

Inquiry into the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector in Victoria

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VRQA overview – Our purpose and functions

We are Victoria's education and training regulator

Our purpose is to regulate for quality learning outcomes in safe environments.

The VRQA register:



School education providers including approval for registration on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) and School boarding premises



Senior secondary and foundation secondary education providers (both school and non-school providers)



VET providers that deliver accredited training to domestic students only in Victoria, or training only in Victoria and Western Australia



Children for home schooling

The VRQA also:

- Regulate apprenticeships and traineeships
- Maintain a register of registered training organisations (RTOs) and the accredited courses they deliver.
- Recognise Group Training organisations (GTOs).
- Investigate complaints about our registered providers.
- Approve school review bodies – the Department of Education and Victorian Catholic Education Authority.
- Approve school and non-school providers as overseas secondary student exchange organisations.
- Accredite senior secondary and foundation secondary courses and VET courses.

Early childhood education and care in Victoria

There are currently 3,214 RTOs delivering VET in Victoria. Of these:

- **ASQA** regulates 3,099 (96.4%)
- **VRQA** regulates 108 (3.4%)
- **WATAC** regulates 7 (0.2%)

380 RTOs in Victoria provide ECEC courses.

The sector is diverse, comprising TAFE, community and private (for-profit) RTOs. **Of these:**

- **ASQA** regulates 366 (96.3%)
- **VRQA** regulates 14 (3.7%)

In Victoria, almost all RTOs delivering Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) qualifications are registered with the national VET regulator ASQA

Of the 108 VRQA regulated RTOs:

- 14 deliver the Certificate III in ECEC (an entry-level qualification).
- 9 also deliver the Diploma of ECEC.

The Certificate III in ECEC and Diploma of ECEC can be undertaken as a trainee or a non-trainee pathway.

ECEC traineeships in Victoria

Trainees are employed to do on-the-job training while completing their qualification with an RTO.

- In Victoria, employers must be approved by the VRQA to employ trainees.
- Training contracts between the employer and trainee must be registered with the VRQA under the ETR Act.
- VRQA monitors employers' compliance with Commonwealth training contract and ETR Act obligations and can investigate complaints, disputes and general non-compliance.
- Where non-compliance is identified, employers can be subject to regulatory action by the VRQA, including revocation of their approval to employ trainees.
- On 2 March 2026, there were 2,410 active trainees in Victoria undertaking either the Cert III or the Diploma in ECEC.

Table 1: Active ECEC traineeships in Victoria

Regulator	No. RTOs	No. Active trainees on 2 March 2026		
		Cert. III in ECEC	Dip. of ECEC	Total
ASQA	58	1,305	960	2,265
VRQA	6	91	54	145
Total	64	1,396	1,014	2,410

Table 2: Employer type of ECEC traineeships in Victoria

Epsilon employer type	No. Employers	No. Active trainees on 2 March 2026		
		Cert. III in ECEC	Dip. of ECEC	Total
Private sector	528	1,279	996	2,275
Group training scheme	6	66	6	72
Local Government	11	32	5	37
State Government	6	19	7	26
Total	551	1,396	1,014	2,410

Thank you



Victorian
Registration &
Qualifications
Authority

