



Student Handbook

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Contents

Acknowledgement of Understanding	4
Introduction	4
Mission Statement.....	4
Vision Statement	5
Training Programs.....	5
Mining Skills Australia Training Team	5
Student Support	5
Trainers.....	6
Student Selection	6
Enrolment	7
Unique Student Identifier	7
Studying at Mining Skills Australia.....	7
Personal and Academic Support	8
Language / Literacy and Numeracy.....	9
What is the Reading Writing Hotline?	9
What happens when I call the Hotline?	9
When can I call the Hotline?.....	9
Flexible Learning and Assessment	10
Assessment Requirements	10
Assessment Malpractice.....	10
What is cheating?	11
What is Collusion?	11
What is Plagiarism?	11
What are the Penalties for Plagiarism or Cheating?	11
What if I don't agree with the decision?	12
How do I avoid Plagiarism or Cheating?	12
Code of Conduct	12
Discrimination.....	13
Harassment.....	13
Physical Assault / Abuse	14
Change of Personal Details.....	14
Evaluation and Feedback	15

Making the Most of your Training	15
Course Information.....	15
Training Programs	16
Competency Based Training	16
Evidence Requirements	17
Assessment	18
Principles of Assessment.....	19
Rules of Evidence	19
Assessment Results	20
Reasonable Adjustment	20
Extensions for Assessment.....	20
Awards.....	20
Course Delivery	21
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	22
Recognition Process	22
Recognition Decision.....	23
Credit Transfer	24
Policies and Procedures	24
Access and Equity.....	24
Complaints and Appeals Policy.....	24
Complaints	24
Appeals.....	25
Transition of Superseded Courses	27
Student Records	27
Procedure.....	27
Record Keeping Policy for Assignments and Student Information	28
Fee Payment and Refund Policy	28
Cancellation and Refunds.....	29
Special Consideration.....	30
Exceptions	31
Privacy Policy	31
Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)	32

Acknowledgement of Understanding

To ensure sound judgment and decision making, and to provide the opportunity to potential Mining Skills Australia students to raise issues, concerns and questions prior to commencement of training, Mining Skills Australia makes the Student Handbook available to the learners by providing a copy or accessing through the Mining Skills Australia.

Mining Skills Australia requires each student to read and understand the information contained in this Student Handbook prior to enrolment or commencement of training.

For any concerns, questions or clarifications please contact Mining Skills Australia at:

Address: Level 7/26 Wharf Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

Email: admin@miningskills.com.au

Contact number: (07) 3556 3982

Introduction

This Student Handbook has been designed to brief Mining Skills Australia students on relevant information in relation to their course, enabling students to make informed decisions regarding their training. Students can contact Mining Skills Australia's student support team regarding any clarification to the information contained in this handbook.

Mission Statement

Mining Skills Australia seeks to provide dynamic, innovative, and high-quality content-oriented courses and materials to our learners studying in business certificate course. Our goal is to provide modern, relevant, job-oriented online courses programs that assist individuals wishing to advance or change careers.

Mining Skills Australia's Australian-accredited course programs are designed to be flexible enough to allow students to work whilst working towards the completion of high-demand certificate course.

Mining Skills Australia aims to provide practical-based training that develops robust work skills through imaginative and collaborative approaches in developing course content and delivering practice-based training and assessment methods as emphasised in the Mining Skills Australia model of learning.

It is the goal of Mining Skills Australia to become known Australia-wide as by business and industry as a “first port of call” when wishing to upskill their workforce and develop confidence, as well as robust, practical business skills and knowledge in staff that improve and enhance their operations.

Vision Statement

Mining Skills Australia seeks to become an Australia’s leading training institute across a broad range of nationally accredited qualifications and courses renowned for developing career and life-enhancing opportunities for its graduates - who are renowned by the business and industry as being highly skilled alumni that develop into leading industry professionals.

Training Programs

As a registered training organisation (RTO) in the vocational education and training (VET) sector, Mining Skills Australia offers the following nationally recognised qualifications and nationally accredited qualifications including:

- RIWHS201E Work safely and follow WHS policies and procedures
- RIERR205D Apply initial response First Aid
- RIIGOV201E Comply with site work processes/procedures
- RIERR302E - Respond to local emergencies and incidents
- RIICOM201E Communicate in the workplace
- RIIRIS201E Conduct local risk control

For more information on the course’s Mining Skills Australia has on offer, please refer to our website.

Mining Skills Australia Training Team

Students may contact the Mining Skills Australia Training Team at (07) 3556 3982.

Student Support

Students completing a training program will be supported by Mining Skills Australia’s Student Support Team. Our knowledgeable team will work with you to help you achieve success in your chosen field.

The Support Team can assist students through a variety of activities:

- Assisting with logging in the Student Management System (SMS) and with accessing the resources.
- Supporting flexible learning and processing extensions where applicable.
- Arranging contact between trainer/assessors and students where required.

- Assisting students with finding and understanding their trainer's feedback.

Trainers

Your trainers will be qualified industry professionals, ready to guide you through your learning. Their feedback and guidance will ensure that you are job-ready for your chosen industry.

All Mining Skills Australia trainers must follow the below requirements as outlined in the Standards for Registered Training Organisation 2015 (SRTO 2015) Clause 1.13 to 1.15:

Training and assessment are delivered by trainers and assessors who have:

1. Vocational competencies at least to the level being delivered and assessed.
2. Current industry skills directly relevant to the training and assessment being provided; and
3. Current knowledge and skills in vocational training and learning that informs their training and assessment.
4. The RTO's training and assessment is delivered only by persons who have:
 - a. TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or its successor or.
 - b. A diploma or higher-level qualification in adult education.
5. Where a person conducts assessment only, the RTO ensures that the person has:
 - a. TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or its successor or.
 - b. A diploma or higher-level qualification in adult education or.
 - c. TAESS00011 Assessor Skill Set or its successor.

