# Skills First Skill Sets

The Victorian Government is introducing *Skills First* Skill Sets, to support more Victorians to access training directly linked to immediate job opportunities and Government priorities.

### What are *Skills First* Skill Sets?

*Skills First* Skill Sets are a new accredited short course (skill set) offering under *Skills First* to provide flexible, rapid training to respond to skills shortages and workforce demands.

Skill sets play a valuable role in re-skilling and upskilling through:

* Addressing a skills or knowledge gap – e.g. where employers need additional staff with an essential skill, and it is possible to train that skill in a short period of time; and/or
* Addressing an emerging skills or knowledge need – e.g. where a changing industry context requires new workforce skills in a short timeframe.

*Skills First* Skill Set delivery supports rather than replaces full qualifications. *Skills First* Skill Sets will provide Victorians with training pathways to full qualifications that offer a broader array of skills and general capabilities.

Through a partnership between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, 20,000 enrolments in skill sets are available for free to young people and job seekers under the [JobTrainer Fund](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/s/jobtrainer) (for more information see below).

### What is the Funded Skill Sets List?

Accredited skill sets will be available to Victorians through a Funded Skill Set List (FSSL). All skill sets on the FSSL are comprised of nationally recognised training (that can be used as building blocks to other full qualifications) and provide a pathway to employment in areas of industry need.

The FSSL will initially focus on industry-validated skill sets that provide reskilling opportunities to help unemployed Victorians access jobs, and support Victoria’s economic recovery and workforce demand. The initial FSSL will comprise 65 skill sets, including 41 ‘courses in’. A subset of skill sets will be available tuition-free to eligible students under JobTrainer.

Students will receive a Statement of Attainment upon completion of a skill set on the Funded Skill Set List.

All skill sets will be included as part of the wider Funded Course List, which is published on the [DET website](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/funding/Pages/fundedcourses.aspx) and the [Victorian Skills Gateway (VSG)](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/s/).

Skill sets can only be delivered by *Skills First* contracted training providers and availability of skill sets can vary. We recommend checking the Victorian Skills Gateway (VSG) for what is currently available and enquiring directly with your TAFE or training provider regarding your eligibility and enrolment.

The FSSL is being implemented through a phased approach to ensure quality and protect student outcomes. It will be regularly reviewed to ensure identified skill sets continue to align with the economic, industry and social needs of Victoria.

Following early monitoring, minor adjustments to the FSSL may be considered from the second half of 2021. Additional skill sets may be added in line with existing Funded Course List processes.

### Am I eligible?

To be eligible for *Skills First* Skill Sets, you must be:

* an Australian citizen or permanent resident; or
* a New Zealand citizen; or
* an Asylum Seeker (as part of the Asylum Seeker VET Program under *Skills First*).

Your age or qualification does not affect whether you are eligible, and completion of a skill set will not impact your eligibility and entitlement to access subsidised full qualifications on the *Skills First* Funded Course List.

Eligible students may start up to two skill sets per calendar year\* and are able to undertake a maximum of two *Skills First* courses at any given time, e.g. one skill set and one full qualification. Access is subject to overall caps on the availability of places.

\*This includes courses where a student starts but does not finish.

### Job seekers, young people and concession card holders

Individuals may also be eligible to access a fee-free skill set under the JobTrainer Fund. There are 20,000 enrolments in skill sets available for free to job seekers, young people (aged between 17 to 24 years old) and valid concession card holders under the JobTrainer Fund.

Eligible students have access to one free skill set under JobTrainer (as well as one qualification under JobTrainer), which counts as part of the two skill sets overall in a year under *Skills First* Skill Sets.

For more information, visit [JobTrainer](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/s/jobtrainer) or contact the [TAFE and Training Line](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/s/contact-the-tafe-and-training-line).

### What fees apply?

Standard *Skills First* fee settings apply, including:

* student tuition fees determined by the training provider;
* students eligible for a *Skills First* concession pay reduced fees accordingly, and providers receive a contribution towards fees forgone per the normal *Skills First* settings;
* students eligible under the JobTrainer Fund pay no tuition fee and providers receive a contribution towards fees forgone; and
* normal amenities/materials fees may be charged.

Subsidy rates are consistent with existing *Skills First* rates listed in the Funded Course List. For more information, please see the 2021 Guidelines About Fees on the [VET Funding Contracts](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/funding/Pages/serviceagree.aspx) website.

### More help and information

For more information about skill sets, visit the [Victorian](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/) [Skills Gateway](https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/) or contact the TAFE and Training line on **13 18 23**.