

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PILOT PROJECT

The Victorian Government is piloting Independent Assessments in twenty Victorian apprenticeship and traineeship occupations. An Independent Assessment is where the assessment is developed and delivered independently of the training provider that has been delivering the off-the-job training to the apprentice or trainee. Currently, independent assessments are used in the licensed trades of plumber and electrician, but do not apply to apprenticeships and traineeships more broadly.

Independent Assessments are part of the Government's \$43.8 million (over four years) Quality apprenticeships to drive jobs opportunities in the modern economy initiative which also includes the introduction of trade papers and updated learning materials. The aim is to improve employer confidence in the quality of the apprenticeship and traineeship system, as recommended by the Victorian Skills Commissioner's Apprenticeship and Traineeship Taskforce.

DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF THE ASSESSMENTS

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is one of the apprenticeships/traineeships selected for Independent Assessment. The assessments are being rolled out progressively across four years with the assessment for the Certificate III Traineeship in ECEC currently under development.

The development of the Independent Assessment for ECEC is being closely overseen by a project committee including employers and other industry stakeholders. The committee is providing input to help determine the relevant skills to be assessed and the overall effectiveness of the assessments. Consultation will also occur with stakeholders more broadly through the development and delivery process.

VETASSESS has been contracted to develop and deliver these Independent Assessments. VETASSESS is a Victorian government business enterprise with a long history in providing a range of assessment services. They have developed a draft assessment which has been validated by the project committee.

NEXT STEPS

The ECEC assessment now needs to be trialled with a small group of completing or recently completed trainees. Feedback from the trial will be used to further refine the assessment prior to piloting with completing or recently completed trainees.

Your assistance is sought to help trial the assessment by allowing VETASSESS to assess some of your completed or near completed trainees.

Further information on the nature of the assessment is provided below.

Decision area	Response
Nature of the assessment	It is proposed the assessment will comprise online knowledge questions, followed by a face-to-face assessment event of approximately 3 hours duration held at the candidate's workplace.
Content to be assessed	Independent Assessment criteria have been drafted, in consultation with industry representatives and within the scope of skills/knowledge covered in the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.
Assessment emphasis	Industry has indicated that the assessment emphasis should be on the practical demonstration of skills, together with assessment of the candidate's theory knowledge.
Format	<p>Before the practical assessment, the candidate will complete an online assessment of their theory knowledge.</p> <p>It is expected the practical assessment duration will be around 3 hours. Depending on when the observation occurs (to be negotiated with the candidate and workplace), the assessment is likely to cover several of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drop-off - Setting up a room - Provision of care and education to children - A mealtime - Rest and play times - Collection of the child - Transition between these activities. <p>This format is expected to gather evidence (which meets the Rules of Evidence) enabling the assessor to make the assessment decision.</p>
Approach	<p>Because the practical assessment is proposed to occur in the candidate's workplace, flexibility must be included in the assessment approach based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age range of children being cared for - Time at which the assessment occurs - Unpredictable and unexpected events that occur at the assessment. <p>The balance of assessors to candidates is to be one-to-one based on current conversations with industry stakeholders.</p>

If you have any questions or would like to participate in the trial please contact:

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