

Is This Melbourne's Best Government-Funded Hospitality Course in 2025? A Deep Dive Into CHT's Training – Complete Hospitality Training

Canonical:

<https://cht.edu.au/news/melbournes-best-government-funded-hospitality-course-2025-deep-dive-chts-training/>

Details:

"Best" cannot be substantiated by the provider being judged, so this page does not argue it. It does something more useful: it goes further into the mechanics of Victorian subsidised training than any of the shorter funding pages, because the mechanics are where people get caught out — and every rule below is checkable against the funding contract rather than against marketing copy.

For the shorter versions, see [launch your hospitality career with Victoria's government-funded training](#) and [how to judge a funded course](#) .

Browse CHT's current course listings for a course you are considering, then confirm that course's published funding and eligibility terms before enrolling. The 2025 headline does not establish a present funding entitlement.

The verifiable starting point

Victorian subsidised training runs through Skills First . We hold a Victorian VET Funding Contract under it and appear on the published Skills First training providers list. Check that on the state's own list rather than on any provider's website. It takes a minute and it is the only claim of this kind worth relying on.

The provider record is worth two minutes as well. We have held RTO code 3722 since 1 June 1994 ; the legal entity is Complete Hospitality Training (Vic) Pty Ltd , ABN 27 006 947 262 ; and the current registration period runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 under the Australian Skills Quality Authority. We were registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority until we transferred to the national regulator on 8 September 2017 . All of that sits on the training.gov.au organisation record, and the registration end date is the one number worth checking against the length of your own course.

Outside Victoria it is different. Our delivery in New South Wales and elsewhere is fee-for-service . There is no Victorian government subsidy attached to it. A Sydney-based reader should treat every funding reference on our site as Victorian.

The three threshold criteria

Under Schedule 1 clause 2.2 of the contract, a student must meet all three:

Criterion	Requirement
Citizenship or residence	Australian citizen, permanent visa holder, or New Zealand citizen

Commencement window	Enrol and commence between the Commencement Date and 31 December 2026 inclusive
Physical presence	Undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria, or in a listed border-region postcode

The physical-presence rule is stricter than most people assume. There is no general online or interstate concession for a funded student. The only exception is a student temporarily interstate or overseas for a Practical Placement , who may receive online training and assessment during that period provided it accounts for no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours . A Victorian-subsidised student who moves interstate mid-course is a compliance event, not an administrative detail.

The upskilling gate, which is what actually disqualifies people

If you are 20 or over at the reference date , you must not already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I .

That is the single most useful fact on this page. It means a career changer who already holds a Diploma in an unrelated field, or a graduate with a degree, is generally outside Skills First for a subsidised place — even for a Certificate III in a completely different industry. Most of the disappointment around "government funded" training traces back to this one rule, and very few course pages state it.

Check your own position against the Victorian Government's own online eligibility indicator . That is the authoritative source. Then ask the provider to confirm in writing.

Volume limits, counted on commencement

Limit	Detail
Concurrent programs	Maximum 2 subsidised programs at the same time , regardless of level
AQF qualifications	Maximum 2 per calendar year
Skill sets	Maximum 2 per calendar year
Counting basis	Commencements, not completions — a program merely scheduled to commence later in the same calendar year counts from the point of enrolment
Excluded	Foundation Skills

These must be checked live at enrolment , not reconciled at the end of the year. We hold 81 current skill sets , many of them short and licensing-linked — SITSS00071 Responsible service of alcohol, SITSS00069 Food Safety Supervision, SITSS00068 Food Handling, SITSS00080 Espresso Machine Operation. A student stacking short courses will hit the two-skill-set limit quickly, and the second enrolment is the one that fails.

Concessions and fee waivers, both mandatory

Providers must offer concessions to eligible students, and the concession fee is capped at no more than 20% of the standard tuition fee . That is a mandatory reduction, not a discretionary discount.

Providers must also offer full fee waivers — complete exemption from tuition fees — to:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Youth Access Initiative students

Students from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

Young people on community-based orders

Providers are compensated for these through funding loadings, so there is no reason for reluctance.

Ask directly whether you fall into any category.

Eligibility to enrol is not eligibility for subsidy

This distinction is the source of most confusion. You may be perfectly able to enrol fee-for-service while being ineligible for a subsidised place. Claiming subsidy for an ineligible student is a recovery event — an unfounded claim on public money — which is why a careful provider asks for documents rather than taking your word.

The clearest worked example is school enrolment. Under clause 2.11, a student enrolled in any school — government, non-government, independent or Catholic — is not eligible for Skills First subsidy unless they are a school-based apprentice or trainee. They are not excluded from enrolling and paying full fees privately. Our RSA product accepts enrolments from age 15, and a 15-year-old is almost certainly still school-enrolled, so that enrolment is fee-for-service. A provider must ask about current school enrolment, request supporting evidence if you say you have left school or finished Year 12, and retain it.

If you are under 17

A student under 17 at commencement must hold an exemption from school attendance, unless they are a school-based apprentice or trainee or have completed Year 12 or equivalent.

To obtain an exemption you must be training full-time — at least 25 hours per week, excluding travel, term and public holidays — or in a combination of training and employment. The exemption must clearly identify the provider and the training, and must be signed by the right authority:

Your situation	Who signs
Has not completed Year 10	Department of Education Regional Director
Has completed Year 10	School principal or Regional Director
Never enrolled in a Victorian school	Department of Education Regional Director

The provider must sight and retain the exemption. There is also an exit-notification duty: if an under-17 student enrolled on an exemption stops attending or completes while still under 17, the provider must notify the relevant Department of Education Regional Office and, where applicable, the student's previous Victorian school.