Student Selection

Mining Skills Australia always conducts recruitment of students in an ethical, fair and responsible manner using various methods.

Mining Skills Australia is committed to ensuring that all student selection processes are fair, equitable and consistent with workplace performance, competency level and the training package requirements.

Therefore, selection into a training program is based upon the applicant:

- Meeting any pre-requisite qualifications or work experience, and.
- Meeting any age requirements that may be in place for a particular course.

Student enrolments are subject to availability of places on the training program. This is based on the maximum number of participants who can be accommodated, type of course, learning structures, student needs etc.

Mining Skills Australia shall ensure that any applicants who do not meet entry requirements are advised of any appropriate pre-entry training they may take to meet eligibility criteria.

Enrolment

While Mining Skills Australia will endeavour to complete the enrolment process as quickly as possible, please allow up to 5 business days from confirmation of your payment for enrolment. Upon enrolment, students will receive via email course information and personalised logins. The training and assessment resources necessary to complete the selected course are available on Tutis specific to each student and accessed with personalised logins.

Students may request hard copy resources anytime during the training period and will be charged cost per unit plus shipping cost. Students may order any number of units as required. Orders are placed after the invoice has been paid. The resources will be delivered within 10 business days or more to the students mailing address.

Unique Student Identifier

An initiative of the Australian Government is the requirement for all students of Vocational Education and Training to supply a Unique Student Identifier number to their VET provider. Students will be assisted by Mining Skills Australia to apply for and supply their USI if authorised by the student. Mining Skills Australia has a registered facility to verify each USI before issuance of any certification. All students should be aware that Mining Skills Australia and no VET provider, can issue a certificate for a VET qualification without being supplied a student's USI.

Exemptions to the USI requirements may apply including for international students studying onshore and outside of Australia. For any student exempt from supplying a USI, completion results, and records will not be available through the Commonwealth Registrar <http://usi.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>.

Studying at Mining Skills Australia

Mining Skills Australia conducts training courses to suit student needs, course type, and learning styles. The following student guidelines will help foster a healthy learning environment for all students.

Personal and Academic Support

As a student at Mining Skills Australia, you will enjoy the many benefits of studying at your own pace with flexible hours. Our student support team is available from Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm to assist you with any questions you may have!

Trainers are also able to provide guidance by phone and email. Help and support is only a phone call or email away:

Email : admin@miningskills.com.au.

Contact number: (07) 3556 3982

Mining Skills Australia conducts assessment of needs upon enrolment or before commencement of training. In such cases, Mining Skills Australia will ensure that the assessment of need is undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity and any identified support needs issues are managed.

Learner support may include but is not limited to any disability or impairment that restricts access and equity as well as, computer literacy or English language, literacy, and numeracy (LLN) information obtained from learners prior to enrolment and prior to the commencement of their first unit of competency.

Educational and support services may include, but are not limited to:

- Pre-enrolment materials.
- Study support and study skills programs.
- Language, literacy, and numeracy (LLN) programs or referrals to these programs.
- Equipment, resources and/or programs to increase access for learners with disabilities and other learners in accordance with access and equity.
- Learning resource centers.
- Flexible scheduling and delivery of training and assessment.
- Counselling services or referrals to these services.
- Information and communications technology (ICT) support.
- Learning materials in alternative formats, for example, in large print.
- Any other services that the RTO considers necessary to support learners to achieve competency.

Where appropriate, Mining Skills Australia will seek external assistance to ensure additional support services are available. You will be informed in case additional costs may be incurred to arrange access to external additional support services.

Language / Literacy and Numeracy

Mining Skills Australia makes appropriate concessions for language, literacy, and numeracy issues of students where these concessions do not compromise the requirements of the relevant Training Package and the integrity, equity and fairness of assessment.

During the enrolment process, all students complete a brief non-invasive language, literacy, and numeracy assessment to enable Mining Skills Australia to identify any issues that may need to be addressed prior to the commencement of training. Strategies to address these issues will be negotiated with students and may include adjusting learning and assessment modes and methods.

Mining Skills Australia provide materials, resources, and assessment tasks at a level of complexity required and also provide opportunities for repeated and supported practice.

Where can I get help with language, literacy, and numeracy?

Individuals who want to get help with their literacy and numeracy can access information about the nearest LLN provider by calling the Reading Writing Hotline on 1300 655 506.

What is the Reading Writing Hotline?

The Reading Writing Hotline is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training. The project is managed by TAFE NSW - Access and General Education Curriculum Centre and is Australia's national telephone adult literacy and numeracy referral service. For the price of a local call from anywhere in Australia, the hotline can provide you with advice as well as a referral to one of 1200 providers of courses in adult literacy and numeracy.

What happens when I call the Hotline?

You will speak to an experienced adult literacy teacher who will advise you on ways you can access classes in your local area to improve reading, writing, spelling, and maths skills. The information you give about yourself is confidential and will not be given to anyone else.

When can I call the Hotline?

You can call the Hotline at any time. If a teacher is unavailable to take your call, your name and number will be taken by the hotline paging service and your call will be returned.

Flexible Learning and Assessment

You can start anytime, and Mining Skills Australia will develop a unique training plan for each student to assist with time management and fitting studying around your work and life commitments.

If you've already completed a qualification, it may be possible to apply for credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) as long as sufficient and current evidence is provided as required. To learn more about credit transfer and recognition of prior learning please refer to the RPL and Credit Transfer Policy located in the Policies and Procedures section of the handbook.

