

Mr David Simmons
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Dear Mr Simmons

I refer to your email dated 16 January 2017 to Right to Know regarding Pre-qualified Supplier (PQS) funding arrangements in Queensland, as well as to your subsequent email of 6 February 2017 regarding FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways.

To become a PQS in Queensland in 2016-17, a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) must be able to demonstrate a history of delivery to Queensland students, as well as achievement of outcomes for Queensland students and industry, in the vocational qualifications or industry area nominated for delivery.

The key eligibility criterion for becoming a PQS is listed on the Department of Education and Training's (DET's) website, along with other resources such as the PQS Application Guide. In particular, I draw your attention to the relevant extracts from the DET website and application guide.

Eligibility requirements

RTOs must meet the following requirements to be eligible to apply for PQS status:

- be registered to deliver full qualifications in Queensland under its scope of registration for the qualifications it wishes to deliver under a funded program in Queensland
- have at least one vocational qualification on its scope of registration listed on the Queensland Training Subsidies List

How are applications evaluated?

DET assesses applications submitted for PQS status based on the following:

- evidence of 12 month trading history in Queensland (i.e. evidence of delivery of training and assessment services in Queensland for a minimum of 12 months prior to applying for PQS status)
- considering training data and history of the RTO's previous training and assessment activity in Queensland and nationally
- evidence of employer/industry links in Queensland

(Source: "Become a PQS" website - <https://training.qld.gov.au/providers/pqs/become>)

PQS Application Guide

An organisation's history and experience in delivering training and assessment services in Queensland will be considered in the PQS assessment process. As part of the application process, RTOs will be asked to provide AVETMISS data, as well as information on a separate form about training delivered in Queensland for at least the previous 12 months (e.g. qualifications delivered, number of students, locations, employer partnerships etc.).

(Source: Q4.2 of the "Pre-qualified supplier application guide for registered training organisations" document)

PQS applicants will be required to provide contact details of employers that your organisation is currently negotiating with to deliver training or about training and assessment services in the last 12 months (e.g. qualifications delivered, number of students, locations, employer partnerships etc.).

(Source: Q4.6 of the "Pre-Qualified supplier application guide for registered training organisations" document)

(<https://training.qld.gov.au/site/providers/Documents/funded/userchoice/become/pre-qualified-supplier-apply-guide.pdf>)

The documents referred to in the PQS Application, along with resources regarding the PQS application and assessment process, outline that DET takes into consideration a range of matters when determining whether a RTO is accepted as a PQS in 2016–17.

The eligibility criteria listed on DET's website are threshold criteria. Applicant organisations that meet these criteria will then have their applications evaluated, with consideration given to the various items referred to under the "How are applications evaluated?" heading that appears in both the PQS Fact Sheet and on DET's website. These items are a guide and are also considered in the context of broader VET sector operations, such as the number of existing PQS already approved to deliver services.

As outlined in the Queensland Government's *2016–17 Annual VET Investment Plan*, the primary focus for 2016–17 is to enhance the quality of service provision in the vocational education and training (VET) sector. A key measure to promote quality training services and the effectiveness of government investment in VET is to increase the likelihood of an employment outcome by encouraging RTOs to demonstrate industry relationships and a proven track record in the targeted industries.

To meet the Government's expectations, the PQS assessment process therefore considers the delivery history of the RTO in addition to other factors such as prior contractual performance, financial viability and compliance history.

In relation to your other query regarding FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and DET's broadcast to existing PQS of 2 December 2016, the Certificate 3 Guarantee program supports eligible individuals to complete their first post-school certificate III qualification.

As outlined in the *2016–17 Annual VET Investment Plan*, the target group for the Queensland Government's investment in foundation skills is VET learners who require additional assistance to build their language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills to the level required for successful completion of a vocational qualification.

The Queensland Government's targeted approach to foundation skills investment reflects that the Australian Government is primarily responsible for supporting the development of basic LLN proficiency in the community, through the Adult Migrant Education Program and Skills for Education and Employment program. As outlined in DET's program policies, learners who meet the eligibility requirements for these foundation skills programs should be directed to the appropriate program.

You can request access to documents held by DET by filling out the [Queensland Government's online Right to Information Application Form](#). It will be forwarded automatically to the Legal and Administrative Law Branch in DET for processing. Applications lodged under the RTI Act carry an application fee of \$46.40.

Alternatively I have attached the application form that can be forwarded to:

Manager, Information Release
Legal & Administrative Law Branch
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 15033
City East QLD 4002
Email: rti@dete.qld.gov.au

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



GAVIN LECKENBY
Executive Director
Skills Investment and Market Strategy

21/3/2017

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