



# Waratah Polytechnic

RTO Code: 45881 CRICOS Code: 04035A

## Student Handbook



## Welcome to Waratah Polytechnic

Dear Students,

On behalf of all the staff at Waratah Polytechnic, we send you a warm welcome and thank you for choosing Waratah Polytechnic for your education and academic development.

Your enrolment is an important step to further develop your skills and knowledge and to assist you in your career aspirations.

We will strive to provide you with a first-class learning experience that is based on up-to-date practices and skills used in the workplace.

Our vision is to enable our learners to achieve their chosen career goals by providing excellence in training and support you in your path to career satisfaction.

Our goals are to:

- Provide accessible training for all students;
- Allow learners to choose their learning pathway and method of assessment to prove competence;
- Make training enjoyable and to ensure we encourage a continued search for knowledge and learning.

This Student Handbook will provide you with information about our Nationally Recognised Training Organisation, as well as the services we provide and how to enrol.

We also welcome your comments. Tell us about things we have done well, or can better, so we can continue to improve our services to our learners.

Feedback forms are available in each of our courses as well as via our website.

Once again, on behalf of our Nationally Recognised Training Organisation, we welcome you and look forward to working with you.

Kind regards,

CEO





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[www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au)  
[info@waratah.edu.au](mailto:info@waratah.edu.au)



1300 151 396



## General Information about RTO

### Introduction

Waratah Polytechnic is passionate about measuring successful learning outcomes for you. This means that we have developed robust processes to ensure the success of each student's education goals. Our approach is to provide you with a safe, fair, and supported environment to participate in training and assessment. This handbook does not provide you with specific information about a course offered by Waratah Polytechnic. This information is provided separately, on our website [www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au).

### About Waratah Polytechnic

Waratah Polytechnic has modern, up-to-date facilities, and boasts a team of qualified and dedicated Trainers and Assessors.

Waratah Polytechnic is responsible for the quality of the nationally recognised training and assessment we deliver. This means that we will always comply with the regulations that govern RTOs, being the VET Quality Framework, including the Standards for RTOs 2015, and ESOS/National Code requirements.

To ensure our compliance with the framework and standards above, we implement rigorous internal policies, procedures and systems that ensure that our operations are compliant. In addition, we participate in audits with ASQA and other national and state regulatory bodies upon their request.

As an RTO, Waratah Polytechnic is also responsible for issuing your AQF certification documents in line with the procedures outlined in this Handbook.

If at any time you feel we have not met our obligations as an RTO, you have the right to make a complaint following our Complaints and Appeals Policy outlined further in this Handbook.

This handbook is designed to give you some relevant information about your studies and answer any queries you may have in relation to your training.

Please take some time to read this handbook and if you require any further information, check out our website or give us a call.

We look forward to celebrating your achievements with you. Good luck!

### Mission Statement

At Waratah Polytechnic, our mission is to develop people's skills, while keeping them current and introducing new skills.

### Our values

- Deliver what we promise
- Celebrate achievement
- Promote a culture of continuous improvement
- Be remarkable





- Share ideas
- Work hard, have fun

At Waratah Polytechnic, we live by these values and we hope you will too. Our Objectives

In recognition of our mission, our objectives are:

- Industry Engagement: We recognise the value of industry engagement as the driving force in shaping our training and assessment strategies. We deliver training and assessment services which are founded on industry needs and expectations;
- People: We strive to attract, recruit and retain talented, competent and committed trainers and assessors. We promote excellent performance through leadership and ongoing targeted professional development;
- Safety and Equality: We are committed to providing an environment which is safe, equitable, and promotes a confident and productive training and assessment environment;
- Integrity and Ethics: We conduct ourselves in accordance with shared and agreed standards of behaviour, and hold ethical conduct and integrity as our highest priorities;
- Quality Committed: We aspire to deliver consistent, high-quality services, and apply quality systems that support training and assessment superiority; and
- Student Focused: We thrive on providing training and assessment that is student focused and which supports lifelong learning. We respect our students and strive to attract them time after time through high quality training and assessment experiences.

### Information available before enrolment

The following information is available to all prospective students prior to enrolment via our website and marketing materials to ensure that the student can make a sound decision based on all the relevant aspects of the training they wish to undertake:

- Information about, amongst other things, all fees and charges;
- Applicable qualifications/courses by the appropriate code and title;
- Outline the currency of the qualifications/courses in question;
- Outline the duration of training and the assessment requirements;
- Specify modes of delivery and delivery locations;
- Specify entry requirements into the course;
- Provide information specific to student contributions and responsibilities;
- Student support, facilities and resource; and

### Getting started at Waratah Polytechnic

Once we process your enrolment, you will be provided with an outline of your training (known as a Timetable) which will include:

- the units/competencies to be obtained;
- the time-frame for achieving these units/competencies;
- the training to be undertaken;





- Information about your trainer and assessors; and
- the name of the qualification to be issued.

Unit dates may change over time – your trainer will keep you and your timetable updated.

You will also undertake a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assessment relevant to your course. This is to identify whether you need additional support to successfully complete your course. More details are provided later in this handbook.

## Waratah Polytechnic provides Student-centric training

- We offer innovative, responsive and student-centric training that reflects the learning styles and needs of our students and industry.
- We consult with industry and incorporate feedback into our training and business operations.
- We create innovative methods of training delivery and skills development that improve people performance, productivity and employment opportunities and are responsive to the needs of our students.

Waratah Polytechnic therefore provides:

- Learning that is professionally and workplace relevant and improves career opportunities;
- Flexible training options, recognising the needs of each individual student;
- Training Consultants/Trainers with recent and relevant industry expertise who are required to maintain currency in their industry experience;
- Innovative and responsive training delivery;
- Expertise to identify and clarify training needs and delivering training that meets those needs;
- Learning programs that make sense in the work environment;
- Students with the required skills for the present and future;
- Where appropriate, practical, hands-on skills linked to underpinning knowledge;
- Learning environments that adapt to change; and
- Learning that leads to career advancement.

## Education and Training Delivery by Waratah Polytechnic

Waratah Polytechnic incorporates adult learning principles into the training and assessment strategies of all its training programs. Waratah Polytechnic will, prior to the training program commencement, give participants all relevant information about the program of study, the availability of learning resources and appropriate support services.

Waratah Polytechnic will ensure that training and assessment occur in accordance with the requirements of the training program and the endorsed Training Package and where appropriate, the Training Package guidelines for customising. Waratah Polytechnic customises its education and training programs to meet the needs of the individual.

Participants are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to actively participate in the learning and assessment process.





## Your Trainers and Assessors

Waratah Polytechnic will ensure that the responsibility for the management and coordination of training delivery and assessment (including the recognition of prior learning and recognition of current competencies), staff selection and professional development is clearly identified and undertaken by a person or persons with relevant qualifications and experience.

Waratah Polytechnic will ensure that all Trainers and Assessors have:

- the necessary training and assessment competencies as determined by the National Quality Council (Currently, Australian Industry and Skills Committee) or its successors;
- have the relevant vocational competencies at least to the level being delivered or assessed
- can demonstrate current industry skills directly relevant to the training program being trained/assessed; and
- will continue to develop their VET knowledge and skills as well as their industry currency and trainer/assessor competence.

Your Trainer and Assessor can provide you with assistance on any aspect of the course content, resources or assessment activities.

## Educational Standards

Waratah Polytechnic strictly follows policies and management practices that maintain high professional standards in the delivery of education and training services, and which safeguard the interests and welfare of its students and, where relevant, their employers.

Waratah Polytechnic maintains a learning environment that is conducive to the learning and professional development of students. Waratah Polytechnic has the capacity to deliver the Education and Training programs on its scope of registration and will ensure that the facilities, methods and materials used in the provision of training will be appropriate to the needs of the student and outcomes to be achieved.

Waratah Polytechnic maintains compliant systems for recording and archiving student enrolments, attendance, completion, assessment outcomes, and recognition of prior learning, complaints, qualifications and statements of attainment issued.

Waratah Polytechnic will treat all personal records of students confidentially and will comply with national privacy standards.







## General Information – Student Support, Facilities, Resources and Equipment provided to students

Students required to invest 5-10 hours a week of self-directed learning to complete self-study and assessments.

You need to have the following resources to conduct self-study and assessments:

- Internet
- Computer/laptop
- MS Office
- All the students will get Wi-Fi access within the campus.

### Student Support Services

Waratah Polytechnic will comply with all laws relevant to the operation of the training premises, including workplace health and safety and fire safety regulations.

Waratah Polytechnic will ensure that training facilities, equipment and other resource materials are adequate for the Training Programs being delivered and are maintained in good order and repair.

Waratah Polytechnic has clearly documented procedures for managing and monitoring all Education and Training operations and reviewing Student /employer satisfaction.

### How student needs are proactively identified

Waratah Polytechnic will ensure that student needs are proactively identified, prior to enrolment, via:

- Pre-enrolment test/LLN

### How student needs are systematically monitored and responded to

If student needs are identified, Waratah Polytechnic will create an individual learning plan that will include:

- Learning goals to be achieved;
- Contingency plans;
- Logistics of the learning relationship, e.g.duration;
- Frequency of meetings and the length of meetings.
- Locations of meetings;
- The nature of contacts (i.e., what are they for?);
- The structure of the learning relationship, e.g.: the activities that we will do;
- How progress will be monitored;
- The equipment and/or resources that are needed; and
- WHS considerations.

All individual learning plans will be monitored by the Student Support Officer with respective trainers/ assessors and management.





## Support for positive learning outcomes

RTO provides support to all students to ensure positive learning outcomes via a range of strategies:

- Students facing personal difficulties that may affect their learning should approach the PEO for personal/career advice and counsel;
- Assistance may include a deferment of study, help with a Special Consideration application, or referral to further student support service or external counsellor;
- Students who specifically require assistance with study skills can obtain practical advice on assignment writing; course-specific language and learning skills; and assistance with any language, literacy or numeracy problems;
- Students will be given adequate time to work on assessments and projects;
- All assessments/projects will be assessed at the completion of each unit; and
- RTO can organise information and assistance regarding any disability related matters as per Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

## Staff available to students with learning needs

- Student Support Officer
- Training Manager
- Trainers and assessors

## How assistance is available to students

Assistance is available to all students via numerous modes:

- Telephone 24/7 Emergency line 1300 151 396 to speak with student support officer.
- Discussion with trainer/assessor in class or after the class hours;
- Email a specific query to their trainer/assessor; or
- Telephone (helpdesk) at 1300 151 396 or email [support@waratah.edu.au](mailto:support@waratah.edu.au) for all other queries.

## Student: Trainer Ratio

Student ration will be depending on the class size and approvals.

## LLN support

Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) support will be identified through pre-training review, LLN test, orientation session and/or trainer/assessor recommendation.

The institute will analyse the information collected and prepare a strategy to support the students. The strategy may include provide one one-on-one support after the class hours, provide extra reading or tasks to complete related to the areas identified.





## Student Welfare Services

Waratah Polytechnic offer you a range of welfare services to help with the mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being of students. These services may include, through direct provision or referral, information/advice about: accommodation, counselling, crisis services, disabilities and equity issues, financial matters, legal issues, medical issues, mental health, peer mentoring, programs promoting social interaction, religious and spiritual matters, and stress-management. It may also include advice on academic and study issues.

Internal welfare services will be provided at no additional cost to the student. However, where a student is referred to an external provider, the student will be responsible for meeting the costs of the provider. The Institute does not charge for such referrals to the provider.