For further information on how to apply for credit transfer and RPL you can contact Mining Skills Australia's student support team.

Assessment Requirements

All assessments must be submitted in the classroom, face to face. If you are having difficulty completing an assessment, you may discuss it with your trainer/assessor well in advance of the due date. This way the trainer/assessor may be able to provide support or grant additional time. Please note there may be conditions to gaining an extension.

Students are advised to keep a copy of their assessments prior to submitting. Mining Skills Australia can accept no responsibility for lost assessment tasks.

Please note: Students will have to complete assessment tasks again if their work goes missing and therefore it is important to keep a copy of their original assessment tasks.

Assessments will be delivered in the classroom, face to face.

Assessment Malpractice

Assessment malpractice includes:

- Cheating.
- Collusion and
- Plagiarism.

Mining Skills Australia regards the integrity of assessment as critical to its professional responsibilities as an RTO and therefore strives to ensure the assessment processes are not compromised. Mining Skills Australia has policies and procedures in place for dealing with assessment malpractice.

What is cheating?

Cheating within the context of the study environment, means to dishonestly present an assessment task or assessment activity as genuinely representing your own understanding of and/or ability in the subject concerned.

Some examples of cheating are:

- Submitting someone else's work as your own whether you have that person's consent or not.
- Submitting another author's work as your own, without proper acknowledgement of the author.
- To allow someone else to submit your own work as theirs.
- To use any part of someone else's work without the proper acknowledgement.

There are other forms of cheating not contained in this list. These are merely given as some examples. If you are unsure about whether any particular behaviour would constitute plagiarism or cheating, please check with your trainer prior to submitting your assessment work.

What is Collusion?

Collusion is the presentation of work, which is the result in whole or in part of unauthorised collaboration with another person or persons. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not have opportunity to copy your work.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a form of cheating and includes presenting another person's or organisation's ideas or expressions as your own. This includes, however is not limited to, copying written works such as books or journals, data or images, tables, diagrams, designs, plans, photographs, film, music, formulae, web sites and computer programs.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism or Cheating?

If a trainer suspects that you are cheating, they will investigate further to establish evidence to support their suspicion. By looking at learning resources, searching on Google and reviewing previous or current student's work. If evidence to support the suspicion is established your trainer will then report their concerns to Mining Skills Australia RTO Manager. From there the following process will be followed:

- The assessor will contact you in writing outlining their concerns with your submitted work.
- You will then have an opportunity to respond to any allegations of cheating or plagiarism.
- If the RTO Manager's investigation confirms that you have engaged in cheating or plagiarism you will be advised of one of the following consequences:

- If it is determined that your offence committed is minor or unintentional, you will be asked to resubmit your work and be given a formal warning in writing by Mining Skills Australia’s RTO Manager, OR
- If it is determined that your offence committed is of a serious and intentional nature you will be un-enrolled in that unit immediately and have to re-enroll if you wish to complete that unit. Your result for that unit will be recorded as Not Competent. A cheating/plagiarism note will also be recorded against your student file. Notification of any such decision will be made in writing by Mining Skills Australia’s RTO Manager.
- If the conduct is repeated or if the initial conduct is of a very serious nature (as determined by the RTO Manager), such as knowingly falsifying assessment evidence, the student’s enrolment may be terminated. In cases of termination, all fees paid will be non-refundable.

What if I don’t agree with the decision?

If you disagree with the decision or the penalty imposed, you are entitled to lodge an appeal in accordance with the Appeals Policy and Process. For more information you may refer to the Complaints and Appeals section of the Student Handbook.

How do I avoid Plagiarism or Cheating?

Students are advised to note the following advice to avoid claims of plagiarism or cheating:

- Always reference other people’s work. You may quote from someone else’s work (for example, from websites, textbooks, journals, or other published materials) but you must always indicate the author and source of the material.
- Always reference your sources. You should name sources for any graphs, tables, or specific data, which you include in your assignment.
- You must not copy someone else’s work and present it as your own.
- You must not falsify assessment evidence.

Code of Conduct

All Mining Skills Australia participants are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour during both training and assessment. Any breach of discipline will result in the participant being given a ‘written warning’. Further breach will result in a participant being asked to ‘show cause’ as to why they should not be excluded from further participation in the program. A third breach will result in instant dismissal from the training environment. Where a breach is deemed as of a serious nature, as

determined by the RTO Manager, the student's enrolment may be terminated. In instances of dismissal and termination of enrolment, all fees paid will be non-refundable.

Personal interaction, staff-to-student and student-to-student is expected to be respectful. An aggressive manner or degrading and abusive language will be considered contrary to the Code of Conduct and a breach of discipline. Following are further instances of breaches to the Code of Conduct.

Discrimination

Discrimination means treating a person less favourably than another because of a personal attribute that they may have. Under State and Federal equal opportunity laws, discrimination based on attributes is unlawful. The attributes that can initiate a discrimination claim include:

- Gender.
- Age.
- Race.
- Religion.
- Marital status.
- Disability.
- Colour.
- Nationality.
- Ethnicity.
- National origin.

Harassment

Harassment is any behaviour which is unwelcome, offends, humiliates, or intimidates the person being harassed. Harassment will not be tolerated at Mining Skills Australia and disciplinary action will be taken against any employee or student involved in such behaviour. From a staff perspective, this may include termination of employment. From a student perspective, enrolment may be terminated, and all fees paid will be non-refundable.

