

VET – Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 2026



What is VET?

Vocational Education and Training (VET) gives young people the opportunity to achieve nationally recognised qualifications that are endorsed by industry and support a range of career pathways.

VET is undertaken alongside school subjects and contributes towards SACE completion. These qualifications connect with employment pathways and allow students to build practical skills and knowledge that help prepare them for the workplace.

When can my young person commence a VET qualification?

To enrol in a Certificate II or III qualification while completing the SACE, your young person must be in Year 11 or 12. They must also be 16 years of age, or turn 16 during the year they enrol.

What does VET training look like for years 10, 11, 12?

Year 10

In Year 10, students may take part in work experience, industry immersions or expos, and introductory courses where available. During Term 3, these experiences can be used as VETRO evidence when students apply for a VET qualification as part of their Year 11 program.

Please be aware that, under DfE guidelines, Year 10 students are not able to enrol in VET qualifications.

Year 11

In Year 11, students can undertake a Certificate II or III VET qualification through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). This training contributes towards SACE completion. In general, Certificate II qualifications provide Stage 1 credits, while Certificate III qualifications provide Stage 2 credits.

Year 12

In Year 12, students can undertake a Certificate III VET qualification through an RTO, contributing towards Stage 2 SACE credits. In most cases, a completed Certificate III can be counted as one 20-credit Stage 2 subject when an ATAR is calculated for university applications.

Where will the VET training be delivered?

Training days and delivery locations vary between VET courses, so families should refer to the information provided by the relevant RTO. Most courses are delivered off site. In 2026, Certificate II in Electrotechnology and Certificate II in Cookery were delivered on site at Willunga High School, and we aim to offer this again next year.

Families are responsible for making sure their young person has suitable transport to and from VET training locations.

What are the expectations regarding attendance?

Students are expected to attend 100% of their VET course and arrive on time each week. If a student is absent, the VET trainer and WHS Student Services must be notified as soon as possible.

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What are the recommended VET offerings for WHS students in 2027?

We have considered labour market information, forecast employment growth, industries experiencing skills shortages, and the interests and popularity of VET pathways among WHS students.

Using this information, the following VET courses are recommended for students in 2027, although students are not limited to these options:

- Certificate II in Electrotechnology
- Certificate II in Cookery
- Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Certificate III in IT (Game Development)
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistant

What if my young person is interested in another VET course for 2027?

If your young person would like to pursue a course that is not listed among the recommendations above, please indicate this on the 2027 WHS VET Expression of Interest form sent to students through Daymap.

Before an application is submitted, the Student Pathways and Careers Team will work with families to answer questions, support an informed decision, and ensure the proposed course is approved by the school.

For a full list of industries and VET pathways endorsed by DfE for students in government schools, please visit www.studentpathways.sa.edu.au

How do I apply for VET?

The application process begins by completing the 2027 WHS VET Expression of Interest form.

On this form, students will nominate the VET course they wish to apply for and identify the VETRO evidence they will use to show their interest in and suitability for the course.

After the school has approved the selected VET course and supporting evidence, families will receive a link to complete the 2027 VET application.

What is VETRO and VETRO evidence?

The VET Readiness Orientation (VETRO) assesses a student's understanding and awareness of the relevant industry and potential job outcomes. The purpose is to confirm that the student is making an informed choice about their pathway.

The VETRO process also includes a literacy and numeracy assessment, along with an interview conducted by the RTO.

When applying for a VET course, your young person must provide evidence showing their experience with and exploration of the industry. Evidence may include work experience, industry immersions, introductory courses, work completed through EIF or AIF, or other SACE subjects connected to the industry area.

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Students are expected to provide substantial evidence, as applications are competitive and places in VET courses may be limited.

How much will VET cost and who will pay?

VET costs vary depending on the course selected. Families are responsible for costs associated with VET. The school will invoice families and then make payment to the RTO.

For the courses listed above, the following information should be used as a guide only, as details - including costs - may change.

VET qualification	RTO	Site for delivery	Duration	SACE credits	Cost	VETRO evidence
Certificate II in Electrotechnology	PEER	Willunga High School	1 year	Stage 1 55*	\$636*	Work experience. White card training. Try-a-trade day.
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	ATEC	TBA	1 year	Stage 1 40*	\$500*	Work experience. White card training. Try-a-trade day.
Certificate II in Cookery	AIOH	Willunga High School	6 months	Stage 1 55*	\$575*	Immersion Day held on site at WHS.
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	Queensford College	Adelaide Campus	18 months (orientation days in Term 4 2026)	Stage 2 155*	\$600*	Work experience or an Immersion Day.
Certificate III in IT (Game Development)	AIE	Adelaide Campus	1 year	Stage 2 75*	\$850*	Work experience. Attend the Thrive Week workshop. Relevant subject work.
Certificate III in Health Services Assistant	EQUALS	Wirrienda Secondary School	1 year (orientation days in Term 4 2026)	Stage 2 125*	\$460 (+\$150 for both streams)	Attend an immersion day. EIF/AIF work linked to health pathways or work experience.

*Significant structured work placement is required for these qualifications.

* Credits may vary depending on the number of units delivered by the RTO.

* Costs may vary depending on the RTO.

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How does my young person create a USI?

All VET students in Australia require a Unique Student Identifier (USI). A USI provides students with an online record of the VET training and qualifications they complete. To create a USI account with your young person, visit www.usi.gov.au.

What are the expectations VET students need to meet to be successful?

- 100% attendance
- Punctuality
- Stay up to date with schoolwork - effective balance and time management are essential for success.
- Maintain regular communication with teachers, the VET trainer and the school.
- Be proactive in asking for support when it is needed.
- Meet all required work placement commitments.

Can my young person join VET later in the year?

In most cases, joining a VET course later in the year is not possible. Most courses run for 12 months, begin at the start of the school year and are often already at capacity. This means there are limited mid-year options, and fitting VET into an existing Year 11 or 12 timetable can also be difficult. For specific enquiries, please speak with the school's VET Coordinator to discuss available options.

Contact VET leader to discuss further.

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