You can telephone the Receptionist to make an appointment and ask to speak with the Student Support Officer OR email to [support@waratah.edu.au](mailto:support@waratah.edu.au)

### Students at risk

- Waratah Polytechnic has intervention strategies, including student support services available to enable students to complete qualifications in expected time frames.
- Students at risk of not completing within this time frame are identified as early as possible.
- Students failing to progress in line with the Waratah Polytechnic's course progression policy and procedure and/or any provisions implemented for any unit of competency assessment are automatically regarded as being "students at risk" and supported via an appropriate intervention strategy.
- Student resources, facilities and equipment
- Assessment pack (student)
- Student handbook
- Class activities book
- Self-study guide
- Staff available to students to address their learning needs
- All students will be provided with training resources and assessment materials for all units of competency and additional training documents as required.
- Administrative Support Required
- Case studies (Real workplace-based scenarios)
- Role playing activities for interaction with others as a part of assessments.
- Templates and additional resources to complete the assessment tasks.
- Access to a number of free Student tutorials, tools and videos

### Additional resources available to students

- <https://training.gov.au/> Government Website Updates
- Meeting Individual Student Needs Reference
- Learning and Assessment Resources
- Updates from the Industry skills councils/SSOs





- Updates from the VELG news
- Please refer to self-study guides (unit level) for more information

## ESOS Framework

Australia's laws promote quality education and consumer protection for international students. These laws are known as the ESOS Framework, and they include the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 and the National Code 2018. You can find more information on the ESOS Framework here - <https://www.education.gov.au/international-education>

## External Support Services

For students requiring additional support with their studies, work or life, [support@waratah.edu.au](mailto:support@waratah.edu.au) provides the following referrals to community organisations that may be able to assist you. Please note that some of these services may attract a fee which is payable by student:

### *Reading and Writing Hotline*

Telephone: 1300 6 555 06 Website: <https://www.readingwritinghotline.edu.au>

For the price of a local call anywhere in Australia, the Hotline can provide you with advice and a referral to one of 1200 providers of courses in adult literacy and numeracy.

### *Australian Human Rights Commission*

Telephone: 1300 369 711 Website: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/>

The Commission can resolve individual complaints about discrimination, sexual harassment and racial and religious vilification by offering a conciliation process that is confidential, impartial, free, and simple.

You can also discuss disability rights and direct you to a network of advocates. This support may include making representation on behalf of individuals with a disability, helping individuals to advocate for themselves or helping others to advocate for them.

### *24-hour Counselling Hotlines*

#### **Lifeline**

Telephone: 13 11 14 Website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

Anyone can call Lifeline. The 13 11 14 service offers a counselling service that respects everyone's right to be heard, understood and cared for. They also provide information about other support services that are available in communities around Australia. If you feel that you might need telephone counselling, you can call about anything that might be troubling you.

**Suicide Helpline** Telephone: 13 11 14

**HIV line** Telephone: 1800 022 222 Website: <https://hivtest.au/>

**Beyond Blue (depression)** Telephone: 1300 224 636 Website: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

**Quit Line (to stop smoking)** Telephone: 137 848 Website: <https://www.quit.org.au/>





### *Kids Help Line*

Telephone: 1800 55 1800 Website: [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

### *Other Counselling Services*

Gay and Lesbian support. Website: <http://www.twenty10.org.au/adults>

Twenty10 inc GLCS NSW  
10 Lilydale Street  
Marrickville NSW 2204

P.O. Box 266  
Petersham N.S.W. 2049

PHONE: [\(02\) 9519 7599](tel:(02)95197599) or [\(02\) 9569 2366](tel:(02)95692366)

During business hours 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

FAX:(02) 9519 8200

Road Trauma Support Team (Confidential service for people affected by road trauma): 1 (02) 9542 4029

Beyond blue Mental Illness Helpline: 1300 224 636, 24 hours / 7 days a week

Mens line Australia (for men with family and relationship concerns): 1300 789 978

Men's Referral Service (for men concerned about their anger or violence): 1300 766 491

Interpreting Service: 131 450

### *Fair Work Australia*

Telephone: 1300 799 675 Website: [www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm](http://www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm)

Fair Work Australia is the national workplace relations tribunal. It is an independent body with power to carry out a range of functions relating to minimum wages, employment conditions, termination of employment and other workplace matters.

### *Reach Out*

Website: [www.reachout.com.au](http://www.reachout.com.au)

Reach Out is a web-based service that inspires young people to help themselves through tough times and find ways to boost their own mental health and wellbeing. Their aim is to improve young people's mental health and wellbeing by building skills and providing information, support and referrals in ways they know work for young people.

### *Legal Aid*

NSW <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

### *Australian Search and Rescue*

Aviation Search & Rescue: 1800 8150257 Coast Guard Search & Rescue: 9598 7003

Maritime Rescue: 1800 627 484

Centre Against Sexual Assault: 1800 806 292





### *Health Information Services*

Eating Disorders Foundation of NSW (Butterfly): 1800 33 4678

Domestic Violence Line NSW: 1800 65 64 63

Alcohol & Drug Information: 1800 811 994

Poisons Information Centre: 131 126

Maternal & Children Health Line(24hrs): 132 229

Nurse-On-Call (24-hour health advice and information from a registered nurse): 1800 022 222

Family Drug Help: 1300 660 068

### *Medical Centres around RTO Institute*

**Burwood Westfield Medical Centre:** Shop 331, Level 2 Burwood Westfield (Near Kmart)  
100 Burwood Rd, Burwood NSW 2134. Tel: (02) 9744 3330

**Victoria Tower Medical:** 36-38 Victoria St, East Burwood NSW 2134. Tel: (02) 8322 9000

**Burwood Plaza Medical Centre:** Shop 48 Burwood Plaza, 42 Railway Parade, Burwood NSW 2134. Tel: (02) 9030 0488.

## LIVING IN SYDNEY

Sydney is the capital of the State of New South Wales and Australia's largest city. It is famous for its parks and gardens, historic buildings, theatres, galleries, restaurants, multicultural precincts, festivals and internationally recognized sporting events.

Sydney is a well-planned city and very easy to get around. There is always plenty to do in Sydney: please check <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/life-in-australia>

### General help for international students

If you have a problem, the first place you should go for help is the reception at Level 16, 7 Deane Street, Burwood NSW 2134. RTO staff will be able to assist you or refer you to a person who can help you. If you have money problems, personal problems, problems with school or anything else, the staff will be able to assist you with advice and put you in touch with the right people.

### Climate

The climate of Sydney is humid subtropical, shifting from mild and cool in winter to warm and hot in the summer, with no extreme seasonal differences as the weather is moderated by proximity to the ocean, although more contrasting temperatures are recorded in the inland western suburbs. Despite the fact that there is no distinct dry or wet season, rainfall peaks in the first few months of the year and is at its lowest just around the middle of the year, though precipitation can be erratic throughout the year. Precipitation varies across the region, with areas adjacent to the coast being the wettest. The city receives around 20 thunderstorms per year. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, Sydney falls in the temperate climate zone which has warm to hot summers and no dry season.

Source: Web Climate, Data Services, National Climate Centre





## Accommodation

The first decision to consider is deciding what type of place you want to live in and where you want to live. You can rent your own apartment, flat or house; you can share a flat or house with other people (an arrangement called “shared accommodation”).

When you make a decision about where to live, you need to balance the cost of higher rents in the city areas with the lower rents and higher transport costs of living in the suburbs.

There are some vacancies that you can check on the Domain website: <http://www.domain.com.au/>. Please click on “property”, then click on either “rent” or “share” for more information.

Another useful site for renting a place of your own is to visit the Sydney Real Estate Agent website on <http://www.realestateview.com.au>.

RTO will assist the international students for the accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements.

### *Renting your own apartment, flat or house*

Renting your own apartment, flat or house means you can choose who lives with you and may be a good choice for students who prefer their independence. It also means that you may need to buy (or rent) all your own furniture. The estate agent will ask you to sign a contract (tenancy agreement or

lease) with the owner, agreeing that you will stay in the place for a minimum period of time (usually 6 or 12 months). Make certain that the accommodation is suitable for your needs and that you can afford it. Always check that there are smoke alarms installed. Contact real estate agents close to the area in which you want to live to check availability and prices.

The average apartment, house or flat ranges from \$300 - \$500 per week (one bedroom) or \$550 - \$700 per week (two bedrooms). You will also pay a bond or security deposit equal to one month’s rent. A bond is a security deposit that is held until the end of your tenancy by the landlord or real estate agent in case you don’t fulfil your responsibilities. It is refundable after you move out of the flat or house, provided you leave the property in reasonable condition and fulfil your obligations under the lease.

Renting through a real estate agent may appear more expensive but this will offer you the security and civil rights that cannot be guaranteed when renting privately.

### *Student apartment complexes*

These are fully furnished and allow students to live independently in a secure and supportive residential environment. As these complexes are very popular there is a high demand when vacancies are advertised. Some places will provide meals for an additional cost. Utility costs are not usually included in the rental price. Rental can vary from AU\$300–AU\$500 per week.





### *Sharing an apartment, flat or house*

This type of rental accommodation is usually only arranged after you arrive in Sydney. In a shared apartment, flat or house each person usually has his or her own bedroom and shares the bathroom, kitchen and living areas with other people.

Costs depend on the size of the residence and the number of people sharing. Your budget should allow for food, electricity and other bills, plus transport and other personal costs. Food costs can be shared, with everyone paying an agreed amount per week, or each person buying his or her own food (approximately \$100 to \$170 per week). In most households the cost of electricity, telephone rental and other bills are shared equally (approximately \$100 per week). You will normally record and pay for your own telephone calls. Long distance and international calls are itemised on the telephone bill that is they are listed individually with the number called and the cost of the call.

The average price of a room ranges from \$300 to \$500 per week. You will also be asked to pay a bond or security deposit.

### *Hostel accommodation*

Hostels usually have bathroom, living and leisure areas that are shared with other residents. Some hostels include meals in their fees, while at others kitchen facilities are provided and you cook for yourself. You can have your own room at most hostels, but this is more expensive than if you are sharing a room with another student. There may be other charges, such as a bond (security deposit) and appliance charges.

There are many private hostels in Sydney, offering a furnished bedroom, shared bathroom, living and leisure areas. Computer facilities may also be available weekly prices range from AU\$300– AU\$530. Extra costs may include payment of a bond.

### *Other accommodation issues*

If you are under 18 years of age it is RTO's responsibility to ensure that appropriate accommodation and welfare arrangements have been made for you. These are usually in place before you start your studies. If you have any queries about your accommodation or carer/guardian arrangements, please speak to the Student Welfare Officer. However, at present RTO does not enrol any students under 18 years of age.

If you choose to rent or live in share accommodation or organise a shared accommodation house, you should be aware of your legal rights and responsibilities.

You can get most of this information from a booklet called Renting: Your Rights and Responsibilities. <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting> this link will give you information about your rights as a tenant in rental accommodation and your responsibilities, such as household maintenance and paying your rent on time.

Another useful information website is [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au) click on Rent, then left hand side click on.







### *Rental Information*

You may be responsible for paying for the cost of the reconnection of the utilities that is to have gas, electricity, water and telephone connected. When you leave a rental property, it is your responsibility to notify the electricity, telephone water and gas companies that you have left and are no longer responsible for the bills.

When you move into a place you need to make sure that you understand all of the papers that you sign.

Do not sign anything unless you are fully aware of all terms and conditions, and you are sure you understand them clearly. If you would like clarification of any documents you have to sign, ask the Welfare Officer for help.

### *Living costs*

When calculating your budget, you must remember to include your:

- Annual tuition fees
- Textbooks, study excursions and study equipment
- Expenses for any dependents that accompany you (e.g. full school fees for any children, child care etc.)
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Accommodation costs
- Living expenses including food, gas, electricity, telephone and transport
- Entertainment
- Airfares
- Emergency expenses

Note: The following information has been compiled based on a single student with no dependents. Should a husband/wife and/or child accompany you to Australia you must be realistic about the additional expenses they will incur.