Examples of verbal harassment

- Racist comments or jokes.
- Spreading rumors.
- Comments or jokes about a person's disability, pregnancy, sexuality, age religion etc.
- Threats, insults, or abuse.
- Offensive obscene language.

Physical Assault / Abuse

Physical abuse is an act of another party involving contact intended to cause feelings of physical pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. Physical abuse will not be tolerated in any shape or form and any instances of physical abuse will result in instant termination of the student's enrolment.

Some examples of physical abuse include:

- Striking.
- Punching.
- Pushing or pulling.
- Slapping.
- Striking with an object.
- Excessive pinching on the body.
- Kicking.
- Tripping.
- Kneeing.
- Strangling.
- Head-butting.
- Placing in stress positions (tied or otherwise forced).
- Cutting or otherwise exposing somebody to something sharp.
- Throwing or shooting a projectile.
- Blinding a person or causing impairment of sight.
- Biting.
- Eye poking.

Change of Personal Details

Students are required to ensure their personal details recorded with Mining Skills Australia are up to date at all times. Students must advise Mining Skills Australia of any changes in personal details immediately in writing. If the student has an applicable loan and/or financial arrangement, it is the student's direct responsibility to notify the financial service provider (e.g., Debit Success) of any change in personal details that may adversely affect payment arrangements.

All testamurs will be emailed to email address and posted to the mailing address provided by the student.

Evaluation and Feedback

As a matter of quality assurance and continuous improvement, Mining Skills Australia relies heavily on the feedback from students. Mining Skills Australia requires all students to complete various feedback and evaluation forms.

At the end of the training students will be asked to provide feedback by completing a Learner Questionnaire and Course Feedback Form. Learner Questionnaires may also be emailed to a student. Participation in the survey is highly valued, but voluntary. Mining Skills Australia will protect student's anonymity and the confidentiality of student's response to the fullest possible extent within the limits of the law.

Making the Most of your Training

It is very important to make the most of your training opportunity. Please note it is your responsibility to do this.

To optimize your own learning and successful completion, Mining Skills Australia encourage you to do the following:

- Attend all training sessions and complete all required reading and learning activities.
- Prepare well in advance of each training session.
- Be a willing participant.
- Work with fellow learners.
- Respect other people's opinions.
- Ensure you have a clear understanding of the assessment requirements.
- Take responsibility for the quality of evidence that you submit to the Assessor.
- Keep track of your progress.
- Complete and submit all assessment on time, tasks using clear and concise language.
- Be willing to contact your trainer/assessor if you do not understand the training activity or assessment task.

Course Information

All training programs provided by Mining Skills Australia are registered under nationally endorsed training packages. These training programs are competency based which means that training and

assessment focus on the development and recognition of a person's ability to apply relevant knowledge and skills to perform workplace tasks to a specified standard.

Training Programs

The specific skills and knowledge required for a particular activity are set out in Units of Competency which can be grouped together to formulate the completion of a nationally recognised qualification. Nationally recognised qualifications are outlined in training packages. These can be viewed at www.training.gov.au.

Each qualification has a list of employability skills and foundation skills which describe the non-technical skills and competencies that are important for effective and successful participation in the workforce. For each qualification there are specific employability skills listed under the following headings:

- Communication.
- Teamwork.
- Problem solving.
- Initiative and enterprise.
- Planning and organizing.
- Self-management.
- Learning.
- Technology.

These employability skills will be part of the assessment requirements of a nationally accredited course.

Competency Based Training

All programs delivered by Mining Skills Australia are assessed under the principles of Competency Based Training. The aim of Competency Based Training is to assess the student's ability to complete the activities in each unit.

Mining Skills Australia will assess the student's ability (or competence) to carry out the activities in each unit of competency.

Competencies are normally expressed in terms of a unit of competency. For example, if you were working in a retail store, a unit of competency might include "use point of sale equipment". Competencies include the skills and tasks that are required in the workplace. When a student is being

assessed on these activities, the student will be required to perform the activity to the level required in the workplace.

All assessment results are recorded in Mining Skills Australia's Student Management System. Students have access to their assessment outcomes via the student portal or by request.

Qualifications are issued from the results recorded in Mining Skills Australia's Student Management System.

Evidence Requirements

Evidence is the material proof that you have performed the specified competency or task to the required standard. Your evidence requirements will be determined by the Unit of Competency, employability skill requirements, industry expectations, government regulations, and your qualifications and current experience. Evidence can take many forms and you will be required to present more than just one piece of evidence.

Assessment tools that we will provide to you set out the exact requirements for evidence for each unit/module.

Examples of evidence could include one or more of the following:

- Specific assessment tasks set by your assessor.
- Observation reports.
- Certificates and awards.
- Examples of work completed or special projects.
- Current licenses.
- Position descriptions and performance reviews.
- Third party reports.
- Question responses.
- Tests.

Your evidence must also demonstrate the following:

- That you can do the job or task to the required standard.
- Understand why the job should be done in a particular way.
- Handle unexpected issues or problems.
- Work with others 'in a team'.

- Do more than one thing at a time, e.g., perform the task and be aware of the occupational health and safety requirements.
- Know the workplace rules and procedures.

Assessment

Assessment is defined as the process of collecting evidence and making judgments on the nature and extent of progress towards the performance requirement set out in a (competency) standard, or learning outcome, and, at the appropriate point, making a judgment as to whether competency has been achieved’.

In simple terms, assessment is the process of collecting evidence and making judgments on whether competency has been achieved. In order to be assessed as competent (C), you will need to provide evidence which demonstrates that you have the essential knowledge and skills to successfully complete the relevant unit to the required standard. Competency is simply about demonstrating that you can do the task with confidence to the required industry standard as endorsed by the training package or VET accredited Course.

