

Overview of Victorian Skills First Government Funding

The *Skills First* program is a Victorian State Government scheme that provides access to government subsidised training to eligible individuals for specific courses. If you are eligible for a subsidised training place, the government will contribute to the cost of your training.

At the time of enrolment, we assess your eligibility for a *Skills First* government subsidised training place and collect supporting evidence from you. Our Enrolment Officers explain the below information in more detail at each course information/enrolment session.

It is important that you understand that accessing your *Skills First* entitlement may impact your ability to access further government subsidised training.

HOW DO WE ASSESS YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR SKILLS FIRST SUBSIDISED TRAINING IN 2024?

To be eligible for Victorian Government subsidised training, we accept any of these documents as proof of your Citizenship or Permanent residence. Our Enrolment Officer makes the final determination of your eligibility for government funding based on all information you provide. You will need to supply us with an **original OR certified copy** of the below identification documents. **Digital Medicare cards** must be viewed via your Medicare digital wallet app or MyGOV app on your mobile device.

<p>If you are an Australian citizen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Australian birth certificate (not birth extract); or b) current Australian passport; or c) Australian citizenship certificate; or d) current green Medicare card; or e) Australian certificate of registration by descent
<p>If you are a New Zealand citizen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) current New Zealand passport; or b) New Zealand birth certificate; or c) New Zealand citizenship certificate; or d) current green Medicare card
<p>If you are a Permanent Resident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) current green Medicare card; or b) formal confirmation of permanent residence granted by the Department of Home Affairs AND your foreign passport or ImmiCard
<p>If you are an Asylum Seeker you are exempt from being an Australian citizen or permanent resident.</p> <p>You can be eligible for government funding if you meet one of these criteria:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) you have been referred to training via the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre or the Australian Red Cross Victims of Human Trafficking Program and have a 'REFERRAL TO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED TRAINING – Asylum Seekers' form; or b) you hold a BRIDGING VISA and HAVE LODGED AN APPLICATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. for a Humanitarian, Protection or Refugee visa see list below or ii. under s.417 or s.48b of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) which is yet to be determined'; or c) you hold, or if you are the dependant of an individual who holds a valid Humanitarian, Protection or Refugee Visa see list below <p>AND YOUR VISA STATES that you have unlimited study rights, and unlimited work rights <u>if</u> the course you are enrolling in has placement.</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed green; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Special Humanitarian (subclass 202) 2. Humanitarian (Temporary) (subclass 449) 3. Protection visa (subclass 866) 4. Refugee visa 200 Refugee 5. Refugee visa 201 In-country Special Humanitarian 6. Refugee visa 203 Emergency Rescue 7. Refugee visa 204 Woman at Risk 8. Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851) 9. Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790) 10. Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) 11. Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785) </div>

SKILLS FIRST ABORIGINAL ACCESS FEE WAIVER = \$0 TUITION FEE

If you self-identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, you **do not pay a Tuition Fee** for ANY level qualification or skill set you choose to enrol in. You still have to pay the non-refundable course Administration Fee.

CONCESSION TUITION FEES

Concession Tuition Fees apply ONLY to Certificate IV level qualifications or lower.

At the time of enrolment, if you are eligible for Skills First government funding and hold a valid dated concession card, you will pay the concession Tuition Fee rate for that course.

Refer to the [2024 Course fees & charges](#) on our website to see the concession tuition fees for each of our courses.

CONCESSION CARDS WE ACCEPT

If you hold a valid dated concession card, we accept a *Health Care Card* or *Pensioner Concession Card* or *Veteran's Gold Card*.

If you are the dependant spouse OR the dependent child of the card holder you are also entitled to the concession tuition fee rate. We do not keep a copy of your card on file.

Digital Concession cards must be viewed in the Centrelink Digital Wallet APP on your mobile device.

GRACE PERIOD

If you are unable to provide us with evidence of your valid dated concession card at the time of enrolment, we will allow you a 13-week grace period from the date you enrolled to provide us with this evidence. In this instance, your concession card '**start date**' must be dated **on** OR **before** the date your training commenced (i.e., the first class you attend).

ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CONCESSION TUITION FEE RATES

If you meet the Asylum Seeker eligibility criteria and enrol in training at Certificate IV or below level qualifications OR in Skill Sets, you will pay the concession Tuition Fee rate for your course.

THERE ARE LIMITS ON HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED TRAINING YOU CAN DO

There are 2 limits!

2 IN A YEAR limit: you may only commence **2 Skills First subsidised Skill Sets AND 2 Skills First subsidised AQF qualifications in a calendar year**. The following scenarios are not counted when determining if you meet these limits:

- if you are transitioning from a superseded qualification to the current version of the same program; or
- if you are recommencing training in the same program (at either the same or a different provider);
- if you are participating in *22510VIC Course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk* at another provider; or
- if you are participating in Literacy and Numeracy Support Units at another provider.

2 AT A TIME limit: you can only be studying **2 Skills First subsidised programs at any one point in time** (regardless of whether they are a Skill Set, Qualification or a combination of both). Participation in the following is not counted when determining if you meet this limit:

- if you are participating in *22510VIC Course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk*; or
- if you are participating in Literacy and Numeracy Support Units.

See examples of how these 2 limits are applied on the next page...

EXAMPLES OF HOW ELIGIBILITY FOR VICTORIAN SKILLS FIRST GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED TRAINING IS DETERMINED

Example 1 – Mohammed wants to enrol in the Certificate II in Ecology

<p>This calendar year, Mohammed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commenced and completed the Certificate II in Food Processing (Skills First subsidised) • commenced and completed the Certificate II in Auslan (Skills First subsidised). 	<p>Is Mohammed eligible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO. Mohammed has reached the '2 AQF qualifications in a year' limit, so he can't get Skills First funding for any more AQF qualifications this calendar year. • However, he is still eligible to enrol in up to 2 Skills First funded skill sets this year.
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Example 2 – Sarah wants to enrol in the Certificate III in Engineering

<p>This calendar year, Sarah:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued her training in the Certificate III in Beauty Services that she started last year (Skills First subsidised) • commenced the Certificate III in Retail this year (Skills First subsidised). <p>Both programs are still in progress.</p>	<p>Is Sarah eligible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO. Sarah has reached the '2 at a time' limit. • However, she can commence the Certificate III in Engineering later in the year if she completes or withdraws from one of her current courses. • If this happens, she will not be exceeding the '2 AQF qualifications in a year' limit because she commenced the Certificate III in Beauty Services last year.
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Example 3 – Stefan wants to enrol in the Certificate III in Tourism

<p>This calendar year, Stefan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commenced the Certificate III in Pet Grooming (Skills First subsidised) • commenced the Certificate III in Science (fee for service). <p>Both programs are still in progress.</p>	<p>Is Stefan eligible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Stefan hasn't reached the '2 in a year' or the 'two at a time' limit, because only one of the programs he commenced this year was Skills First subsidised.
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Example 4 – Nisha wants to enrol in the 'Assist Clients with Medication Skill Set'

<p>This calendar year, Nisha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commenced the Certificate II in Health Support Services (Skills First subsidised) • commenced the Course in Supporting People with Disability to use Medications (Skills First subsidised). <p>Both programs are still in progress.</p>	<p>Is Nisha eligible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO. Nisha has reached the '2 at a time' limit. • However, because Nisha hasn't reached the '2 skill sets in a year' limit, they'd be eligible for the 'Assist Clients with Medication Skill Set' after they either finish or withdraw from one of the other programs.
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