

Best Government-Funded Hospitality Course 2025: Why Practical Placement Gives You the Edge – Complete Hospitality Training

Canonical:

<https://cht.edu.au/news/best-government-funded-hospitality-course-2025-practical-placement-gives-you-edge/>

Details:

"Best" is a marketing word, and no page written by a training provider can settle it for you. It is also not a claim that can be substantiated, so this page does not try. What it does instead is give you the criteria that actually separate a good government-funded hospitality course from a poor one, and the verifiable facts behind each — so you can judge for yourself, including judging CHT.

First, check whether the funding applies to you

Government subsidy is state-based and it is not automatic. The eligibility gates matter far more than any course comparison, because most people who ask about funded training turn out not to be eligible.

In Victoria , subsidised training runs through Skills First . We hold a Victorian VET Funding Contract and appear on the state's published Skills First training providers list. Check that list rather than any provider's website — checking it is the first thing you should do about any funding claim.

Outside Victoria , including in New South Wales, we deliver fee-for-service . That activity is not covered by Victorian government subsidy.

The three threshold requirements

Residency — you must be an Australian citizen, a permanent visa holder, or a New Zealand citizen.

Commencement window — you must enrol and commence within the contracted window, currently through to 31 December 2026 inclusive.

Physical presence — you must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria, or in a listed border-region postcode. There is no general online or interstate concession for a funded student, and moving interstate mid-course is a compliance event.

The gate that disqualifies most people

If you are 20 or over at the reference date , you must not already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I . If you already have a Certificate III, a Diploma or a degree, you are generally outside Skills First for a subsidised place. This single rule explains most of the disappointment around government-funded training and it is almost never stated plainly on a course page.

Volume limits

A maximum of two subsidised AQF qualifications and two subsidised skill sets per calendar year, and no more than two subsidised programs at once . The count is on commencement , not completion, and a program merely scheduled to start later in the same year counts from the moment you enrol. These limits are checked live at enrolment , not reconciled at the end of the year, so it is the second enrolment that fails rather than the first. Foundation Skills are excluded from the count.

Concessions and waivers

If you are eligible, two further mechanisms apply and neither is discretionary. A concession must be offered to eligible students, capped at no more than 20% of the standard tuition fee . A full fee waiver must be offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, Youth Access Initiative students, students from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, and young people on community-based orders.

Check your own position first

Use the Victorian Government's own online eligibility indicator . That is the authoritative source, not a provider's assurance. Then ask the provider to confirm in writing: in Victoria the provider , not the department, determines eligibility and bears the evidentiary burden, so a careful provider will ask you for documents rather than wave you through. Eligibility to enrol and eligibility for subsidy are separate questions — you may be able to enrol fee-for-service while being ineligible for a funded place.

One integrity signal worth knowing: the provider must be able to produce your Statement of Fees , evidence of your eligibility, evidence of any concession or waiver, evidence of participation, evidence of the pre-training review, and bank-generated transaction statements showing the fees it reported were actually received . If a record cannot be produced, for contract purposes it is deemed not to exist and the activity is deemed not to have occurred. That is why the paperwork is heavy, and why a provider that is casual about it should worry you.

Why practical placement is the real differentiator

For hospitality this is the single largest difference between courses, and it is not a soft claim — it is built into the assessment requirements.

There are four Principles of Assessment , and two of them do the real work on this subject. Validity requires assessment to include practical application components , so that you demonstrate the skill in a practical setting — which is why a hospitality qualification cannot be assessed entirely on paper. Flexibility requires assessment to be appropriate to the context, the training product and the student, and to assess your skills regardless of how or where you acquired them ; that is the principle recognition of prior learning actually rests on, and it is why an existing hospitality job is worth declaring before you enrol. The remaining two are Fairness , which carries the duty to accommodate your needs through reasonable adjustment and to allow reassessment where necessary, and Reliability , which requires evidence to be interpreted consistently so that outcomes are comparable irrespective of which assessor you get.