An assessment of ‘Not Yet Competent’ (NYC) is not a failing mark. It is simply a request for more information or further confirmation of the knowledge and skills required. Our trainers will provide feedback to guide your resubmission and are available for contact if required. The student will be required to successfully resubmit the assessment with the required rectifications to achieve a competent result. The student will be allowed a limit of three submissions per unit of the course. To be eligible for the qualification, the student must receive a competent result for all units of the course.

Assessment, within competency-based approaches to learning, is criterion referenced. This means it identifies an individual’s achievements of defined outcomes, rather than relating their performance to that of other learners or trainees.

Assessment methods used may include:

- Demonstration.
- Observation.
- Work samples.
- Workbook activities.
- Oral presentations.
- Role plays or simulation.
- Projects

Principles of Assessment

There are four key principles that are a part of the assessment process:

Fairness	<p>The individual learner's needs are considered in the assessment process.</p> <p>Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments are applied by the RTO to take into account the individual learner's needs.</p> <p>The RTO informs the learner about the assessment process and provides the learner with the opportunity to challenge the result of the assessment and be reassessed if necessary.</p>
Flexibility	<p>Assessment is flexible to the individual learner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Reflecting the learner's needs.– Assessing competencies held by the learner no matter how or where they have been acquired; and drawing from a range of assessment methods and using those that are appropriate to the context, the unit of competency and associated assessment requirements, and the individual.
Validity	<p>Any assessment decision of the RTO is justified, based on the evidence of performance of the individual learner.</p> <p>Validity requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Assessment against the unit/s of competency and the associated assessment requirements covers the broad range of skills and knowledge that are essential to competent performance.– Assessment of knowledge and skills is integrated with their practical application.– Assessment to be based on evidence that demonstrates that a learner could demonstrate these skills and knowledge in other similar situations; and– Judgement of competence is based on evidence of learner performance that is aligned to the unit/s of competency and associated assessment requirements.
Reliability	<p>Evidence presented for assessment is consistently interpreted and assessment results are comparable irrespective of the assessor conducting the assessment.</p>

Rules of Evidence

The Rules of Evidence are closely related to the principles of assessment and provide guidance on the collection of evidence to ensure that it is valid, sufficient, authentic, and current as follows:

Validity	<p>The assessor is assured that the learner has the skills, knowledge, and attributes as described in the module or unit of competency and associated assessment requirements.</p>
Sufficiency	<p>The assessor is assured that the quality, quantity, and relevance of the assessment evidence enables a judgement to be made of a learner's competency.</p>
Authenticity	<p>The assessor is assured that the evidence presented for assessment is the learner's own work.</p>
Currency	<p>The assessor is assured that the assessment evidence demonstrates current competency. This requires the assessment evidence to be from the present or the very recent past.</p>

Assessment Results

Results of assessment are provided to students as soon as practicable. These results are available through your student login account. If you are unable to access your student account online, Mining Skills Australia will provide a paper copy of your results via registered post. Assessment results are confidential at all times and will not be given to any other party unless a written request signed by the student is received in advance.

Reasonable Adjustment

Students with disabilities or learning difficulties are encouraged to discuss with Mining Skills Australia any 'reasonable adjustment' to learning and assessment processes which they consider would be necessary or assist them in the performance of their studies.

Careful consideration will be given to any requests for reasonable adjustment of this nature, and, where reasonably practicable, such adjustments will be made. There may however be circumstances where it will not be reasonable or reasonably practicable for Mining Skills Australia to accommodate or where other adjustment may be more appropriate. Reasonable adjustments cannot compromise the integrity of competency-based training and assessment.

Extensions for Assessment

It is expected that all assessment tasks are handed in on the due date. Should you require additional time to complete an assessment, you must communicate with your assessor and apply for an extension.

Awards

Once a student has successfully completed all assessment requirements for their applicable course, the student will be issued with a Qualification/Testamur and an accompanying Record of Results.

For students who have not met all requirements for the course or students who withdraw from a course and have paid relevant fees have the right to receive Statement of Attainment from Mining Skills Australia for the units of competency they have been deemed competent in.

Students should note that if they are paying for their course via the payment plan option, they will be unable to receive their qualification or statement of attainment until course fees are paid in their entirety.

The Qualification or Statement of Attainment will be emailed to the current email address and mailed to the current address noted in Mining Skills Australia's Student Management System. The student should allow 30 calendar days from the date of completion of the course for the issuance of your award.

Important Information regarding awards at Mining Skills Australia:

- Awards will only be issued to students whose financial status with the college is up to date.
- It is the responsibility of the student to understand their obligations with regard to fees due for units studied.
- For a student to be eligible to receive an award, the student must successfully complete all the units listed.
- Training package courses have been submitted to the regulatory authorities, and all units specified in that course are the subjects a student must complete to be eligible to receive that award.

See the Certificate Issuance Policy for more details.

Course Delivery

Mining Skills Australia ensures the following resources are in place:

- Trainer/assessors and assessors with appropriate qualifications, and experience.
- Course materials appropriate to the methods of delivery and assessment requirements.
- All necessary copyright authorisations.
- Appropriate equipment and facilities.

Training and assessment methods used by Mining Skills Australia meet specific quality requirements and are chosen to best suit the unit of competency, while giving consideration to the learning style of the student.

A number of delivery methods will be used throughout the training to help you achieve the necessary skills. Learning is a partnership that involves participation from all involved.