### *Typical living costs for an individual student*

Based on average situations for an individual student, see the details in this link <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/life-in-australia/living-and-education-costs>

### *Part-time work*

If you are holding a student visa and thinking of looking for part-time work, helpful websites are: [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au) [www.mycareer.com.au](http://www.mycareer.com.au) [www.careerone.com.au](http://www.careerone.com.au)

Your visa allows you to work for up to 40 hours fortnightly during study periods and full-time during semester breaks. You should not rely on income earned in Australia during your studies as sometimes jobs may be difficult to find.

There are a range of external agencies you can ask for assistance with employment related issues. Here is a listing of agencies where you can get help:





- 1) *Work Cover Authority & Occupational Health*  
The NSW Work Cover Authority is the manager of NSW's workplace safety system and provides information on Work cover and workplace occupational health & safety issues. For more information, please visit the website: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/> or contact NSW Work Cover Authority, Telephone: 13 10 50
- 2) *Anti-discrimination NSW*  
Receives complaints from people who feel they have been treated unfairly, have been discriminated against or are experiencing sexual harassment. For more information, please visit: <https://antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au/> or free call: 1800 670 812
- 3) *Australian Taxation Office*  
Provides information on taxation and superannuation issues. For more details, please visit: <http://www.ato.gov.au/> or contact these NSW Taxation Offices: Phone 13 28 61 for an appointment
- 4) *Wage line*  
Provides information on rates of pay and conditions of employment, award information, and employee entitlements regarding annual leave, sick leave, redundancy pay, superannuation and related issues. For more information, please visit: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay-and-wages>. Telephone: 13 13 94. between 8 am – 5:30 pm Monday to Friday to speak with a helpful adviser. They will provide you with tailored advice and information.
- 5) *Job Watch*  
Investigates exploitation in employment and training. It also handles complaints and inquiries from the general public regarding annual leave, notice pay, sick leave, redundancy pay and related issues. For further detail information, please visit: <https://jobwatch.org.au/> or contact Telephone Advice: 1800 331 617
- 6) *Legal Aid Commission*  
Offers free telephone advice service and can assist with applications for legal assistance. Please visit <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/> for more information or contact any of the following NSW Legal Aid Offices: Call Law Access NSW on 1300 888 529 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

### *Opening a bank account*

In Australia there are two types of Banking organizations; banks and credit unions. Credit unions are co-operative banks. Each person who has an account with a credit union also has shares in the credit union.

When you open a bank or credit union account in Australia you need to provide identification. You will need to bring your passport and some other forms of identification (for example your student identification card, birth certificate or driver's license or identity card from your home country).

If you apply for a bank account within six weeks of arriving in the country, you need only supply your passport. There are two basic types of accounts:





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- An everyday account which provides you with a cash card for use with 24-hour automatic cash dispensers (ATM Machines) and “EFTPOS” (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale) facilities at stores. Some everyday accounts also have cheque book facilities. Accounts with cheque books are subject to a special government tax.
- Investment accounts -these are designed for people who have a large amount of money to deposit in the bank. Investment accounts pay interest at higher rates than everyday accounts and do not usually have cash card access. Investment accounts are a good place to put your tuition fees.

It is best to shop around for a bank that suits you. Find a bank that has offices near your home and RTO for convenience. Almost all banks charge fees on their accounts. You should make sure you know what the fees are and when they will be charged. Banks operating in NSW include:

- CitiBank
- The Commonwealth Bank
- National Australia Bank
- St George Bank
- Westpac

When you open your bank account the bank will ask you for your Tax File Number.

Australian banks such as ANZ, Commonwealth, National Australia Bank and Westpac Bank and others have services located in both the city and suburban centres.

### *Applying for a tax file number*

Tax file numbers are used by the Australian Tax Office to identify people when they pay tax. You do not have to have a Tax File Number if you do not want one. However, if you do not give your bank or employer your Tax File Number, any income you earn (including interest on your bank account) will be taxed at a higher rate than if you had given your Tax File Number to your bank or employer.

You can apply for a Tax File Number by going to the local post office and asking for an application form.

Follow the instructions on the form and you will be issued with a Tax File Number. Remember to keep your Tax File Number in a safe place and do not disclose it to anyone other than your employer or bank.

In Australia you will be required to submit a taxation return showing the amount you have earned each year. Tax file numbers (TFNs) are issued to each taxpayer and this must show on your taxation return. To find out more about the Australian taxation system, employment, payment and tax file numbers see the section for individuals, including families, on the Australian Taxation Office website.

### *Entertainment*

Many international events are held in Sydney including comedy festivals, Antipodes (Greek) Festival, Indian Festivals, Chinese Festivals the Australian Tennis Open, World Series Cricket,





Sydney Fashion Festival, and the Formula 1 Grand Prix. There are many more such events.

Use <https://www.sydney.com/events> and follow the links to find out what events including sports are on in Sydney. You can purchase tickets to events through Ticket Master [www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)

### *Sport and Recreation*

There are many places to play and watch all sorts of sport in Sydney and Sydney hosts many local, national and international sporting competitions.

### *Out of Town*

There are many tourist attractions a few hours' drive from the city – The Hunter Valley, Blue Mountains, Wollongong surf beach, Snowy Mountains. See <https://www.visitnsw.com/> Day tour buses are easily accessed on Eddy Avenue near Central Station.

### *In the city, some places to visit:*

Pitt St Mall: the heart of Sydney's shopping area with large department stores, Myer, David Jones and many shopping arcades. DFO: at Birkenhead Point Outlet Centre and in Homebush for a range of designer factory outlets and seconds shops.

QVB: The Queen Victoria Building (abbreviated as the QVB) is a heritage-listed late-nineteenth-century building designed by the architect George McRae located at 429–481 George Street in the Sydney central business district, in the Australian state of New South Wales. The Romanesque Revival building was constructed between 1893 and 1898 and is 30 metres (98 ft) wide by 190 metres (620 ft) long. The domes were built by Ritchie Brothers, a steel and metal company that also built trains, trams and farm equipment. The building fills a city block bounded by George, Market, York and Drutt Streets. Designed as a marketplace, it was used for a variety of other purposes, underwent remodelling and suffered decay until its restoration and return to its original use in the late twentieth century.

### *Transport*

Sydney has an extensive public transport system and RTO is ideally located. The campus is close to major bus, train and light rail routes. Before you use any public transport, whether it is a train, light rail or bus, you are required to purchase a opal card (stored value travel card). These can be purchased at all train stations and at some newsagents. It is recommended that you purchase your opal card in advance.

Unfortunately, at this stage international students are not eligible for concessions. On trains it is important to validate your ticket before you board the train. If you are found without a valid ticket, you may be required to pay a transport infringement fine.

As Sydney is a well-planned city it is easy to travel in by car. Cars travel on the left side of the road. Drivers can use their home country license for three months from the date of entry to





Australia. An international license can be used providing the license from the country of origin is also valid.

### *Food*

Markets and supermarkets sell a variety of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables as well as rice, breads, spices and other ingredients. Sydney's restaurants and cafes offer a wide variety of foods from around the world, including Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Ethiopian, Brazilian, Malaysian, Greek, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, Lebanese, French and Indonesian.

### *Clothing*

Australian students dress casually. Australians are generally relaxed when it comes to clothes, but they do tend to dress up at night. If you are planning to buy warm clothing, shopping in Sydney will provide you with a large range at a very competitive price.

### *Computers & Laptops*

If you intend to bring your laptop or PC to Sydney, you need to ensure that it is compatible with Australia's power supply (240W, 220W, 50HZ).

### *Mobile Phones*

If you intend to use your existing handset and service provider in Australia ('international roaming'), you will need to contact your home provider to determine the necessary steps in making this arrangement. Alternatively, you may wish to use your current handset whilst in Australia but connect to a local service provider. There are a variety of mobile phone services operating in Australia which offer short-term (pre-paid) or long-term (contract) plans.

You should be aware, however, that because different countries operate under different cellular systems it is possible that your existing handset may not be compatible locally. In this instance you may be required to purchase a local handset.

### *Adjusting to Your New Campus & City*

1. Plan to arrive early before the Orientation and Enrolment period. This will allow you to explore the campus location and new city or town.
2. Choose a good housing option that suits your budget, needs and lifestyle.
3. Consider physical aspects like location and travel time to your campus and household amenities.
4. Talk to Waratah Polytechnic if you have questions or concerns.

### *Student Safety*

Sydney is a multicultural and tolerant society and although a relatively safe city it is not immune to crime. However, there are some common-sense steps you can take to ensure a safe and





enjoyable stay. Waratah Polytechnic Welfare Officer is available to give advice and address any concerns you may have.

Be aware of what is happening around you. Should you feel alarmed or suspicious head to a well-lit area or an area where there are other people.

Do not use ATM's alone in isolated areas.

Choose to walk in well-lit areas and be especially vigilant at night, where possible stick to main roads and avoid parks and dark laneways.

Do not wear headphones when walking alone at night as this will restrict your awareness. At train stations stay in well-lit areas and stand near security cameras.

Call 000 for police, fire brigade or ambulance.

### *Cultural Adjustment*

International students and their families may experience a wide range of feelings and moods when studying or living in Australia. Some may feel excited to see and learn new things or meet new people. Some may feel lonely, stressed, frustrated and homesick. These are all very normal feelings. However, it is very important that you seek help if you find that the process of cultural adjustment is adversely affecting you. RTO staff including the Welfare Officer are available to assist and discuss any concerns.

### *Culture*

Learning more about Australian culture can help you feel more settled.

It is common in Australia to call a person by their first name when meeting and addressing new people. Depending on the situation, you do not need to preface it with Mr., Miss, Dr or Professor (i.e. John instead of Mr. John's Surname);

Being on time is very important in Australia. If you are delayed for your appointment, for example 10- 15 minutes, apologies for being late at the first convenience. However, if you feel that you will be significantly late, 30 minutes or more, it is recommended that you get in touch to apologise and let the other person know as soon as possible. However, punctuality is more relaxed when it comes to social occasions including parties and dinners;

Australians believe in equality and that all people deserve respect regardless of their gender, ethnic and racial background, occupation or economic circumstances. A casual "thank you" to a shop assistant, ticket seller and the like when you are served, is all that is required.

### *Miscellaneous Social Customs*

If an Australian is invited to a meal, he or she may take a small gift, chocolates or a bottle of wine, to the host. As a student you are not expected to do this. If Australians tell you to "bring your own plate", they mean bring a plate with some food to share;

Do not push ahead of others who are waiting in a queue and always wait for people to exit lifts







or trains before entering.

It is not polite to ask a person who you have recently met about his or her income, marital status or religion, however after you have formed a friendship this may be acceptable as part of the friendship building process.

Australians generally stand about an arm's length from each other when in conversation. In general people will feel uncomfortable if you invade this "personal space"

You are not generally expected to tip for services. If the service has been very good, especially in a restaurant, you may wish to do so;

Goods in retail shops are sold at a fixed price, though it is becoming common to ask if a discount is available on large and expensive items, like electrical goods. A little bargaining is commonly used in the open-air markets.

Clearing your throat or blowing your nose noisily in front of others, and not using a handkerchief or a tissue paper are not considered acceptable public behavior.

#### Appropriate and Inappropriate Behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour – in many places there are laws against unacceptable behaviour including spitting in public, swearing, talking indecently, behaving in a sexually indecent way, sexual harassment, urinating in public and drinking excessively.