Four Rules of Evidence sit alongside them, and on a placement they are what the paperwork is for. Evidence must be valid ; sufficient , meaning its quality, quantity and relevance enable the assessor to make an informed judgement; authentic , meaning genuinely your own work, which is why a workplace supervisor signs off rather than you; and current , demonstrating skills and knowledge you hold now. A logbook signed contemporaneously in the venue satisfies all four. A recollection of a shift eighteen months ago satisfies none of them.

Classroom competence and service competence are different things, and placement is where the gap closes.

The volumes are specified at unit level and cannot be compressed:

| Unit | Practical requirement | | --- | --- | | SITHFAB027 Serve food and beverage | 5 service periods, including at least one peak period | | SITHFAB034 Provide table service of food and beverage | 12 service periods, with full menu advice given in every one | | SITHFAB030 Prepare and serve cocktails | 3 service periods, and two cocktails by each of six methods — 12 preparations minimum | | SITHFAB025 Prepare and serve espresso coffee | 10 specified beverages, on three occasions each | | SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety | Correct hand-washing, uniform and PPE use, personal health and hygiene practices and hygienic food service, each on at least three occasions | |

SITXFSA006 Participate in safe food handling practices | Controlling hazards at nine critical control points , plus calibrating a temperature probe |

Ask any provider to show you those numbers in their training and assessment strategy. A course that cannot account for them is not delivering the units.

How placement is actually arranged

There are three routes, and they cover people in very different situations:

A vocational placement CHT arranges under its own agreements with venues, for learners not currently in paid employment in an operational hospitality environment.

A self-arranged vocational placement , also for learners not in paid hospitality employment.

A work placement at your existing paid hospitality job, for learners already employed in an operational environment.

All three require a Placement Agreement completed before the placement commences , setting out supervision, workplace conduct and learning outcomes for you, the venue and the provider. Ask which route applies to you, and confirm the placement volume for your intake directly with the provider.

Two things a provider must tell you before you pay : every obligation to undertake a work placement, and every obligation to travel or pay for accommodation to attend one. Both sit in the information an RTO must give before enrolment or before any fees become payable, alongside the fee schedule including prepaid fees, the training product code and title, duration, delivery modes, location and dates. Unpaid placement hours are a real cost, and they belong in the conversation before enrolment rather than after it.

There is also a wellbeing dimension the regulator now names explicitly. Standard 2.6 expressly requires an RTO to assess third-party environments such as work placements for risks to student wellbeing, rather than simply sending you and hoping — and it requires wellbeing needs to be identified by reference to the training product content , so a licensed-venue placement has a different risk profile from an office one. Assessing wellbeing only once, at enrolment, is a named failure, as is holding strategies the staff do not know about.

For a funded Victorian student there is one further wrinkle: the physical-presence rule has an exception for a student temporarily interstate or overseas on a Practical Placement , and online training and assessment during that period is capped at no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours .

And at the far end of it: once you have been assessed as meeting the training product requirements, the RTO must issue your AQF certification documentation within 30 calendar days of completion of the assessment , provided you completed the qualification — or the units you subsequently withdrew from — and paid all agreed fees. A provider that cannot say when the final placement assessment will be signed off cannot tell you when the certificate arrives either.

If you already work in hospitality, say so before you enrol

The place to raise it is the pre-training review , which every learner completes under Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs . Name the instrument when you ask about it — the National Code 2018 has a different Standard 2.2, dealing with an overseas student's English and entry qualifications, and providers sometimes answer the wrong question. The review must consider your language, literacy and numeracy , your digital literacy , and your individual requirements including physical skills, prior experience, and any prerequisites or entry requirements , and it must inform whether you are appropriately placed in the training product at all. On a placement-heavy hospitality qualification, physical skills and prior experience are not a formality.

Two separate mechanisms come out of that review, and they are not the same thing.

Recognition of prior learning is Standard 1.6. It is a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements as the unit itself — the flexibility principle above is exactly what licenses it, because skills count regardless of how or where you acquired them. It is not a waiver, and you will still be producing evidence against the same rules. Note also that our policy is that RPL is not available through government funding : on a subsidised place it is a fee-for-service arrangement.

