Ideas for Professional Development for Trainers

**Notifications of Training Package Changes**

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All trainers are required to sign up for notifications from [training.gov.au](http://training.gov.au/) about training package changes for every training package in which they train and/or assess. This is an important part of keeping up-to-date with the VET industry and to make sure you are aware of any changes that affect units/qualifications you teach.

Go to www.training.gov.au

Search for the relevant qualification and you will see a link on the top righthand side saying "notify me of changes". Use this to register for free email updates. The next time you complete your Professional Development Log, record that you have done this and describe any updates you have read.

**Staying in touch with regulatory bodies**

The **VRQA** and **ASQA** both have free e-newsletters, sign up at:

[www.vrqa.vic.gov.au](http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au)

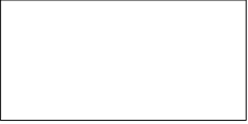
<http://www.asqa.gov.au/news-and-media/sign-up-to-the-asqa-newsletter.html>

**Ideas for free professional development**

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| * Subscribe to the free e-newsletter from Insources <http://www.insources.com.au/> which has updates about the VET industry | Performance Solution Provider |
| * Sign up for the free fortnightly update from NCVER (National Centre for Vocational Education Research) at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/subscription> |  |
| * subscribe to the free eNews from Velg training <http://www.velgtraining.com/> |  |
| * Subscribe to free updates from the VET Development Centre at <http://vdc.edu.au/subscribe/> |  |
| * Watch some TED Talks on adult learning, teaching strategies and educational motivation. These are free videos from industry experts on a huge range of topics. https://www.ted.com/talks |  |

**Networking online**

Join relevant groups on LinkedIn such as National RTO Network, Australian VET Leaders and ASQA Issues to read relevant articles, join conversations and network with others in the industry.



***Highly recommended!***

Open2Study offer a range of **free** online courses run by a variety of Australian and overseas universities. They run for a 4-week period and include videos, quizzes and a discussion forum. After successfully completing the assessment you can download and print a certificate of achievement. Relevant courses include:

* Becoming a confident trainer
* Education in a changing world
* Teaching adult learners
* Indigenous studies: Australia and New Zealand
* Sociology, strategic management, negotiation, project management, leadership, psychology, human resources, writing for the web and many others.
* Sign up at www.open2study.com/courses

**Low cost professional development ideas for your training and assessing skills**

Over the last few years a range of different organisations have introduced webinars that cover a variety of topics relevant to the VET sector and to particular aspects of training and/or assessing. Typically $40-$150 and being run over 1-2 hours these can be an affordable and convenient way to engage in professional development. The following organisations are worth looking at, but there are plenty more online to choose from:

* VET Development Centre
* ACPET
* AVETMESS
* Insources
* Velg Training
* MRWED
* Circulus Education
* RTO Advice Group

**Learn with MSA Training and Professional Development**

Many of our courses can be completed by our trainer for free or heavily discounted prices. Talk to us to find out more.

Throughout the year we also have opportunities for staff meetings and continuous improvement activities and these can also be used for professional development purposes.

**Keeping your vocational skills current**

Don’t forget, it’s not just about your skills in training and assessing. You also need to stay up-to-date with the industry relevant to the qualifications you are teaching.

* Check out the Apple App Store or Google Play to see what new apps there are that relate to your industry.
* Subscribe to industry journals, associations, peak bodies or email newsletters.
* Attend industry seminars, conferences, trade shows or product launches.
* Watch some TED Talks relevant to your industry. These are free videos from industry experts on a huge range of topics. https://www.ted.com/talks
* For those trainers who teach IT/computing units, GCT LearnFree is a great resource, with a range of free, online IT courses eg. Word/Excel/PowerPoint/Access, iPad, Skype, Google Drive, Photoshop, Publisher, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, OneDrive etc. Check out the full range and register at [www.gcflearnfree.org](http://www.gcflearnfree.org)
* Part-time, seasonal or contract work within your own industry of expertise.

***All these other activities also count as professional development so be sure to include them in your Professional Development Log each semester:***

* + participating in validation and moderation meetings
  + participating in industry consultation meetings
  + Observing other trainers/assessors
  + Mentoring another trainer, or being mentored yourself
  + Volunteering – this is a great way to get hands-on experience, develop your people skills and stay current with industry practices. This could be short-term or one-off events (such as helping at a charity fun run) or longer term, regular roles. Consider local footy clubs, scout groups, tree planting, charity fundraising events, animal shelters, local libraries, tour guiding, counselling phone lines, English tutoring or helping in soup kitchens. Many not-for-profits also have administration, business and marketing roles available. Look for opportunities on [**www.volunteer.com.au**](http://www.volunteer.com.au) or **www.govolunteer.com.au**

*If you’ve got other great ideas for professional development*

*please let us know so we can share them with our trainers.*