Alcohol – alcohol can be legally served to any person aged 18 or over. It is also a common part of Australian students' parties. Do not feel pressured to drink if you do not want to. Driving under the influence of alcohol in Australia is a crime, and drinking excessively is considered socially unacceptable;

Gifts – Gifts are not usually given to trainers/teachers or others in official positions. Offering gifts in these situations can be interpreted as an effort to gain favourable consideration;

Humour – Australians value a person's ability to laugh at him or herself. Comments that might seem disrespectful or inappropriate are usually intended to be humorous icebreakers. These are signs that the person feels comfortable with you, rather than intended to hurt you.

#### *Developing Independent Living Skills*

Manage your time effectively. Plan ahead what you have to do and what you want to do in a week or a month.

Balance your study and social life. Studying and living overseas generally happens only once in a lifetime. Learn how to achieve your academic goals and enjoy your experience in Sydney at the same time.

Do not be afraid to ask questions.

Discuss your concerns within your peer support network. Keep records of your expenses to manage your budget.





Think about your future. Work out what you want to achieve (both professionally and personally), and how you are going to achieve this.

Consider developing additional skills that you do not have or want to further develop (i.e. joining a cooking class, a time management workshop etc.).

Be familiar with as many support services and facilities as possible.

Come and talk to us, you do not need to come with a problem. We are happy to simply listen to your experience or share our experience with you.

### Support

Student Administration – provides support with settling in to RTO and Sydney and provides advice and assistance on meeting people in the community, cross-cultural adjustment, study progress, visa concerns and social activities, personal issues, your rights and responsibilities, accommodation needs, issues related to sexual harassment and equal opportunity, and is generally there to listen when you need to talk to someone.

## General Information – Courses we deliver

### Courses we deliver

We deliver different types of qualification according to industry and Student requirements.

Please visit [www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au) for the list of courses, duration, entry requirements, Admission requirements and other information  
training Sessions:

- A trainer will be available during this time to deliver the training session.
- Morning 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM weekdays learning support will be provided to all Students through support officers.

### Training support after training sessions

- A trainer will be available to assist students with training support immediately following the session or students may make individual appointments.
- Training support can also be provided to Individual students via telephone and email after the training sessions or on request from the students.
- Generic Student support such as study skills, employability skills, etc. will be provided during support workshops upon request.
- Students will be provided training support after the training sessions for the course or on their request.

### Individual learning and reflection

- Students are required to process what they have learnt during their reading and research, contemplate on their future professional career and apply the learning to their own life and work experience.







- All students will be provided self-study guides and list of recommended books and resources to complete their individual learning and reflection.
- Individual student reflection is designed to fulfil two purposes:
  - Personal growth
  - Personal application

Individual learning and reflection may or may not include:

- Study undertaken by the Student in their own time
- Completing supplementary activities
- Additional resources
- Web links/ references
- Real life case scenarios and decision-making processes
- Additional resources
- Journals, newsletters and magazines

### Guided learning

Guided learning may or may not include:

- The trainer provides learning activities; the student takes responsibility for completing all mandated tasks and activities.
- The trainer is available for consultation and feedback as required.
- All students will be provided with resources for Guided learning activities and tasks.

## General Information – Waratah Polytechnics Policies, Procedures, Legislative and Regulatory requirements and obligations

### Quality Assurance and Improvement - Education and Training operations

Waratah Polytechnics will comply with all laws relevant to the operation of the training premises, including workplace health and safety and fire safety regulations and ensure that the training premises are of adequate size and have adequate heating, cooling, lighting and ventilation.

Waratah Polytechnics will ensure that training facilities, equipment and other resource materials are adequate for the Training Programs being delivered and are maintained in good order and repair.

Waratah Polytechnics has clearly documented procedures for managing and monitoring all Education and Training operations and reviewing Student /employer satisfaction.

### Education and Training Guarantee

Waratah Polytechnics guarantees that it will deliver education, training and assessment and support services to each enrolled student in order to complete the course or qualification into which they are enrolled and for which the appropriate fee has been paid.





In the unlikely event that unforeseen circumstances prevent Waratah Polytechnics from honouring this commitment, Waratah Polytechnics will take all necessary steps to ensure that training is completed in accordance with its contractual obligations to the enrolled Student.

Should the Waratah Polytechnics cease delivery of any training and assessment, a refund for the unassessed work of the course will be provided to the student or student will be transferred to other training provider.

## Legislative Requirements

Waratah Polytechnics will comply with all relevant Commonwealth and State legislation and legislative requirements relevant to its operation and its Scope of Registration and will ensure that staff and clients are informed of any changes that may affect the services delivered.

Key legislation with which Waratah Polytechnic must comply:

• National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011
• Equal Opportunity Act 1995 and Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001
• The Disability Act 2006, Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and the Disability Regulations 2007 (the Act)
• The Working with Children Act 2005 (the Act)
• The Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and National Privacy Principles
• Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011
• Work, Health and Safety Regulation 2011
• Public Records Act 1973
• Commonwealth Safe Work Australia Act 2008
• Commonwealth Taxation and Superannuation Legislation
• Fairwork Act 2009 and Fairwork Regulations 2009
• Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
• Community Services Act 1970
• Health Records Act 2001
• Commonwealth Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Act 2006 and associated legislation
• Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001 and associated legislation
• Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010
• Competition Policy Reform (Victoria) Act 1995
• Fundraising Act 1998
• Health Professions Registration Act 2005
• Health Services Act 1988
• Mental Health Act 1986 and regulations
• Guardianship and Administration Act 1986
• Gambling Regulation Act 2003
• Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968
• Alcoholics and Drug-Dependent Persons Regulations 2002
• Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 and regulations
• Food Act 1984





• Liquor Control Reform Act 1998
• Do Not Call Register Act 2006
• Independent Contractors Act 2006
• The Copyright Act 1968
• Age Discrimination Act 2004
• The Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and the relevant Acts relating to discrimination in the various States in which RTO delivers training.
• Anti-discrimination Act 1991
• Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986
• Disability Discrimination Act 1992
• Racial Discrimination Act 1992
• Racial Discrimination Act 1975
• Freedom of Information Act 1982
• Student Identifiers Act 2014
• Australian Privacy Principles (APP) – Schedule 1 of the Privacy Amendments (Enhancing Privacy Protection Act 2012)

All staff and Students at Waratah Polytechnics must also meet the following regulatory requirements:

- ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority);
- VET Quality Framework (VQF);
- The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF requirements); and
- Other applicable legislation and regulation as relevant to the courses being delivered.

In addition, staff and Students at RTO must also meet various particular legislative requirements, mentioned in the training packages and legislation register.

### Tuition Assurance

Waratah Polytechnics protects the fees that are paid in advance by international students. For international student fee protection is ensured as follows:

- Waratah Polytechnics pays all pre-paid fees collected by the student in advance into the Tuition Protection Scheme (TPS) provided by the Australian Government;
- Where Waratah Polytechnics requires a prospective or current student, either directly to Waratah Polytechnics or through an Education Agent, to prepay fees in excess of a total of \$1500 (being the threshold prepaid fee amount), Waratah Polytechnics will meet the requirements set out in the Requirements for Fee Protection in Schedule 6 of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015. Waratah Polytechnics will take action to protect the prepaid fees by utilising its Tuition Protection Scheme as its protection measures for these students. The requirements for protection of prepaid fees will apply no matter how the fees are collected; and
- Any fees collected by a third party on behalf of Waratah Polytechnics (including its Education agent) will be subject to the same conditions. These requirements will





apply to fees prepaid by students, regardless of when Waratah Polytechnics actually receives the payment.

Regardless of the method/s used for protection of student prepaid fees, Waratah Polytechnics will retain evidence of how students have been advised of:

- all payment terms; and
- the circumstances under which refunds may be issued.

All course fees will be held in a separate bank account that can only be drawn down when the student commences. The course fees are held separately from the day-to-day operating expense accounts, so that if a refund is payable before the student commences, the refund can be made in according to the refund policy and procedure and in a timely way without impact on the financial operations of the business or recourse to the tuition protection system.

Waratah Polytechnics does not require international students to pay more than 50% of course fees prior to course commencement. Students and their sponsors can now choose to pay more than 50% of tuition fees up front if they wish to do so. Note, however, that where a course is less than 24 weeks and is delivered over more than one study period Waratah Polytechnics will require students to pay the full cost of the course prior to course commencement.

Waratah Polytechnics will show evidence that students have exercised their choice in how much of their tuition fees are paid up front if they choose to pay more than 50% of the course fees. This is evidenced by Waratah Polytechnics through the student acceptance on the Enrolment application form and Student Agreement.

Waratah Polytechnics will offer a flexible payment plan for the student where the student wishes to choose when to start paying their remaining fees.

Payment plan will be divided in four instalments of the course duration.

### Allowed attempts to demonstrate competency/ Reassessment

Waratah Polytechnics allows students two opportunities to be assessed as competent. Should students not achieve competence after two attempts, then they have to repeat the unit of study and \$100 will be charged for re-assessment after two attempts. For details please refer to Assessment Policy & Procedure on Waratah Polytechnics website.

### Evidence of competence

Evidence may include:

- Work station and fact sheet tests
- Written answers
- Trainers & Assessors observation notes
- Project work
- Workplace mentor evaluations





- Checklists
- Demonstration of skills
- In-house tests

### Work placement

If applicable. Depending on the course enrolment. See the details of your course enrolment in our website.

### Assessment Submission

You are permitted to resubmit twice, but if you are still not deemed competent you will be charged an admin fee of \$100 for the 3rd resubmission. You must ensure that you complete all details on the Assessment Cover Sheet including your Name, Student ID, Course Code and Course Name, and sign and date at the bottom of the cover sheet.

You must always keep a copy of your completed assessments.

### Assessment Extensions

It is expected that students will submit assessments by the due date however we understand that where special circumstances exist, an extension of time may be required. If you do require an extension of time for an assessment, you will need to complete an Assessment Extension Form and send to [support@waratah.edu.au](mailto:support@waratah.edu.au) together with appropriate supporting documentation, at least 48 hours before the due date. The form will be available to contact with the Waratah Polytechnics student support department.

The following factors will not be regarded as suitable grounds for granting of an assessment extension:

- Normal/routine demands of employment and employment-related travel;
- Scheduled anticipated changes of address, moving to a new house, etc.;
- Demands of sport or extra-curricular activity (other than to represent in state, national or international sporting or cultural events);
- Recreational travel (domestic or international); and
- Planned events, such as a wedding.

For any personal/academic issues that may be impacting on your ability to study effectively, contact your Trainer/Assessor for support.

### Course Monitoring and attendance

All the students required to achieve minimum 80% attendance requirements, if student unable to achieve the minimum attendance requirements then you will receive a warning letter. Please refer the attendance monitoring policy for further information.

### Satisfactory Course Progress

Every effort will be made to proactively assist students to achieve satisfactory course progress and complete the course within expected duration. All students are expected to adhere to the requirements of course progress. The satisfactory course progress is deemed to be 50% or more competence in the number of units of study attempted within a study period of 6 months.





## Monitoring Course Progress

Requirements for monitoring and progress

- Formal monitoring, recording and assessment of student performance
- Develop an intervention strategy
- Determining the points at which the student has failed to meet satisfactory course progress

The Institute must monitor the progress of each international student to ensure the international student is in a position to complete the course within the expected duration specified on the student's CoE.

Student performance and course progress will be monitored by trainers, assessors and student support officer. Trainers are required to keep appropriate records and to undertake assessments in a timely fashion to enable effective monitoring of student academic performance and the implementation of all procedures.

The Institute must identify, notify and assist an international student at risk of not meeting course progress or attendance requirements where there is evidence from the student's assessment tasks, participation in tuition activities or other indicators of academic progress that the student is at risk of not meeting those requirements.