Credit transfer is Standard 1.7 , and it is a different mechanism entirely. Whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment , on the strength of your statement of attainment, and our policy is that credit transfer attracts no student fee . If you did an RSA or a food safety unit years ago at another provider, that is a credit transfer conversation rather than an RPL one — and it may reduce the practical volume left in front of you. We verify evidence of equivalent prior completion, check the training-product requirements and any licensing or regulatory restrictions, and document the decision before granting credit. See ASQA's credit-transfer guidance .

Then judge the course on these

1. Is the qualification available where you are? Not every qualification an RTO holds is delivered everywhere, and the scope record itself carries no state field, so you have to ask. For CHT, SIT30622 , SIT30722 , SIT40422 , SIT20421 , business and community services are delivered in all eight states and territories; SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality in SA, VIC and WA; commercial cookery in SA, TAS, VIC and WA; kitchen management in VIC and WA; and both Diplomas in Victoria only .
2. What is the actual unit list? Qualifications with the same code differ between providers through elective choice. SIT50422 is 28 units — 11 core, 17 elective — so the electives are most of it. SIT30622 is 15 units with 9 elective. Ask which ones. If a provider cannot tell you, that is an answer.
3. How much of it is fixed? Core ratios vary enormously: 40% for SIT30622 , 43% for SIT40422 , 80% for SIT30821 Commercial Cookery, 82% for SIT40521 Kitchen Management . A high core ratio means less room to shape the course, and less room for credit.
4. Which licensing outcomes come with it? A qualification that embeds RSA and food safety saves you buying them separately. SIT30722 has SITHFAB021 RSA and SITXFSA005 as core , which SIT30622 does not. But check what you actually receive: SITXFSA005 alone does not make you a Food Safety Supervisor, and RSA validity depends on your state.
5. Is the provider approved where approval is required? Check the liquor regulator's course and recognition rules for your role and destination. An RSA Statement of Attainment is a national training record, but permission to serve alcohol depends on the destination's rules. NSW permits eligible temporary interstate workers; permanent movers and security or RSA marshal roles must meet NSW training and competency-card requirements, using bridging where eligible. Victoria offers bridging to eligible interstate holders. SA applies approved-provider rules to training from 1 November 2020, with earlier training not required to be repeated solely for that change. QLD and WA require suitable national RSA evidence. Tasmania distinguishes staff from licence holders; the ACT and NT have local currency and refresher requirements. Check the regulator before your first shift. See RSA recognition by jurisdiction , NSW's rules and SA's rules . NSW Food Safety Supervisor certification needs a provider on the NSW Food Authority's approved list , and we are not on it , so we cannot issue that document. See what food safety certificate do I need .
6. Who is actually teaching and assessing you? To make assessment judgements a person must hold TAE40122 , TAE40116 , TAE40110 , a diploma or higher in adult education or VET, or a secondary teaching qualification plus an approved assessor skill set. They must also have current industry skills and knowledge in the training product. Someone without those credentials may help collect evidence under direction but may not judge you competent.
7. What support is actually provided? Providers owe real duties on pre-enrolment review, access to support, reasonable adjustment and wellbeing, and you must be told how to contact your trainers and

how long to expect to wait for a reply. Ask what that means in practice — see student toolkit and policies .

8. What are the total costs? Subsidised is not free. Ask for the total cost in writing, including materials, uniforms, reassessment and certificate reissue. For a Skills First place, the 2026 rules require a clear refund policy before enrolment and, before training starts, written documentation showing that the program is subsidised and the total cost to you, including tuition after the government contribution and any concession or waiver, plus any other applicable fees for services, amenities, goods or materials. See what hospitality courses cost in Australia .

