-off date.’

The same refund arrangements as outlined above apply to the provision of refunds to employers/industry for any additional charges that had been paid beyond the student and government contributions.

Refunds Due to Non-Provision of Services

All fees levied are refunded in full if Training Ahead Australia is unable to commence the course service as agreed due to a lack of minimum Student numbers, a course or unit is cancelled or re-scheduled to a time unsuitable to the student, a student is not given a place due to maximum number of places being reached, where a student withdraws from training not of their own accord, or any unforeseen circumstances.

A full refund of relevant unit tuition fees will be paid at any time during delivery if a class is cancelled because of declining student numbers, no available training personnel, Training Ahead Australia is no longer approved to deliver government supported courses in the relevant jurisdiction, where Training Ahead Australia closes or due to other circumstances caused by Training Ahead Australia.

Where there is an instance of Training Ahead Australia default due to unforeseen circumstances, Training Ahead Australia will endeavour arrange for another course, or part of a course, to be provided to Students at no (extra) cost to the student as an alternative to a refund. Where the student agrees to this arrangement, Training Ahead Australia will not refund fees paid.

Refunds Due to Request Hardship Application

Students may have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from attending scheduled course dates that may include but are not limited to illness, family or personal matters, or other reasons that are out of the ordinary.

Where delivery has commenced, course fees have been paid and an employer or Student believes a special circumstance refund is warranted, the client may apply for a refund by writing to the RTO Manager via email at:

Training Ahead Australia
 Dannielle Walz | M: 0437 653 328 | E: dannielle@trainingahead.com.au

Training Ahead Australia generally approves a pro rata refund of fees and charges at any time during the course of delivery if Students withdraw for reasons of personal circumstances beyond their control, such as

- Serious illness resulting in extended absence from course activities;
- Injury or disability that prevents the Student from completing their course; or
- Other exceptional reasons at the discretion of Training Ahead Australia.

In all cases, relevant documentary evidence (for example, medical certificate) is required. Details of all refunds are retained for audit purposes.

This decision of assessing the extenuating circumstances rests with the RTO Manager and shall be assessed on a case by case situation.

All refund applications are assessed and processed within fourteen (14) days of the application being placed. The applicant will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application, including reasons for refusing a refund in cases where this occurs.

Training Ahead Australia does not provide a refund in cases where a student has withdrawn from a qualification but has completed all the requirements for a lower level qualification, which attracted a lower student fee.

All clients have the right to appeal a refund decision made by Training Ahead Australia. Please refer to the Complaints section for further information.

Third Party Refunds

If course services fees have been paid to Training Ahead Australia by a Third Party, any refunds payable will be remitted to that Third Party.

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Issuing AQF Certificate Documentation

- Qualifications, Certificates, and Statement/s of Attainment will be issued within 30 calendar days of successful completion of the program and payment has been made in full
- All Training Ahead Australia documents meet the AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy for the VET sector
- Qualifications will meet the requirements of the training package/product and relevant legislation
- Training Ahead Australia will hold the qualification until all fees have been paid
- Training Ahead Australia will only issue the original qualification to the participant
- Training Ahead Australia does not issue any copies of qualifications at time of issuance
- As negotiated, and permission signed on enrolment, electronic copies of qualifications may be issued to the employer (and in some instances Job Network Provider)
- Training Ahead Australia will retain records of AQF certification documentation issued for a period of 30 years

Reissuance of Qualification/s

Applicants will be required to complete an Application form and provide photographic identification. This may take up to 2 weeks from completion of your application.

Training Ahead Australia does not reissue superseded qualifications. Training Ahead Australia will verify if the student has completed the superseded qualification only. Please protect your qualification.

Participant Support Services

If you have special learning or other needs e.g. dietary, cultural, you should in the first instance discuss them with your trainer.

Training Ahead Australia are concerned with the welfare and comfort of our participants. Our trainers are required to respond to, and attempt to, alleviate any signs of distress or discomfort. If you are suffering discomfort or distress bring it to the trainer’s attention. If the trainer is unable to assist, he/she will refer you to the relevant support service.

If you feel you are at risk of, and/or suffering a medical emergency, advise the trainer immediately who will take the appropriate action. Training Ahead Australia staff WILL call an ambulance if they feel you are at risk, and then contact your emergency contact listed on your enrolment form.