All students are expected to study at least one unit (not by distance or online learning) during each study period. International students may not study more than one third of their course online or by distance learning.

The Institute may only extend the duration of the student's study as a result of compassionate and compelling circumstances, where an intervention strategy is being implemented or where an approved deferment has been granted. For International Students, except in these circumstances, the student's course duration will not exceed the CRICOS registered duration. Any variations are recorded on the student file and reported correctly in PRISMS.

The Institute must ensure that in each compulsory study period for a course, the international student is studying at least one unit that is not by distance or online learning, unless the student is completing the last unit of their course.

Where the registered provider has assessed the overseas student as not meeting course progress or attendance requirements, the registered provider must give the overseas student a written notice as soon as practicable which:

- notifies the overseas student that the registered provider intends to report the overseas student for unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance
- informs the overseas student of the reasons for the intention to report
- advises the overseas student of their right to access the registered provider's complaints and appeals process, in accordance with Standard 10 (Complaints and appeals), within 20 working days.
- If you do not meet the course progress requirements then your enrolment will be cancelled according to the Student Progress and Course Progress Policy & Procedure and Deferral, Suspension or Cancellation of Student, Policy and Procedure. The policies are available on the institute website.

If the registered provider extends the duration of the student's enrolment, the provider must advise the student to contact Immigration to seek advice on any potential impacts on their







visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

All students are appointed a Trainer/Assessor, who is responsible for the delivery and monitoring of their nationally recognised qualification.

Students who feel that they may require additional support in the learning environment as a result of disability, language, culture, gender, age or other perceived barriers should discuss this with their Trainer/Assessor.

Should you experience any difficulty that may be affecting your progress please discuss this with your Trainer/Assessor.

## National Recognition - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Transfers (CT)

All students will be offered the opportunity to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Transfer. Students can apply for RPL or Credit Transfer prior to the commencement of the course and delivery of the relevant unit(s). RPL and Credit Transfer will be offered and processed according to Waratah Polytechnic's Assessment Policy & Procedure.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

Prospective Students will be made aware of the RPL policy and process prior to enrolment into the program, via discussions, orientation, Pre-Enrolment and post-enrolment student information through student handbooks and Waratah Polytechnic's website.

Students can demonstrate competency through formal, non-formal and informal learning:

1. formal learning refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction and is linked to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, a certificate, diploma or university degree);
2. non-formal learning refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction, but does not lead to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, in-house professional development programs conducted by a business); and
3. informal learning refers to learning that results through experience of work-related, social, family, hobby or leisure activities (for example the acquisition of interpersonal skills developed through several years as a sales representative).

Students are encouraged to apply for RPL immediately after formal enrolment but prior to the facilitated delivery of units to ensure that they do not miss any learning opportunities offered should they be unsuccessful in the RPL process.

### **Credit Transfer**

Waratah Polytechnics recognises the AQF Qualifications and Statement of Attainments issued by any other Registered Training Organisation.





Waratah Polytechnics Recognition of Prior Learning Policy outlines in detail the specific Waratah Polytechnic process to be followed for granting Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer. RPL tools, applications and documentation are available for all units of competency.

## Transitioning to a New Qualifications

Where a qualification or unit of competency has undergone changes, according to the transition arrangements from the industry you may be transferred to the new replacement qualification as soon as practicable. Waratah Polytechnics will inform you of any potential changes to ensure you are not in any way disadvantaged.

## Access and Equity

Waratah Polytechnics is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to developing policies and practices that eliminate discrimination and harassment in the workplace and also its education and training programs, and in the provision of its services. Waratah Polytechnics has a legal responsibility to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring in the workplace and training environment.

We are committed to providing a fair and equitable learning and working environment for all students and staff. In offering education program(s) as part of our Registered Training Organisation (RTO) status we aim to provide learning programs and pathways where program design, course content and all aspects of the training and assessment process are available in a way that allows equality of educational opportunity to all students.

We promote fair and equal access, for all students and potential students, regardless of characteristics such as their gender, sexuality, race, nationality, ethnic background, age, marital status, religion, pregnancy, political convictions, physical disability or intellectual impairment.

We seek to create a training and education environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, and which enables all students to understand the education program in which they are enrolled/wishing to enrol and to achieve their potential.

Access and equity cover three broad areas: Discrimination, Harassment and Affirmative Action. Each of these areas is supported by legislation at State or Federal level, and includes but is not limited to the following:

### Federal Legislation:

- Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth);
- Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986) (Cth);
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth);
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth);
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth);
- Work Place Gender Equality Act 2012 (Cth); and
- Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth). State Legislation:
- Australian Capital Territory Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT);







- New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW);
- Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act 1996 (NT);
- Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (QLD);
- South Australia Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA);
- Tasmania Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (TAS);
- Victoria Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (VIC); and
- Western Australia Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA).

## Sexual Harassment

Waratah Polytechnics is firmly committed to providing equal employment opportunities and educational outcomes for all staff and students. We recognise that these achievements are dependent on the elimination of sexual harassment from the working and learning environment.

Waratah Polytechnics recognises that it is the legal responsibility of management to take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff and students are not subject to sexual harassment.

## Racism

Waratah Polytechnics is firmly committed to providing a working, teaching and learning environment that is free from racism. Racism not only denies a person's fundamental human right to respect, it reduces their opportunity to gain a fair share of society's valued resources, such as education and employment.

Waratah Polytechnics recognises that the achievement of equal employment opportunities and equal educational outcomes is dependent on the provision of a discrimination and harassment free environment.

Waratah Polytechnics understands the community's racial and ethnic diversity and acknowledges that people from a non-English speaking background and indigenous people, in particular, have experienced and continue to experience institutional disadvantage, racial prejudice and discrimination.

Waratah Polytechnics expresses unconditional rejection of racist behaviour and its commitment to eliminate racism in its organisational structure through the provision of training programs that are equitable, accessible and culturally inclusive.

## Privacy

Waratah Polytechnics staff and contractors collect, store, use and disclose personal information in accordance with the thirteen (13) Australian Privacy Principles of the Privacy Act 1988, thereby safeguarding confidential information in accordance with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (2015).

## Disability

Waratah Polytechnics Staff and students should be mindful of the following principles:



- Persons with a disability have the same rights and responsibilities as other members of the community and should be empowered to exercise those rights and responsibilities.
- Persons with a disability have the same right as other members of the community to:
  - expect respect for their human worth and dignity as individuals;
  - live free from abuse, neglect or exploitation.
  - realise their individual capacity for physical, social, emotional and intellectual development;
  - exercise control over their own lives;
  - participate actively in the decisions that affect their lives and have information and be supported where necessary, to enable this to occur;
  - access information and communicate in a manner appropriate to their communication and cultural needs; and
  - services that support their quality of life.

### Critical incident

Any incident happens during or after the institute hours, you need to contact student support officer via face to face or phone call. You also need to report if any incident happens during the class time to other student or trainer.

### Training Evaluation/ Feedback – Quality Indicators

Waratah Polytechnics surveys its students and employers using the Quality Indicators.

Three Quality Indicators have been endorsed by the National Quality Council (NQC):



### Student engagement

The 'Student Questionnaire' form is completed by all students upon completion of their course of study. Student Administration will issue a copy of the survey to each student when issuing a Statement of Attainment or Qualification.



All completed and returned surveys will be reviewed by the Compliance and Quality Assurance Department. The results of these surveys will be collated into reports with a summary of all responses. These reports are to be reviewed during Management Meetings and recommendations arising from discussions regarding the survey will be acted upon as required.

At the completion of each calendar year the Compliance and Quality Assurance Department is required to collate all data for the year using the '[ASQA Quality Indicator Annual Summary](#)' form.

A copy of all completed Student Engagement surveys will be maintained for a period of 24 months as evidence of the data collection process.

### **Employer Satisfaction**

Waratah Polytechnics must gain feedback from employers using the '[Employer Questionnaire](#)' available from the Department of Industry [https://www.acer.org/files/AQTF\\_EQ1-Survey-Master\\_000.pdf](https://www.acer.org/files/AQTF_EQ1-Survey-Master_000.pdf)

The 'Employer Questionnaire' form is completed by all employers once per year. At a set date each year (currently the 1<sup>st</sup> September) all employers currently engaged with Waratah Polytechnic shall be sent the Employer Satisfaction Survey. These surveys will be collected and collated by the Compliance and Quality Assurance Department.

All completed and returned surveys will be reviewed by the management. The results of these surveys will be collated into reports with a summary of all responses. These reports are to be reviewed during Management Meetings and recommendations arising from discussions regarding the surveys will be acted upon as required.

At the completion of each calendar year the Compliance and Quality Assurance Department is required to collate all data for the year using the '[ASQA Quality Indicator Annual Summary](#)' form.

A copy of all completed Employer Engagement surveys will be maintained for a period of 12 months as evidence of the data collection process.

### **Complaints & Appeals**

Despite all efforts of Waratah Polytechnics to provide satisfactory services to its students, complaints may occasionally arise that require formal resolution or students may appeal against a complaint outcome or educational determination (e.g. assessment result).

Staff also has the right to avail themselves of this process.

Waratah Polytechnics will approach all complaints and appeals with an open view and attempt to resolve issues through discussion and conciliation. Where a complaint cannot be resolved through discussion and mediation, Waratah Polytechnics acknowledges the need for an appropriate external and independent agent to mediate between the parties.

Waratah Polytechnics understands individuals' concerns regarding confidentiality and is totally committed to fair treatment respecting and upholding individuals' rights to privacy protection under the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) contained in The Privacy Act





amended 1988 (Cth). Waratah Polytechnics respects the privacy rights of all individuals in the workplace. Waratah Polytechnics has implemented a program to ensure compliance with the APPs.

Waratah Polytechnics understands that despite all its efforts to provide satisfactory services to its students, complaints may occasionally arise that require formal resolution. Students have the opportunity to have any complaint or appeal resolved and resolutions reached that attempt to satisfy all parties. There is no cost to the student unless the referral is made to a third party.

Complaints and appeals may be made in relation to any of the following:

- Waratah Polytechnics, its trainers, assessors or other staff;
- Education agent
- Any third-party providing services on Waratah Polytechnics's behalf, its trainers, assessors or other staff;
- Assessment/RPL outcome;
- Fees and refunds/re-crediting; or
- A student of Waratah Polytechnics.

Complaints may be made in relation to any of Waratah Polytechnic's services and activities such as:

- The application and enrolment process;
- Marketing information;
- Education agent
- The quality of training and assessment provided;
- Training and assessment matters, including student progress, student support and assessment requirements;
- The way someone has been treated; or
- The actions of another student.

Appeals should be made to request that a decision made by Waratah Polytechnics is reviewed. Decisions may have been about:

- Course admissions;
- Refund assessments;
- Response to a complaint;
- Assessment outcomes / results; or
- Other general decisions made by Waratah Polytechnics.

Waratah Polytechnic is committed to developing a procedurally fair complaints and appeals process that is carried out free from bias, following the principles of natural justice. Through this policy and procedure, Waratah Polytechnics ensures that complaints and appeals:

- Are responded to in a consistent and transparent manner;
- Are responded to promptly, objectively, with sensitivity and confidentiality;
- Are able to be made at no cost to the individual; and
- Are used as an opportunity to identify potential causes of the complaint or appeal and take actions to prevent the issues from recurring as well as identifying any areas for improvement.





The complaints and appeals policy and complaints and appeals form are made available to all students and potential students by directly contacting Waratah Polytechnics, through the Waratah Polytechnic's website and student handbooks.