Delivery methods may include, but are not limited to:

- Practical demonstrations.
- Audio/visual presentations.
- Group participation/discussions.
- Trainer/facilitator instruction.
- practical activities

- Self-paced activities.
- Individual projects.
- Workplace based training.
- Case studies.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

All students can apply for recognition of prior learning. This means that you can submit evidence for a Unit(s) of Competency, and have it assessed by a qualified assessor without completing the training.

Mining Skills Australia believes that no learner should be required to undertake a unit of competency for which they are already able to demonstrate satisfactory achievement of the performance outcomes, as stated in the endorsed training package or nationally recognised course.

Mining Skills Australia aims to always maximise the recognition of a learner's prior skills and knowledge whilst maintaining the integrity and standards of the defined learning outcomes of the specific qualification or course of study. Students who consider they already possess the competencies identified in all or part of any course/qualification offered by Mining Skills Australia may seek recognition.

If you think you have the necessary knowledge and skills to match a Unit(s) of Competency or a qualification at the required standard, you need to contact your trainer or any Mining Skills Australia admissions staff who will provide the information you need to complete an application.

Recognition Process

Recognition is a method of assessing if you have evidence of competency for a particular unit of competency that you are enrolled in. It is important to remember that recognition is an assessment process, not an assumption of competence.

Recognition is the determination, on an individual basis, of the competencies obtained by a student through:

- Previous formal/informal training.
- Work experience; and/or
- Life experience.

Recognition therefore determines the subsequent advanced standing to which the student is entitled in relation to a course/qualification. The main focus of recognition is what has been learned rather than

how, where or when it was learned. Recognition focuses on both the demonstration of competence and the currency of that competence to industry standards.

It is important to note; the onus is on the student to present evidence and demonstrate pre-existing competence to justify a claim for recognition and present their case to the satisfaction of the assessor.

Any documents that you provide to support your claim of competency must be the originals rather than copies. Your original documents will be photocopied and handed back to you. It is also expected that any evidence submitted is your own and if any part of the work is the work of others, that this is formally acknowledged and advised.

Recognition Decision

Regardless of the type of evidence that you submit, Assessors must be confident that the evidence meets the following criteria:

- Full requirements of the Unit of Competency(s).
- Any regulatory requirements.
- Authenticity - That it is your own evidence and can be authenticated.
- That you can perform the competency consistently and reliably.
- Is at the standard expected in industry and set out in the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).
- Sufficiency - There is sufficient evidence to make a judgment.

The recognition process may include the necessity to demonstrate the application of skills. Where it is identified that this is required to assist the assessor in their judgement of competency, this will be arranged at either the student's workplace or at Mining Skills Australia's training facilities.

Mining Skills Australia is committed to ensuring that all judgments made by trainers against the same competency standards are consistent. Your trainer will examine the evidence that you present and then make a judgment on that evidence which will be either:

- Competent (C) - you have been deemed competent against all the requirements of the Unit/s of Competency
- Not Yet Competent (NYC) - you have not yet demonstrated competency to all requirements.

Your trainer will advise you of the outcome of your application for RPL and advise where gap training and/or assessment is required.

Credit Transfer

Mining Skills Australia recognises the AQF qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued by other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). Where a student has completed a unit/s of competency prior to enrolling with Mining Skills Australia that are included in the course in which the student is enrolling, the student may apply for recognition. This may result in the student not having to complete the same unit of competency again. This is known as credit transfer. Should you wish to seek credit transfer, contact the Mining Skills Australia Admissions Staff for a Credit Transfer Form.

See the RPL and Credit Transfer Policy for more details.

Policies and Procedures

Access and Equity

Mining Skills Australia is committed to providing opportunities to all people for advancement, regardless of their background. We support government policy initiatives and provide access to our training for all those seeking to undertake it.

We ensure that our student selection criteria are non-discriminatory and provide fair access to training for the disadvantaged. In addition, we liaise with agencies and government departments for assistance in matters of language, literacy, and numeracy difficulties.

Complaints and Appeals Policy

Complaints

Mining Skills Australia supports the rights of a student to lodge a grievance or complaint if a student feels they have been treated unfairly. Mining Skills Australia will do everything possible to address grievances or complaints in an unbiased and professional manner. Complaints are welcomed as a means of ensuring that we identify and overcome problems faced by students and provide an opportunity to improve our business and/or the delivery of our training programs.

- Mining Skills Australia recommends for students to first try and resolve the complaint/appeal informally by contacting their trainer or Mining Skills Australia student support team at (07) 3556 3982 or via admin@miningskills.com.au.
- All complaints should be committed to in writing at the earliest possible opportunity and lodged through Mining Skills Australia's Complaints Online Form. You can access the Complaints

Lodgment Form through Mining Skills Australia's Website. This will constitute a formal complaint from the student. This should only happen once step one has been completed and where the student is unhappy with the outcome of this step.

- The RTO Manager of Mining Skills Australia is automatically notified via email each time a Complaints and Appeals form has been submitted.
- The RTO Manager of Mining Skills Australia will initiate a transparent, participative process to deal with the issues at hand.
- Complaints are to be resolved within 10 working days of the initial application. The RTO Manager of Mining Skills Australia may delegate responsibility for the resolution of the complaint as required. In all cases the conclusion will be endorsed by Mining Skills Australia's RTO Manager.
- The student will be advised in writing of the outcome of their complaint via email.
- If the outcome is not to the satisfaction of the student, he/she may contact the Manager to discuss their concerns.
- All complaints will be handled as Staff-In-Confidence.

Where the student remains unhappy with the outcome:

- The student has the right to request a review of the appeal by an independent party.
- The student will be responsible for the costs of the independent review.
- Mining Skills Australia reserves the right to nominate or agree to the independent party and will cooperate fully with this independent review.
- Costs involved in the mediation process which will be the responsibility of both parties equally.