If you believe that your needs are not being met, we invite you to contact us for a confidential discussion.

The Training Ahead Australia Student Study Guide is available to all students to assist them manage their training commitments.

Access and Equity Policy

Training Ahead Australia will make every effort and attempt to meet the needs of all individuals through the integration of access and equity guidelines. Training Ahead Australia ensure that equity principles for all people are implemented through the fair allocation of resources and the right to equality of opportunity without discrimination.

Access and equity issues are considered during training package/product development and in training delivery and assessment. This policy applies to the staff and course participants of Training Ahead Australia.

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Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Discrimination and harassment can be physical, verbal or written. Discrimination and harassment apply to any relationship between employee, employer, or contractor. It also applies to other employees, peers, and subordinates. If for any reason you believe you are a victim of discrimination or harassment it is important that you report to your trainer, or if preferred, a member of the Training Ahead Australia administration team and subsequent manager.

A report of the facts will be made in complete confidence. If it has been established that an offence has been committed it may result in the immediate removal of the offender and possible police action.

Discrimination and harassment in the workplace can take many forms. It is an offence to discriminate or harass any individual on the basis of any of the following:

- Age – being regarded as too young or too old
- Breastfeeding - being asked not to feed, or to use other facilities to breast or bottle feed
- Family responsibility – having a caring role
- Family status – being a relative of a particular person or having the status of being a particular relative
- Gender history – having reassigned gender as certified under the Gender Reassignment Act 2000
- Impairment – having a physical, intellectual, or mental disability that is current, past, or imputed
- Marital status – being single, married, a de facto partner, separated, divorced, or widowed
- Political conviction – including a lack of conviction
- Pregnancy – being pregnant, having a characteristic associated with pregnancy or generally imputed to persons who are pregnant.
- Race – including colour, ethnicity or national origin or descent
- Racial harassment – including offensive or insulting comments or other behaviour about a person’s colour, ethnic background, or origin
- Religious conviction – including a lack of conviction
- Sex – being a man or woman
- Sexual harassment – including unwelcome requests for sexual favours, touching and comments about a person’s private relationships
- Sexual orientation – including heterosexuality, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality or assumed sexual orientation.
- Spent conviction - the Commission can investigate discrimination on the ground of spent convictions under the Spent Convictions Act 1988.

Enrolment Procedure

- Participants will be enrolled responsibly and ethically at all times and enrolment will be consistent with training package/product requirements. Training Ahead Australia are committed to non-discrimination in any form when recruiting and selecting and at all times complies with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Complete the enrolment form making sure to read and sign the declaration/s.
 - Participants wanting to enrol under a funded model will be required to meet the eligibility assessment of the Government as specified by the funding program policy documents.
 - Training Ahead Australia will complete the eligibility assessment using the government platform.
- Confirmation of identification must also be supplied.
 - Additional documentation may be required to meet funding eligibility requirements. This will be specified on the actual application form.

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- Return to all documentation to Training Ahead Australia.
- Training Ahead Australia will contact you to organise pre-course interview, supply materials and training dates, etc

Refusal or Cancellation of Enrolment

Training Ahead Australia may refuse or cancel enrolment at its discretion. Some reasons include but are not limited to:

- Failure to fulfil reasonable assessment requirements
- Not being responsible for own assessments
- Misconduct as deemed by the trainer and/or assessor
- Endangering the life of other/s or self
- Visa cancellation
- Fraudulent application
- Falsification of documents
- Medical condition/s
- Non-compliance with safety directions
- Other reasons as outlined by Training Ahead Australia’s policies and procedures

Where this is deemed necessary by Training Ahead Australia, the individual involved will receive written communication explaining why the action had been taken. A mediation session may be conducted as required and deemed appropriate by the Director – each situation being actioned based on the factors of the individual situation.

Misconduct may include:

- wilfully obstructing or disrupting any activity in the workplace and/or training venue
- not abiding by any regulation or rule of the organisation/business where training is taking place
- wilfully carrying out behaviour that may be detrimental to the health and safety of themselves, other participants, or staff
- any form of harassment, whether based on gender, race, age, sexual preference or religious belief
- wilfully damaging or wrongfully dealing with any Training Ahead Australia and/or client’s property
- assaulting or attempting to assault any person within the training program
- drunken and/or disorderly behaviour and/or under the influence of prohibited drugs and/or substances during the program
- cheating and plagiarism
- making a false representation as to a matter affecting student status, or possession of prohibited or dangerous articles.