Where possible, all informal attempts shall be made to resolve the issue (Informal Compliant) this may include advice, discussions, meeting with the student, emails and general mediation in relation to the issue and the student's issue. Any staff member can be involved in this informal process to resolve issues, but once a student has placed a formal complaint / appeal, the following procedures must be followed.

If a student is uncomfortable with speaking directly to the person involved or the informal process does not resolve the issue to the student's satisfaction, the formal process should be followed as described below. Where a student is unhappy with the outcome of an assessment decision, this will be dealt with under assessment appeals.

### *Informal complaints*

Students or potential students or stakeholders are encouraged, wherever possible, to resolve grievances directly with the person(s) concerned. For example: if the issue concerns an academic matter, the complainant should talk honestly to the trainer about his/her concerns, issues about fees should be discussed in the first instance with the PEO.

If the student or potential student or stakeholder has attempted to resolve the issue directly but is not satisfied with the outcome or does not wish to approach the person(s) concerned directly, then he/she may discuss the issue with the CEO. He/she may be accompanied or assisted by a support person during this process.

The PEO will consider the issue and may either suggest a course of action to resolve the issue or attempt to mediate between the complainant and the person(s) concerned.

Within ten (10) days of receiving the grievance, Waratah Polytechnics will provide the complainant and any other person(s) directly concerned with a written report summarizing the actions that were taken, or will be taken, to resolve the issue.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, a formal complaint can be lodged.

### *Formal Complaints*

Students or any other stakeholders who are not satisfied with the outcome of the informal process, or, who want to register a formal complaint may do so. There is no cost for the complaints process unless it is referred to a third party. Complainants have the right to access advice and support from independent external agencies/persons at any point of the complaint and appeals process. Use of external services will be at the complainant's costs unless authorized by the PEO.

Any person wishing to submit a formal complaint can do so by completing the Complaints and Appeals Form and state their case, providing as many details as possible. This form can be obtained by contacting Administration staff at Waratah Polytechnics, or through the Waratah Polytechnics website.





All formally submitted complaints are submitted to the PEO.

Once a formal complaint is received it will be entered the Complaints and Appeals Register and written acknowledgment will be sent to the complainant which is monitored by the CEO regularly. The information to be contained and updated within the register is as follows:

- The name of the complainant
- Date of the complaint
- Type of complaint
- Name of investigating officer/business unit assigned to deal with the complaint
- Response from those involved in the allegations
- Analysis of the matter
- Outcome of complaint
- Action recommended addressing systemic issues (if any)
- Time taken to investigate complaint
- Complainant satisfaction with the outcome.

A student may be assisted or accompanied by a support person at any face-to-face meetings regardless of the nature of the issue or complaint throughout the process at all times.

The PEO will then refer the matter to the appropriate staff members to resolve or make a decision on the complaint within 10 working days and keep the complainant informed of any decisions or outcomes concluded, or processes in place to deal with the complaint.

Where a decision is expected to take longer than 60 days, Waratah Polytechnics will advise the student in writing of the delay and including the reasons for the delay. Thereafter the student will be provided with weekly updates in writing of the progress of the complaint or appeal. Weekly updates to both complainant and appellant will be provided by the PEO. If decision is taking more than 60 days, the matter can be forwarded to an external complaints' resolution organisation as well for resolution.

Once a decision has been reached, the PEO will inform all parties involved in writing. Where the complaint process does not find in favour of the complainant, s/he will be notified that they have the right of appeal. To appeal a decision, the Waratah Polytechnics must receive, in writing, grounds of the appeal within 20 days of the date of the notice of the decision.

The PEO ensures that Waratah Polytechnics will act immediately on any complaint where the complaints process results in a decision that supports the complainant. Waratah Polytechnics will immediately implement any decision and/or corrective and preventative action that are required and advise the student of the outcome.

Copies of all documentation, outcomes and further action required will be placed on the Complaints and Appeals Register by the PEO or representative and in the student's file, in case of student as complainant.

Nothing in this procedure inhibits student's rights to pursue other legal remedies.







Students are entitled to resolve any dispute by exercising their rights to other legal remedies. Students wishing to take this course of action are advised to:

- Contact a solicitor; or
- Contact the Law Institute of NSW, 170 Phillip St, Sydney NSW 2000 and telephone (02) 9926 0333 for a referral to a solicitor.

### *Appealing*

All students and stakeholders have the right to appeal decisions made by Waratah Polytechnics where reasonable grounds can be established. The areas in which a student or stakeholder may appeal a decision made by Waratah Polytechnics may include:

- Any other conclusion/decision that is made after a complaint has been dealt with Waratah Polytechnics in the first instance as described in the complaints process above. This is referred to as a general appeals)
- Assessments decisions as set out below (assessment appeals).

To activate the appeals process, the complainant must complete a Complaints and Appeals Form that must include a summary of the grounds the appeal is based upon. The reason the student feels the decision is unfair is to be clearly explained and help and support with this process can be gained from Waratah Polytechnics staff.

About general appeals, the CEO determines the validity of the appeal and organizes a meeting with all parties involved in the matter and attempts to seek resolution where appropriate.

The process for all formally lodged appeals will begin within 10 working days of the appeal being lodged.

CEO ensures Waratah Polytechnics acts on any substantiated appeal.

### *General Appeals*

Where a student has appealed a decision or outcome of a formal complaint, they are required to notify Waratah Polytechnics in writing within 20 working days of the grounds of their appeal. Any supporting documentation should also be attached to the appeal

The appeal shall be lodged through the CEO or a nominee appointed by the CEO. An Waratah Polytechnics representative must record the details in the Complaints and Appeals Register.

The CEO or a nominee appointed by the CEO will be notified and will seek details regarding the initial documentation of the complaint and decide based on the grounds of the appeal.

The appellant will be notified in writing of the outcome with reasons for the decisions, and the Complaints and Appeals Register updated particularly the student will also be provided the option of activating the external appeals process if they are not satisfied with the outcome. The student is required to notify Waratah Polytechnics within **20**





working days if they wish to proceed with the external appeals process.

### *Assessment Appeals*

Where a student wishes to appeal an assessment, they are required to notify their Trainer in the first instance. Where appropriate their Trainer may decide to re-assess the student to ensure a fair and equitable decision is gained. The Trainer shall complete a written report regarding the re- assessment outlining the reasons why assessment was - or was not - granted.

If this is still not to the student's satisfaction, the student may formally lodge an appeal within **10** working days. They will lodge this with the CEO or a nominee appointed by the CEO and the appeal will be entered in the Complaints and Appeals Register.

The CEO will be notified and will seek details from the Trainer involved and any other relevant parties. A decision will be made regarding the appeal either indicating the assessment decision stands or details of a possible re-assessment by a third party. The third party will be another Trainer/Assessor appointed by Waratah Polytechnics.

The student will be notified in writing of the outcome with reasons for the decision, and the Complaints and Appeals Register will be updated. The student will also be provided the option of activating the external appeals process if they are not satisfied with the outcome. The student is required to notify Waratah Polytechnics if they wish to proceed with the external appeals process.

### *External Appeals*

If not satisfied with the decision in stage 2, the complainant may request that the matter be further reviewed by an external dispute resolution process, by the body appointed by Waratah Polytechnics for that purpose.

The details of these external bodies are as follows:

Resolution Institute, previously as LEADR and IAMA, has been accrediting mediators since the mid- 1990s. <https://www.resolution.institute/>

Or Overseas Students Ombudsman (For International students only) at Website: <http://www.oso.gov.au>

The division of the expenses associated with the mediation e.g. mediator's fee, room hire and possibly travel expenses are to be shared equally between Waratah Polytechnic and the complainant.

Waratah Polytechnic will immediately implement recommendations arising from the external review within at least 10 working days of the receipt of the recommendations.

### *Further information*

If a client (student or other client) is still dissatisfied with the decision of Waratah Polytechnic, they may wish to seek advice or make a complaint about Waratah Polytechnic to ASQA directly. If, after Waratah Polytechnic's internal complaints and appeals processes have been completed, you still believe Waratah Polytechnic is







breaching or has breached its legal requirements, you can submit a complaint to ASQA by completing the “The Complaint about a training organisation operating under ASQA’s jurisdiction” form. While ASQA will not be able to act as your advocate the lodgement of your complaint will inform ASQA’s risk assessment of Waratah Polytechnic, and a complaint audit may be conducted.

Contact details for ASQA are:

Australian Skills Quality Authority Melbourne –  
Level 6, 595 Collins Street Brisbane –  
Level 7, 215 Adelaide Street Sydney –  
Level 10, 255 Elizabeth Street, Canberra –  
Ground Floor, 64 Northbourne Avenue Perth -  
Level 11, 250 St Georges Terrace Adelaide –  
Level 5, 115 Grenfell Street Hobart –  
Level 11, 188 Collins Street Telephone: 1300 701 801;  
Email: [complaintsteam@asqa.gov.au](mailto:complaintsteam@asqa.gov.au) Website: [www.asqa.gov.au](http://www.asqa.gov.au)

Waratah Polytechnic Staff may also use this complaints and appeals process. Waratah Polytechnic will use all complaints as an opportunity for continuous improvement.

This policy and procedure is compliant with VQF and National Code Standards in providing a process for complaints and appeals to be heard and actioned where necessary.

#### *The Waratah Polytechnic Complaints and Appeals policy - principles of natural justice and procedural fairness*

- All parties to a complaint or appeal have the opportunity to put their case and have this properly considered
- Any allegation against a Waratah Polytechnic staff member or member of a subcontractor party is made known to that person
- Investigations and decisions are made by persons who do not exercise bias
- A complainant should feel confident that they will not suffer any discrimination as a result of using the complaint or appeal process
- Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent of the people that need to be directly involved in the complaint or appeal process.
- All the information regarding this policy can be found:

On the Waratah Polytechnic website, in the Student Handbook, in the Staff Handbook, In the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Agreement;

During Orientation;

- The student can be supported or accompanied by an independent person during the complaints and appeals process.
- It is normal Waratah Polytechnic policy that whilst a student is going through any formal complaint or appeals process that the student remains enrolled at R and continues their studies and assessments in the normal way. It should be noted that if the complaint or appeal has resulted in the student being suspended or excluded due to a breach of the Student Code of Conduct, then the suspension





or exclusion shall continue until either it has expired, or the result of the complaint or appeal is decided in the student's favour.

- Waratah Polytechnic has a fair and transparent informal and formal complaints and appeals process, but should the student require it, access is available to an independent mediator who can review the complaint and/or appeals process.

Important: see notes at beginning of section on External Appeals Procedure below.

NOTE: If the outcome is in the appellant's favour then Waratah Polytechnic will implement any changes recommended by the adjudicator immediately and advise the appellant of the outcome and actions taken.

### *General Process to lodge a complaint or internal appeal*

The process to be followed for an external appeal is documented by Compliance Executive for Students.

The following actions must be completed for a complaint or internal appeal:

Topic	Process
Availability of Complaints and appeals policy and Complaints and appeals form	The complaints and appeals policy and Complaints and appeals form are made available to all students and other stakeholders by directly contacting Waratah Polytechnic, through the Waratah Polytechnic's website and Student handbook.
Informal Complaints	Where possible all informal attempts shall be made to resolve the issue (Informal Complaint).  This may include advice, discussions, meeting with the student or stakeholder, emails and general mediation in relation to the issue and the student/stakeholder issue.  Any staff member can be involved in this informal process to resolve issues but once a student has placed a formal complaint / appeal the following procedures must be followed.
Receive and acknowledge the Formal complaint	<b>Complaints</b>  Any student, potential student, employee or third party may submit a formal complaint to Waratah Polytechnic with the reasonable expectation that all complaints will be treated with integrity and privacy. There is no cost for the complaints process unless it is referred to a third party.  Complainants have the right to access advice and support from independent external agencies/persons at any point of the complaint and appeals process. Use of external services will be at the complainant's costs unless authorized by the Principal Executive Officer (PEO).