What CHT actually holds

So you can apply the criteria rather than take a claim:

| | | | --- | --- | | RTO code | 3722, held since 1 June 1994 | | Legal entity | Complete Hospitality Training (Vic) Pty Ltd, ABN 27 006 947 262, ACN 006 947 262 | | Current registration period | 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 , under the Australian Skills Quality Authority | | Regulator history | Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority until 8 September 2017 , ASQA since | | Trading names | Six on the record, five current: Victorian Bar School (1994), Complete Hospitality Training (2011), Ready Serve Achieve Melbourne (2018), Coffee School by CHT (2021), Alchemy Institute of Australia (2024). Complete Healthcare Training ran 24 Oct 2023 to 19 Apr 2025 and has ended | | Victorian funding | Skills First VET Funding Contract | | Outside Victoria | Fee-for-service, no Victorian subsidy | | Scope | 17 current qualifications, 81 current skill sets, 579 current units — every component at extent deliver and assess | | Sectors the skill sets reach | Hospitality, business and cyber, community services, health and infection control, retail, creative arts, horticulture | | On scope but not available | SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail — end date 28 June 2024 , already passed | | AQF ceiling | Level 5 — no Advanced Diploma on scope | | CRICOS | 04242E — three courses only: SIT40422 116358F, SIT50322 118427D, SIT50422 115534C | | TRA appointment | Chef (351311) and Cook (351411) only, for TSS and OSAP | | NSW Food Safety Supervisor | Not an approved provider — cannot issue that certificate | | Victorian RSG | Victorian RSG is free approved training: online modules through RSG Online and venue-arranged sessions with venue support workers. National SITHGAM training does not replace it. |

Verify each row independently: the organisation record and the scope listing on training.gov.au , funding on the Skills First provider list, CRICOS on the CRICOS register, and delivery states with the provider — the scope record itself carries no state field.

One practical note on that trading-name row: a certificate issued in the name Complete Healthcare Training between October 2023 and April 2025 is a genuine RTO 3722 credential, even though the name is no longer in use. So is an old Victorian Bar School document.

The question worth asking instead

Rather than "which is best", ask "which is right for what I want to do" . A subsidised Certificate III that leads to work you want beats a funded Diploma you will not finish. And if your goal is skilled migration, the occupation matters more than the qualification — Chef (351311) and Cook (351411) are assessable through Trades Recognition Australia, and Cafe or Restaurant Manager is not on the Core Skills Occupation List . See what hospitality jobs are in demand and skills assessment .

About us

We are Complete Hospitality Training , RTO 3722, CRICOS 04242E. Level 3, 28 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, and 410 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. Contact melbourne@cht.edu.au or +61 3 9654 1554 .

We link to the relevant course and regulatory sources in this guide. Check those sources for current requirements, and confirm course availability, delivery, fees and entry requirements with us before enrolling.

Is this course the best government funded hospitality course?

That is not a claim anyone can substantiate, and this page does not make it. What is verifiable is the qualification's unit structure, its core ratio, where it is delivered, the practical volumes its units require, and the eligibility rules for subsidy. Judge on those.

How long have you been registered?

It has held RTO code 3722 since 1 June 1994, and its current registration period runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 under ASQA. It moved from the Victorian regulator to the national regulator on 8 September 2017. All of that is on the training.gov.au organisation record.

Does government funded mean free?

No. A student contribution generally applies. A concession reduces tuition to no more than 20% of the standard fee, and specific cohorts get a full waiver, but "free" is usually the wrong word. Ask for the total cost and any other applicable fees in writing.

Am I likely to be eligible?

If you are 20 or over and already hold anything above a Certificate I, probably not for a subsidised place. Check the Victorian Government's online eligibility indicator, which is the authoritative source.

How do I verify a provider's funding claim?

Check the state's published provider list, not the provider's website. Then ask the provider to confirm your personal eligibility in writing.

Can I do a funded course online?

Not as a general matter. A Skills First student must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria or a listed border-region postcode, with the narrow Practical Placement exception capped at no more than 50% of Scheduled Hours.

Are you funded outside Victoria?

No. Delivery outside Victoria is fee-for-service.