Trainer Withdrawal from A Program

If a trainer is forced to withdraw from a program for any reason [health, family, emergency] and there is no other trainer available, the participant/s will be refunded all fees paid and be issued with a Statement of Attainment for any units completed and given all assessment records to date. If acceptable to participants and the workplace, other training alternatives and schedules may be negotiated instead of a refund to complete the training agreement.

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Privacy and Confidentiality

Training Ahead Australia and its employees comply with the relevant Legislation. Information collected on participants is only used for the purpose of delivery of our services.

Use and disclosure of personal information

Sensitive personal information will only be collected as required from participants, is treated as confidential within Training Ahead Australia and is used for the purpose for which it was collected or for a related purpose. This includes:

- providing the training services
- informing participants about additional or upcoming courses available
- Gathering feedback from participants regarding training for Training Ahead Australia market analysis and course development.

Training Ahead Australia will not disclose sensitive personal information to other third parties without written permission or instruction from the participant unless required by Law to do so. If you wish to authorise a third party to access your records, please contact a member of Training Ahead Australia administration team.

Information about participants from a third party

Training Ahead Australia may need to source or verify information about participants from a third party (employment related). Wherever possible this will be done with the participant’s authorisation, or where this is not possible, Training Ahead Australia will attempt to inform the participant when such information is collected.

Receiving marketing information

With participant’s consent, Training Ahead Australia may provide them with information from time to time about new programs available to them. Participant’s consent to this will be implied unless they notify Training Ahead Australia that they do not wish to receive this information. You may do this by advising a member of the Training Ahead Australia administration team that you do not wish to receive marketing information or filling out the appropriate section on the enrolment form.

Security of Personal Information

In line with new technology, Training Ahead Australia continually improves the security of personal information collected. Training Ahead Australia take all reasonable steps to protect the personal information of participants by:

- securing all files with personal information in locked metal cabinets and in the Student Information Management System
- only providing staff with access to personal information
- destroying information after the required retention period
- ensuring computer security at all times by the use of firewalls and up to date virus software
- password access to the computer system
- audits of the computer systems
- not releasing information to third parties without prior written authorisation.

Rights to access information

Under the Privacy Act, participants have the right to access personal information held about them. If the information is incorrect, they have the right to request Training Ahead Australia amend the information. To access this information participants are required to contact a member of Training Ahead

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Australia administration team. The Training Ahead team member must verify the candidate’s identity through either presentation of appropriate identification or answering a series of specific targeted questions. These questions can include the following:

- Full Name
- Participant Number
- Date of Birth
- Participants RIW number
- Address
- Phone Number

There may then be a waiting period of up to 21 days before access can be granted. The Director is responsible for the processing of all requests for participant information from participants. The Director may also, if deemed necessary, further ensure the candidate’s identification through a signature comparison with their enrolment form.

Authorised Third Parties

Participants may nominate third parties they wish to access their records. This process is monitored by the Director who ensures the security details for the third party obtained.

Personnel who receive a request for information from a person claiming to be authorised must verify this authorisation and any related conditions.

Additional Information

Legislative Requirements

- Training Ahead Australia is committed to high standards in the provision of training and/or assessment.
- Training Ahead Australia complies with all legislative requirements of State and Federal Government
- Training Ahead Australia is also required to comply with the Standards for Registered Training Organisation (RTOs) 2015, Australian Skills Quality Authority regulations/direction, and the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Quality Management Focus

Training Ahead Australia has a commitment to best practice and quality service provision, with a focus on a continuous improvement. Training Ahead Australia values feedback from candidates, tutors, and industry representatives. Where possible, Training Ahead Australia utilises this information for continuous improvement. Feedback is gathered throughout training and through formal processes such as the Quality Indicator Survey you will receive following the issuing of your qualification.

Marketing and Advertising Policy

Training Ahead Australia markets training services with integrity, accuracy and professionalism, without vague and ambiguous statements. When providing information, no false or misleading comparisons are made with other Training Providers. Training Ahead Australia’s marketing strategies will not contravene legislation.

Further Enquiries

This Participant Handbook has endeavoured to give you the necessary information to make an informed decision on enrolment. If you require further clarification of the information herein please direct your enquiries to 1300 355 900 or bookings@trainingahead.com.au

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