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	<p>Any person wishing to submit a formal complaint or appeal can do so by completing the Complaints and Appeals Form and state their case providing as many details as possible. This form can be obtained by contacting Administration staff at Waratah Polytechnic, or through the Waratah Polytechnic website.</p> <p>As per policy, complaints are to be made in writing by the complainant.</p> <p>Waratah Polytechnic should review all complaints upon receipt.</p> <p>Acknowledge receipt of complaint in writing by sending a letter to complainant or email.</p> <p>Record details of the complaint on the Complaints and Appeals Register.</p>
Review of Complaint or Appeal	Once a complaint or appeal is received and checked for it should be forwarded to the appropriate person for review.
Cost	There will be no charge to the complainant or appellant for the lodgement or presentation of their case. Incidental expenses for attending Waratah Polytechnic offices to lodge the document or attend a meeting or any charges incurred (e.g. telephone) will Not be reimbursed.
Presentation of case	ALL complainants and appellants must be given the opportunity to formally present their case and to be accompanied by a friend or third party to support them (and if language is an issue to help them present their case). The cost to accompany that friend/third party will be at their own cost.
Determination	<p>The Review Person may gather evidence and constitute a review committee as they see fit.</p> <p>This process must be commenced within 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint or appeal (and receipt of all supporting evidence) and complete the process within a reasonable time period usually 10- 15 working days.</p> <p>If further evidence is requested, then the Review Person must communicate with the complainant or appellant as soon as possible and within 5 working days asking for evidence.</p> <p>The process will be put on hold until the evidence is received.</p> <p>How a decision is reached will be advised in the written response to the complainant or appellant.</p>





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Timescale	The complaint or appeal should normally be commenced within 10 working days of the receipt of the completed form and associated supporting material. See “Determination” above in relation to request of supplementary information.
Appeal following a complaint	If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, they may appeal. That appeal is on the fairness and objectivity of the decision.
Formal response to a complaint	A template for a formal written response has been developed for when the complaint is accepted or rejected. This included the complainant’s right to access the Internal Appeals process.

Formal response to an appeal	A template for a formal written response has been developed for when the appeal is accepted or rejected. This includes the complainant’s right to access the External Appeal process.
Documentation	ALL documentation relating to a formal complaint or appeal MUST be recorded on the student file.  This must include the initial form, supporting evidence, meeting minutes, copy of correspondence with all concerned parties. This information will be kept confidently and stored securely for 7 years.  Documentation of all complaints and appeals and their outcomes is securely maintained. Potential causes of complaints and appeals are identified, and Waratah Polytechnic takes appropriate corrective action to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.
Complaints and Appeals Register	All formal complaints or appeals must be logged in the Complaints and Appeals Register
Learning	A complaint or appeal is a learning opportunity for Waratah Polytechnic. The outcome will be seen as an input to the continuous improvement process. Any decisions that support students will be immediately implemented.
Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015	Subject to Clause 6.6, to be compliant with Standard 6 RTO has the following procedures in place:  RTO has a complaints policy to manage and respond to allegations involving the conduct of:  RTO, its trainers, assessors or other staff;  a third-party providing services on RTO’s behalf, its trainers, assessors or other staff; or





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	<p>a student of RTO.</p> <p>RTO has an appeals policy to manage requests for a review of decisions, including assessment decisions, made by RTO or a third-party providing services on the RTO's behalf.</p> <p>RTO's complaints policy and appeals policy ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are adopted at every stage of the complaint and appeal process;</li> <li>are publicly available;</li> <li>set out the procedure for making a complaint or requesting an appeal;</li> <li>complaints and requests for an appeal are acknowledged in writing and finalised as soon as practicable; and</li> <li>provide for review by an appropriate party independent of RTO and the complainant or appellant, at the request of the individual making the complaint or appeal, if the processes fail to resolve the complaint or appeal.</li> </ul> <p>Where RTO considers more than 60 calendar days are required to process and finalise the complaint or appeal, RTO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>informs the complainant or appellant in writing, including reasons why more than 60 calendar days are required; and</li> <li>Regularly updates the complainant or appellant on the progress of the matter.</li> </ul>
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### Categorisation of complaint or appeal

The nature of the complaint or appeal will be categorised as follows:	Matter referred to the following:
<b>Administrative Complaint.</b> Complaints against the delivery of administrative and support services and facilities	<b>Student Services Officer</b>
<b>Academic Complaint.</b> Complaints against teachers/trainers, training delivery and assessment and the like.	<b>Student Services Officer</b>
<b>Student Conduct Complaint.</b> Complaints against misconduct/ misbehaviour of students.	<b>Student Services Officer</b>
<b>Appeal</b>	<b>PEO/ CEO of WARATAH</b>





### *Financial hardship*

If you are experiencing severe financial hardship, contact RTO to make an appointment to further discuss your tuition fee options.

### *Fee for Service*

All qualifications and courses offered by Waratah Polytechnic are available on a Fee for Service (FFS) basis. Details of the cost of each course are available on Waratah Polytechnic's website. [www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au)

FFS qualifications must be paid for in accordance with the payment plan arranged, if any, prior to commencement of the qualification. Payment can be made by Cheque, Credit Card or EFT. Enrolments will not be processed without payment of an enrolment fee or notification of an agreed payment plan. Please note that Students are not officially enrolled until they have paid their fees or received written documentation stating they are exempt from payment or a payment plan has been entered into.

### *Payment by Instalments*

Where a student enrolls in a Fee for Service course or qualification, an initial payment for tuition fees should not exceed 50% of the total payment shall be paid on enrolment. The balance of the fee will be paid in accordance with a payment plan negotiated and agreed upon between Waratah Polytechnic and the Student.

The amount and frequency of payments will depend on the amount payable for the course and the length of the course and shall reflect the value of training delivered within a specified period. At no time shall the student be required to make any payment more than statutory guidelines which regulate the amount Waratah Polytechnic is permitted to require a student to pay, at any time.

Where a student faces financial hardship, Waratah Polytechnic shall make every effort to propose a As with all relationships between Waratah Polytechnic and its students, all discussions and arrangements entered remain strictly confidential.

Paying by instalments must be arranged with the Waratah Polytechnic office within two weeks of being notified of acceptance into the qualification.

### *Re-Issue of Statement of Attainments and or Certificates*

If a student requests that a qualification Testamur or Statement of Attainment be re-issued, then the RTO may charge a re-issue fee of \$100.00. This charge may be waived at the discretion of the PEO. If levied, the fee must be paid prior to the re-issue.

### *Material Fee*

The material fees and charges are subject to change from time to time. For the most recent information, please refer to Waratah Polytechnic's website [www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au) or contact Waratah Polytechnic's office.

### *Refunds*

Refunds will be paid direct to the student. To claim a refund, the student must complete a refund





application form available from Waratah Polytechnic administration.

The refund amount in the table below is based on fees collected from a Student

No.	Situation	RTO Refund fee
1	<p>Waratah Polytechnic does not deliver the program for which the student has paid for the following reasons:</p> <p>The course does not begin on the agreed commencement date</p> <p>The offer is withdrawn by the Institute and incomplete information is provided by the student</p> <p>The course ceases to be provided, before any training and/or assessment</p> <p>The course is not provided in full to the student because a sanction has been imposed on the registered provider Visa refused (before commencement)</p>	Full Refund on tuition fees
2	<p>Withdrawal notified in writing and received by the Institute 28 days or more prior to course commencement</p>	70% refund of tuition fees
3	<p>Withdrawal notified in writing and received by the Institute after the course commencement</p>	No refund
4	<p>Visa Refused (After Commencement)</p>	Charged according to the study period

### Payment of refund

Application rejected by Waratah Polytechnic	Full refund of tuition fee NOT including application fee (\$200)
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<p>Visa refused prior to course commencement OR withdraw at least 10 weeks prior to agreed start date</p>	<p>Full refund of tuition fee NOT including application fee (\$200)</p> <p>The amount of unspent pre-paid fees that the provider must refund the student for the purpose of subsection 47E (2) of the Act is the total amount of the pre-paid fees the provider received for the course in respect of the student less the following amount:</p> <p>the lesser of:</p> <p>5% of the total amount of pre-paid fees that the provider received in respect of the student for the course before the default day; or</p> <p>the sum of \$500</p>
<p>Withdrawal more than 4 weeks and up to 10 weeks prior to agreed start date</p>	<p>70% refund of tuition fees NOT including application fee (\$200)</p>
<p>Withdrawal less than 4 weeks prior to agreed start date</p>	<p>25% refund of tuition fees NOT including application fee (\$200)</p>
<p>Withdraw after the agreed start date</p>	<p>No refund</p>
<p>Enrolment is cancelled due to student's misconduct or non-compliance with the rules and regulations set by the Australian Government</p>	<p>No refund</p>
<p>Course withdraw by Waratah Polytechnic (Before the agreed start date)</p>	<p>Full refund including application fee</p>
<p>Course withdraw by Waratah Polytechnic (RTO is unable to deliver the course after the agreed start date)</p>	<p>Refund of unused tuition fees.</p> <p>Pre-paid fees may be transferred to an alternative enrolment where the student agrees</p>
<p>The course is not provided fully to the student because the Waratah Polytechnic has a sanction imposed by a government regulator</p>	<p>Return of unused tuition fees</p>
<p>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) fees</p>	<p>No refund if Statement of Attainment provided</p>
<p>Abandons the course during the study period</p>	<p>No refund and the balance of all outstanding fees for the course to be invoiced to the student</p>

Visa extension is refused	Once the term starts, fee is not refundable Students have their own responsibilities to ensure they have valid visa(s).
Withdrawal from study - current students (not including English Language Studies' students) with confirmed extenuating circumstances) *	Refund of unused tuition fees (of the following term/s) (Notification of Withdrawal from Studies) Form must be received 2 weeks prior to term commencement by the Student Services Officer)*
Compulsory Health Insurance (Student visa holders only)	Refer to Overseas Student Health Cover provider
Home stay Fees and accommodation booking fee (if applicable)	Full Refund of unused fees if two (2) weeks' notice is given (it also subjects to the service providers' terms and conditions)
Airport Pick-up (if applicable)	Full Refund if service cancelled prior to flight arrival
EFTPOS and/or credit card payment surcharge and any transaction fees	No refund
Visa cancelled due to actions of the student	No refund
Where a student applies and is granted approval by the Waratah Polytechnic to transfer to another registered provider prior to completion of six months study of the principal course.	No refund

Notes:

- Students to require to complete Application for Refund of Fees Form with relevant documents.
- Refunds identified above are for the Tuition Fees ONLY (Tuition Fees are those identified in the marketing brochure/website or on the agreement as course fees).
- Incidental fees are all other fees apart from Tuition Fees and Enrolment Fees E.g. Material Fees. ONLY the "unspent" amount will be returned. If the cost of the service or material has already been incurred this will NOT be refunded.
- Fee refunds for special circumstances (illness, family circumstances) may be agreed upon, on an individual basis, at the discretion of the accounts department of Waratah Polytechnic.
- Where the student has paid for other fees, including material fees, then only the



- “unspent” portion will be returned.
- For RPL, the fee is \$150 each unit
  - All date calculations are based on the date the form is received by Waratah Polytechnic, not the date the student completed the form (if different).
  - An LLN assessment will be conducted prior to the enrolment or commencement at no charges to the prospective student.
  - All approved refund request will be paid in 14 working days and CEO is responsible for refund approval.

\* The fees and charges are subject to change from time to time. For the most recent information, please visit Waratah Polytechnic’s website [www.waratah.edu.au](http://www.waratah.edu.au) or contact Waratah Polytechnic’s office.