How wide is your scope really?

Seventeen current qualifications, 81 current skill sets and 579 current units, all at extent deliver and assess. The skill sets cover far more than hospitality. One qualification, SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail, is past its end date and not available.

Why does practical placement matter so much?

Because hospitality competence is demonstrated in service, and both the Principles of Assessment and the unit requirements say so. Validity requires assessment to include practical application components. The units then set the volumes — five service periods for SITHFAB027, twelve for SITHFAB034, twelve cocktail preparations for SITHFAB030. Placement is also where employers meet you.

Is placement paid?

It depends on the route. A work placement is paid employment you already hold. A vocational placement, whether CHT arranges it or you do, is not paid employment. All three routes require a Placement Agreement before they start.

Can I use my current job as the placement?

Yes, if it is an operational hospitality environment — that is the work placement route. You still need the Placement Agreement completed before it begins.

Will my existing hospitality experience count towards the course itself?

It can, by two different routes, and the difference matters. The flexibility principle requires assessment to judge your skills regardless of how or where you acquired them, and that is what recognition of prior learning under Standard 1.6 rests on — a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements, not a waiver, and not available through government funding. Credit transfer under Standard 1.7 is separate: whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment on the strength of your statement of attainment, and it attracts no student fee. Raise both at the pre-training review, and be explicit about which one you mean. We first verify the evidence and equivalence, check that the units fit your training product, and check for licensing or regulatory restrictions before granting credit. See ASQA's credit-transfer guidance (<https://www.asqa.gov.au/for-providers/standards-for-RTOs/practice-guides/quality-area-1-training-and-assessment/RPL-and-credit-transfer-practice-guide>).

What is the pre-training review, and when does it happen?

Before you are enrolled, under Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs. It must consider your language, literacy and numeracy, your digital literacy, and your individual requirements including physical skills, prior experience and any prerequisites or entry requirements — and it must inform whether you are appropriately placed in the training product. Name the instrument when you ask, because the National Code 2018 has a different Standard 2.2 about an overseas student's English and entry qualifications.

How is my placement evidence actually judged?

Against the four Rules of Evidence. It must be valid; sufficient, so that its quality, quantity and relevance enable an informed judgement; authentic, meaning genuinely your own work, which is why a workplace supervisor signs it rather than you; and current. That is why a logbook signed contemporaneously in the venue works and a recollection of an old shift does not.

What should I be told about placement before I enrol?

Every obligation to undertake a placement, and every obligation to travel or pay for accommodation to attend one. Both are part of the information a provider must give you before enrolment or before any fees are payable, along with the full fee schedule including prepaid fees, the training product code and title, duration, delivery modes, location and dates.

When do I get the certificate after the placement finishes?

Within 30 calendar days of completion of the assessment, once you have been assessed as meeting the training product requirements, provided you completed the qualification and paid all agreed fees. Ask when the final placement assessment is scheduled to be signed off — that date, not the last day of the placement, starts the clock.

Does the qualification include RSA?

In SIT30722 Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House), SITHFAB021 RSA is core, as is SITXFIN007 Process financial transactions. In SIT30622 both are elective. That is the clearest practical difference between the two Certificate IIIs, which are otherwise 15 and 20 units. There is also a standalone skill set, SITSS00071 Responsible service of alcohol.

What if the placement venue treats me badly?

Raise it with the provider immediately. Under Standard 2.6 an RTO must assess third-party environments including work placements for risks to student wellbeing, and must act to prevent and

address abuse, harassment or violence. It must also run a complaints process with procedural fairness, published timeframes and escalation avenues, plus appeals with independent review at no or low cost. Informal complaints — a conversation with a trainer — must be captured too.

Where do I start?

Read your guide to selecting the right hospitality course (</news/your-guide-to-selecting-the-right-hospitality-course-for-you/>), check the courses list (</courses/>), then submit an expression of interest (</eoi/>) or use contact (</contact/>) and ask for a pre-training review and an eligibility check in writing.