Mining Skills Australia will aim to complete this complaints process as quickly as possible and within a total of 30 days. Mining Skills Australia will keep the student informed of the progress of the complaint throughout the process.

Appeals

Mining Skills Australia supports the rights of a student to lodge an appeal against any assessment decision and will not impair that right in any way. Mining Skills Australia will do everything possible to address the appeal in an unbiased and professional manner.

Any student wishing to appeal, and assessment decision/judgment should follow the steps outlined below:

1. Mining Skills Australia recommends for students to first try and resolve the appeal informally by contacting their trainer to discuss their assessment result and why they believe that the trainers' judgement is incorrect showing evidence of how they have addressed the assessment criteria. Students may also contact the Mining Skills Australia support team at (07) 3556 3982 or admin@miningskills.com.au.
2. All appeals should be committed to in writing at the earliest possible opportunity and lodged through Mining Skills Australia's Appeals Lodgment Form through Mining Skills Australia's Website. This will constitute a formal appeal from the student. This should only happen once step one has been completed and where the student is unhappy with the outcome of this step.
3. The appeal request should contain the following information:
 - a. The student's full name and number.
 - b. The unit/subject being assessed.
 - c. Each assessment task name/number (where the result is being disputed) including why the result should be overturned. The student should refer directly to how they believe they have met the requirement of each task in detail and referencing any evidence to support their claims.
4. The RTO Manager of Mining Skills Australia is automatically notified via email each time an Appeals form has been submitted.
5. The RTO Manager will initiate a transparent, participative process to deal with the issues at hand.
6. Appeals are to be responded to within 10 working days of the initial application.
7. The RTO Manager of Mining Skills Australia may delegate responsibility for the resolution of the appeal as required. In all cases the conclusion will be endorsed by Mining Skills Australia's RTO Manager.
8. The student will be advised in writing of the outcome of their appeal via email.
9. All appeals will be handled as Staff-In-Confidence.
10. If the outcome is not to the satisfaction of the student, he/she may contact the to discuss their concerns.

Where the student is unhappy with the outcome at step two, they can follow the formal appeal process outlined below:

- The student has the right to request a review of the appeal by an independent party.
- The student will be responsible for the costs of the independent review.
- Mining Skills Australia reserves the right to nominate or agree to the independent party and will cooperate fully with this independent review.
- Mining Skills Australia will aim to complete this appeal process as quickly as possible and within a total of 30 days. Mining Skills Australia will keep the student informed of the progress of the appeal throughout the process.

See the Complaints and Appeals Policies for more details.

Transition of Superseded Courses

The nationally recognised training courses delivered by Mining Skills Australia may be superseded by a new training package qualification. If required, Mining Skills Australia will apply to add the replacement training package qualification to its scope as soon as practicable but no later than 12 months from the date of publication of the replacement qualification on the national register.

Mining Skills Australia will manage the transition of students to the updated course as soon as is practicable, but no later than 12 months from the date of publication of the replacement qualification on the national register. There may or may not be a fee payable to transition to the updated course.

Student Records

All student records are subject to Mining Skills Australia 's Privacy Policy. However, students may reasonably access their files by notifying Mining Skills Australia. Mining Skills Australia will endeavour to give students prompt access to their own files where reasonable notice is given.

Mining Skills Australia will provide students with timely access to their participation and progress throughout the training course.

Procedure

- Students can view their grades, trainer feedback and the list of completed units via the student portal. For any other requests on their course progress students are to contact student support by admin@miningskills.com.au.

- Students must list their full name, date of birth, address, course enrolled and Student ID.
- Alternatively, students can send a written request to:
Mining Skills Australia
C/- RTO Manager
Level 7/26 Wharf Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000
- Students will receive notification that the request has been received and may be contacted by Mining Skills Australia to obtain further information.
- Mining Skills Australia will issue a letter of confirmation outlining student results for the course within 7 working days of receiving the request.
- Students will receive this information by email.

Record Keeping Policy for Assignments and Student Information

Mining Skills Australia has effective administrative and records management procedures in place that maintains student data in a secure and confidential manner.

Records of results, qualifications and Statements of Attainment for students currently enrolled are stored in individual student files. Electronic files are kept up to date and backed up regularly, with the backup copy being kept in a secure location. All student records are stored for retention archiving and retrieval for a period of 30 years.

Mining Skills Australia retains all rights to assignments, tests, exams, projects and assessments. All soft copies of assessments submitted are retained via the Mining Skills Australia Tutis. All assessments will be kept for a period of 6 months from the date on which the judgement of competence for the student was made as outlined in ASQA's General Direction: Retention requirements for completed student assessment items.

Fee Payment and Refund Policy

Mining Skills Australia has developed a fair and equitable process for determining course fees, refunds, and payment options.

You must advise us of cancellation in writing or by email. All monies, less the administration fee of \$200.00 will be refunded if cancellation occurs before any training or assessment takes place and within the refund period. Adjustment on future payments for students under payment plans may be applied.

No refund is provided for cancellations outside of the refund period, though some cases may be considered, subject to Mining Skills Australia management's discretion. In the case of online learning,

training and assessment is deemed to have commenced once the learner has been issued a username and login and these have been used to access the online material.

Cancellation and Refunds

Mining Skills Australia has a cooling-off period whereby refunds are allowed for any reason, including change of mind, known as the 'Refund Period'.

The 'refund period' is defined as 14 calendar days from the Agreement Date. The first day of the refund period commences on the day of the Agreement Date.

The 'Agreement Date' is defined as the date the terms and conditions that were agreed upon at the time the student submitted their enrolment information.