### *Unique Student Identifier (USI)*

A USI is required by all Australians undertaking nationally recognised training. It allows students to link to a secure online record of all qualifications gained regardless of the provider. This system was implemented by the Australian Government in 2015, so it will show student achievements from 1 January 2015 onwards.

As an RTO, Waratah Polytechnic cannot issue Certificates or Statements of Attainment without a USI. Therefore, it is mandatory that all students supply their USI upon enrolment. If you do not have a USI, please visit <https://www.usi.gov.au/students/create-your-usi> for more information, and instructions on how to apply.

Your USI will help keep your training records and results together in an online account controlled by you. Each time you enrol to study with a new training organisation, your USI will be used to store your training records and results.

By having a USI you will be able to access your training records and results (or transcript) whenever you need them. For example, for a new employer or when you enrol to study at a new training organisation. Your USI can be accessed online from your computer, tablet or smart phone and gives you access to your training records and results at your fingertips. For further information about the USI can be found at:

<http://www.usi.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Should a USI exemption apply, the student is made aware prior to enrolment or training that their training results will not be accessible through the Commonwealth and will not appear on any authenticated VET transcript prepared by the USI Registrar

USI Exemptions apply according to the following criteria:

Exemption categories are:

- International students who complete all requirements for their VET qualification or VET statement of attainment outside Australia.
- An individual who has completed all the requirements for the VET qualification or VET statement of attainment before 1 January 2015.
- Students who demonstrate a genuine personal objection to being assigned a USI. This exemption can only be granted by the Student Identifiers Registrar.





## General Information – Student Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities

Waratah Polytechnic students have the following responsibilities:

To become familiar with relevant Policies and the Student Handbook and comply with any student requirements contained therein including relevant legislated requirements;

- To respect the working environment of others at the organisation and to follow all related Policies and Procedures;
- To conduct themselves in a responsible, polite and safe manner and refrain from abuse towards Waratah Polytechnic employees or other students;
- To follow all reasonable instructions provided by Waratah Polytechnic Employees;
- To respect the right of Waratah Polytechnic to express the opinions of their Trainer/Assessor;
- To conduct themselves in a courteous, polite and ethical manner and in a manner, which demonstrates tolerance and respect for others and supports the principles of equal opportunity, anti-discrimination and occupational health safety and environment;
- To undertake their studies to the best of their abilities;
- To meet deadlines for work to be submitted;
- To submit authentic documentation (NOTE: where the authenticity of the evidence submitted is in question Waratah Polytechnic reserves the right to conduct further investigation by way of interview and other appropriate means as required);
- To submit work without plagiarising or cheating;
- To consult with Waratah Polytechnic in a timely manner if problems/issues arise;
- To accept joint responsibility for their own learning;
- To provide feedback to Waratah Polytechnic on its courses and services;
- To undertake all study in the manner and formats required and in the specified course timeframes;
- To adhere to Waratah Polytechnic's code of conduct.
- To seek approval from authorised Waratah Polytechnic Employees for the use of Waratah Polytechnic IT equipment, assets, stationery, etc.;
- To encourage equal opportunity;
- To promote an effective learning environment through good personal behaviour;
- To respect the rights of others; and
- To cooperate with Waratah Polytechnic with requests for further evidence including reasonable adjustments made to assessment process, confirmation of authenticity of documentation submitted for assessment and overall confirmation of competency.

### Referencing

Assessments must be your own original work. If you use another person's ideas, writing or work and do not acknowledge the original source, you are committing plagiarism. Referencing is a way of showing that you are engaging with the literature in your subject area without plagiarising.

Referencing serves several important purposes:

- Acknowledges sources of information so you are not accused of plagiarism
- Demonstrates the depth and quality of the research you have done



- Allows others to locate sources you have used if they wish to know more

## A guide to referencing

SOURCE OF INFORMATION	SHOULD YOU PROVIDE A REFERENCE
Books, newspapers, journals, magazines, theses, conference papers, reports, pamphlets (published or online)	Yes
Case law, legislation, parliamentary debates, treaties	Yes
The internet	Yes. It is a common misunderstanding that information on the internet does not need acknowledgement. You should use material found on the internet with caution, as it may be unreliable or out of date.
TV, radio, scripts	Yes. While you are listening, you should note the program name and the date of broadcast. Sometimes it is possible to obtain a transcript to check that you have heard correctly.
Videos, films, DVDs	Yes. There are specific conventions for referencing visual media.
Lectures	It depends. There are three possibilities:  If the lecturer mentions something which is general knowledge, there is no need for the lecturer, or you, to provide a reference.  If the lecturer presents her/his own idea, you should reference this as the lecturer's idea.  If the lecturer presents another author's idea, you should refer to both sources: the original author, and the lecturer who presents the idea. However, in most cases, instead of relying upon your lecturer's reference, it would be more valuable for you to read the original author yourself.



Illustrations, images, artwork, tables, graphs, programming codes	Yes. You need to acknowledge the source of drawings, photographs, graphs, designs, tables, programming codes and all other examples of non-verbal information that you use in your work.
Quotations	Yes. In referencing quotes, be careful to use quotation marks, and be careful not to change any words.
Paraphrases, summaries	Yes. When expressing the information or ideas of someone else in different words or in a briefer form, you must still acknowledge the source of the information or ideas.
Common knowledge	<p>You don't need to provide a reference for common knowledge - that is, information shared by many people. It is sometimes difficult to know what is and what is not common knowledge in your field of study. If you read or hear the same information many times from different sources, it is probably common knowledge. Common knowledge usually includes major historical events, famous people and geographic areas that are known about by educated people throughout the world, not just in the country in which they occurred.</p> <p>If the information is not common knowledge, you should provide a reference. This shows your reader that the idea is held by an expert in the field. It also demonstrates to your lecturer that you have been reading academic texts.</p>

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking the words, theories, creations or ideas of another person and passing them off as your own.

Plagiarism can be deliberate – copying a passage from a book or journal or pasting something from the internet into an assignment without referencing the original source.

You can also commit inadvertent (accidental) plagiarism which is where you unintentionally repeat some of the information you have read in the course of your research. You must ensure you reference ALL material that comes from another source so question yourself as to whether you have read the information elsewhere and go back to your sources to locate the reference.

Plagiarism can also result from not referencing correctly. You must ensure you know how to reference your work using the style advised by your trainer/assessor.



## Consequences of Plagiarism

All forms of plagiarism will be taken seriously - deliberate or not!

Plagiarism is a serious issue that can result in failing an assignment, or even having to leave the course.

For more details, please contact your trainer, student administration or access Waratah Polytechnic's website.

## Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct outlines the rights and responsibilities of all Students. The Code of Conduct is in place to ensure an atmosphere of respect, understanding, and professionalism for all students. Waratah Polytechnic celebrates diversity and embraces equal opportunity and promotes a supportive adult learning environment.

### *Student Rights*

All students have the right to:

- Feel safe and welcome at Waratah Polytechnic;
- Be treated with respect and dignity;
- Privacy (as per the Privacy Act and Australian Privacy Principles): only information necessary to the core functions of Waratah Polytechnic can be shared without the Student's prior consent;
- Be free from bullying and harassment (including sexual harassment) online or during any Waratah Polytechnic training activity;
- Receive fair and equitable training and assessment;
- Receive services without discrimination;
- Complain without fear or recrimination;
- Be provided with, and have access to, Waratah Polytechnic policies, procedures and Student rights.

### *Responsibilities*

In general, it is expected that as a Student you will:

- Be responsible for your own study program;
- Treat staff and fellow Students respectfully, courteously and with consideration at all times, whilst respecting their privacy and safety;
- Respect Waratah Polytechnic's equipment, resources and facilities;
- Actively participate in the learning process;
- Respect the rights of other Students and staff to have their own opinions;
- Be open to, and welcoming of, the diversity of Students in your course.

Sanctions, such as suspension or expulsion from the Institute, may be applied where Students fail to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

For more information please access Waratah Polytechnic's website or via email to [support@waratah.edu.au](mailto:support@waratah.edu.au)







## Unacceptable and Inappropriate behaviours

RTO is committed to promoting an atmosphere of respect, understanding, professionalism, equity and access for all Students.

### *Harassment*

Is any form of behaviour that:

- Is not asked for
- Is not wanted
- Is not returned and is likely to create a hostile or uncomfortable place to be
- Is humiliating, intimidating or offending.

### *Sexual harassment*

Is illegal and will not be tolerated by Waratah Polytechnic.

### *Bullying*

Includes:

- Intimidation
- Physical harm, emotional distress
- Threats/name calling/derogatory comments regarding age, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation
- Failure to acknowledge good work
- Deliberate isolation from groups/information/opportunities
- Undue pressure and impossible deadlines
- Emotional hurt to another person through electronic devices such as email, phone, and text message.

## General Information – Qualifications

### Certificates and Statements of Attainment

Students who successfully complete all the requirements of their training program will receive a Nationally Accredited Certificate or students who does not complete the full requirements of the training program will be issued a Statement of Attainment according to the requirements specified in; <https://www.aqf.edu.au/framework/aqf-policies>

Waratah Polytechnic will issue Certificates and Statements of Attainment that are within its scope of registration, and that certify the achievement of:

- Qualifications or industry/enterprise competency standards from nationally Endorsed Training Packages; or
- Qualifications, competency standards or modules specified in accredited courses.

Moreover, that:

- Meet the requirements in the current AQF Implementation Handbook, including the national codes.
- Identify the units of competency from Training Packages, or competencies or modules from accredited courses, that the student has attained.





- Identify the Waratah Polytechnic by its national provider number.

Waratah Polytechnic will issue all AQF certification within 30 calendar days of a student being assessed as competent in the qualification, skill set or unit of competency in which they are enrolled and providing all agreed fees have been paid to Waratah Polytechnic.

## Qualification Completion Timeframe

Waratah Polytechnic has provided the following timeframes for course completion:

### Qualification Timeframe

Please note:

- a. Waratah Polytechnic reserves the right to cancel an enrolment without notice (withdraw the Student), if after allocated timeframe a Student has not completed and achieved their Qualification of Individual Unit of Competency.
- b. If the Qualification has partially successfully been completed, a Statement of Attainment will be issued for those units completed the student has been deemed competent.
- c. Your student file and Student Management System records will be updated to reflect changes with your qualification timeframe and completion.

### Exit Point

- Unit by unit delivery allows students to exit at any point with full credit for all successfully completed units.
- At any point before the completion of the program, a participant may request a Statement of Attainment for an individual unit or units where he/she has been assessed competent.
- At the successful completion of the program, a certificate and record of results for the qualification will be issued.

## Student declaration

I, the under named, declare that I have received, read, and understood with the contents of this Student handbook, which also outlines the following conditions as a student of Waratah Polytechnic.

Student Name:	
Student Signatures;	
Date;	





### *Student obligations*

- I understand my obligation responsibilities as a student

### *Student support*

- I have been offered the opportunity to access learning support
- I have been provided with a course outline for the course in which I have been accepted

### *National recognition*

- I understand the options for national recognition and recognition of prior learning
- I have been advised of the nationally recognised qualification to be issued on successful completion of the course.

### *Fees and Refunds*

- I have been advised of all applicable fees and charges
- I have been advised of all refund and reimbursement guidelines

### *Complaints and appeals*

- I have been advised about the Complaints and Appeals processes and procedures

### *Work Health and Safety*

- I have read and understand my rights and responsibilities as a student. This includes my rights and responsibilities regarding Workplace Health and Safety. I agree to abide by the rules of this organisation and to report any WHS issues to ensure a safe learning environment.