If you wish to terminate your studies before the completion of your course, you must first complete a Refund Request Form, available from our website and support team. In cases where a direct debit instalment agreement has been negotiated, you will still be liable to pay any and all outstanding fees to Mining Skills Australia.

This method of payment of your course fees does not remove your legal obligation to pay fees in their entirety. Mining Skills Australia reserves the right to pursue recovery of any and all fees owed by any and all means legally allowable.

No refunds will be issued for cancellations outside of the refund period.

For refund applications within the refund period, the Refund Request Form must be received by Mining Skills Australia, within the refund period. A refund of the course fee, less the applicable administration fees will only be issued if all above criteria has been met and the student has no previous outstanding monies with Mining Skills Australia.

If you do not notify Mining Skills Australia in writing within the refund period, you will not be eligible for a refund.

All refunds will be paid to the person or organisation that originally paid the fees.

Refunds will be paid within four calendar weeks of the date the request is received.

This refund policy does not remove your right to take further action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

Special Consideration

Mining Skills Australia understands that some students may experience prolonged difficulties that may impact on their ability to complete their course or a significant disadvantage as a result of a course change due to updates in the training packages that may not be addressed by:

- Extending the maximum duration of your course.
- Providing additional learning support services.
- Facilitating your Transfer to a different Mining Skills Australia course; or
- Providing you with the option to complete an older version of the course (subject to availability and compliance with relevant regulations).

In such cases, students should apply for a special consideration via email.

Mining Skills Australia may grant special consideration in circumstances where:

- You are up to date with all course fees; and submit a special consideration request via email to Mining Skills Australia, including the relevant sections completed by a medical doctor (where applicable) and any other requested additional supporting documentation.
- You have applied for and been granted a course deferral and the circumstances under which you were granted a course deferral are continuing and serious circumstances which will materially affect your ability to continue with your course; or
- There has been a material change to your course resulting in material disadvantage to you which cannot be addressed as mentioned above.

If special consideration is granted, Mining Skills Australia may agree to:

- An extension of the duration of the course.
- Provide you with additional support services.
- Release you from the payment of future instalments and/or
- Grant a pro rata refund of the Course Fees (considering the portion of the course that has been completed and the costs associated with the provision of learning materials).

Without limitation, special consideration will not be given if:

- You change jobs.
- Your work hours change.
- You move address (including interstate or international moves);
- Your course changes under clause 15 as a result of a regulatory change governing Mining Skills Australia.

- you find the course more difficult, time consuming or stressful than you had expected; or
- you are made redundant, retrenched, or otherwise resign from or terminate your employment or have your employment terminated.

Exceptions

In the unlikely event that Mining Skills Australia is unable to deliver your course in full, however if this occurs:

- You will be offered a refund for the part of your course that has not been assessed.
- The refund will be paid to you within two weeks of the date on which the course ceased being provided.
- Alternatively, you may be offered enrolment in a suitable alternative course at GCA at no additional cost to you.

You have the right to choose whether you would prefer refund for the part of your course that has not been assessed or to accept a place in another course.

Privacy Policy

Mining Skills Australia will follow the Australian Privacy Principles in the management of all student and staff information, however allowing access as to all information as required by relevant National and State Training Authorities for the purpose of monitoring and/or auditing Mining Skills Australia's operations as an RTO.

The purpose of the privacy policy is to:

- Describe the types of personal information that we collect, hold, use and disclose.
- Outline our personal information handling systems and practices.
- Enhance the transparency of our management of personal information.
- Explain our authority to collect personal information, why it may be held by us, how it is used and how it is protected.
- Notify whether we are likely to disclose personal information and, if so, to whom.
- Provide information on how personal information can be accessed, correct it if necessary and complaint if you believe it has been wrongly collected or inappropriately handled.

See the Privacy Policy for more details.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

Mining Skills Australia is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning and work environment. The safety of our students and staff is of primary importance in all activities and operations of our organisation. We are committed to implementing, maintaining, and continuously improving work health and safety in all of our facilities and operations.

Mining Skills Australia encourages all persons to regard accident prevention and safety as a collective and individual responsibility.

Mining Skills Australia recognises its responsibility under the Workplace Health and Safety and related regulations. The CEO has responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of staff, students, contractors, and visitors. This includes:

- Provide and maintain safe plant, equipment, and systems of work.
- Provide, monitor, and maintain systems for safe use, handling, storage and transportation of plant, equipment, and substances.
- Maintain the workplace in a safe and healthy condition.
- Provide adequate facilities to protect the welfare of all employees.
- Provide information, training and supervision for all staff and contractors, helping them to integrate WHS into their work areas and roles.
- Provide information, where relevant, to students, allowing them to learn in a safe manner.
- Check WHS system compliance via ongoing auditing.
- Integrate continuous improvement into WHS performance.



Graeme Bradshaw

Managing Director

Mining Skills Australia

Version Control

DATE	SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS	MODIFIED BY	VERSION
27/04/2020	Handbook creation	G Bradshaw	1.0
03/03/2021	Handbook updated to remove place holders & transposed into updated MSA format	Z Nash	1.01
04/03/2021	Amended delivery & assessment method to face to face	Z Nash	1.02
04/07/2022	Updated Email Address and Version Number Header & Footer, added signature	N Pergaris	1.03
11/07/2022	Updated Grammar and Format and version number	N Pergaris	1.04
12/07/2022	Updated Version Number and Added Date in Footer	N Pergaris	1.05
26/07/2022	Updated the RII courses, fixed lists, justified the paragraphs, replaced dead links with related links.	T Maris	1.06



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