What the contract requires of the provider

A VET Funding Contract sits alongside the Outcome Standards, and some obligations reach further than subsidised delivery. The ones that matter to you as a student:

The provider, not the department, determines eligibility — and bears the evidentiary burden. It must be able to produce, on request:

Evidence of Eligibility

Evidence of Fee Concession or Fee Waiver

Statements of Fees

Evidence of Participation

Evidence of each Pre-Training Review

Evidence that the fees it reported as charged were actually received — including invoices or statements issued to you and bank-generated transaction statements of the accounts the fees were paid into

Teacher records

Records are retained until three years after you complete or withdraw.

The record deeming provision is the sharpest part. If the provider fails to make a record available when the department asks, then for contract purposes it is deemed not to exist, and the activity it would have evidenced is deemed not to have occurred. A misfiled record is legally equivalent to training that never happened. The department also reconciles reported fee revenue against the provider's actual bank deposits, so a provider that reports a tuition fee it did not collect, or discounts informally off the books, is exposed at the bank-record level.

All of that is why funded enrolment involves more paperwork than a fee-for-service short course. It is also why you should never accept a verbal assurance about subsidy.

Access and support obligations run alongside, including support for people with disabilities and the reasonable adjustment duty in the student support standards. You must be given channels to disclose a disability at enrolment and at any point afterwards, and adjustments must be made — though not in a way that compromises the integrity of the training product or the industry standard. See student support and policies.

Your own entitlement, in one sentence

Ask for the total cost in writing, with tuition and every other applicable fee identified. Before enrolment or before any fees are payable, the RTO must also give you the relevant course, delivery, support, licensing, third-party, placement, materials, travel, withdrawal and prepaid-fee information. 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 you can actually study

Subsidy attaches to nationally recognised training, so scope matters. We hold 17 current qualifications, 81 current skill sets and 579 current units, every component at extent deliver and assess — considerably more than the website markets. The skill sets alone reach across hospitality, business and cyber, community services, health and infection control, retail, creative arts and horticulture.

One of the seventeen qualifications, SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail, passed its end date on 28 June 2024 and is not an available option. The other sixteen are delivered as follows — and note that the scope record carries no state field at all, so these come from the provider rather than from the register:

Qualification	Where it is delivered
SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT40422, SIT20421, all business, all community services	All eight states and territories
SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality	SA, VIC, WA
SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery	SA, TAS, VIC, WA

SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management	VIC, WA
SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management	Victoria only
SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management	Victoria only

Note that SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality and SIT20421 Certificate II in Cookery are two different qualifications, both current. Neither is a newer version of the other.

And the sizes, because they matter for funding as much as for time: BSB40520 is 12 units, SIT30622 is 15, SIT40422 is 21, SIT50422 is 28, SIT40521 is 33. Core ratios run from 39% for SIT50422 to 82% for SIT40521 — the higher the core ratio, the less room there is for recognition of prior learning to reduce what you pay.

The unadvertised scope includes four BSB business qualifications — BSB30120 , BSB40120 , BSB40520 and BSB50120 — and three CHC community services qualifications covering aged care, individual support and leisure and health. If what you want is not on the marketed list, ask. See all courses .

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. See the official training requirements and our RSG guide .

How long it should take, and what arrives at the end

The AQF sets a volume of learning for each level, and it does not change because you study online, at night or in a compressed block. Certificate II is 0.5 to 1 year ; Certificate III 1 to 2 years ; Certificate IV 0.5 to 2 years , with the short end reserved for specialist qualifications that build on prior knowledge; Diploma 1 to 2 years . The test behind the numbers is that the volume must be sufficient for graduates to achieve the learning outcomes .

That matters more on a funded page than it looks. ASQA names "accelerating or shortening training without allowing students sufficient time for skill development and knowledge application" and marketing unrealistically short courses as compliance risks in their own right — the second because it compromises the integrity of the training product or lands the student with extension costs. A subsidised Certificate III advertised as a few weeks of contact is a question, not a bargain. Ask how the scheduled hours reconcile with the AQF volume of learning for that level.

At the other end, the issuance rules are tight. An RTO must not issue AQF certification documentation unless you have been assessed as meeting the training product requirements. Once you have been, it must issue 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. Thirty days is the outer limit, not a target.

What arrives must carry the Nationally Recognised Training logo , used in accordance with the NRT Logo Conditions of Use, alongside the issuing organisation's name, registration code and logo, the code and title of the qualification, the signature of an authorised individual, a seal or corporate identifier or unique watermark, and a statement recognising the qualification within the AQF. Your USI must not be printed on it. And the RTO must retain records of all AQF certification documentation for thirty years — which is why a replacement copy remains obtainable decades after the training, and why a certificate is worth chasing even if the provider's trading name has changed since.

Who is allowed to train and assess you

On a subsidised enrolment you are spending public money, so it is a fair question who will make the judgement that you are competent. The answer is set by Standard 3.2 together with the Credential

Policy that accompanies the Standards, and it is a closed list.

To deliver training and assessment without direction , including making assessment judgements, a trainer must hold one of:

TAE40122 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, or its successor

TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

a diploma or higher level qualification in adult education or vocational education and training

a secondary teaching qualification plus one of TAESS00011 , TAESS00019 or its successor, or TAESS00024 VET Delivered to School Students Teacher Enhancement Skill Set or its successor

For assessment only , TAESS00001 is added to that list. A person who holds relevant credentials but not one of the above may deliver training and contribute to assessment under direction , but may not make assessment judgements . If the person teaching you is working under direction, someone credentialled must make the final call on your competence.

Credentials are not the whole test. Every trainer and assessor must also hold industry competencies, skills and knowledge relevant to and current in the training product they deliver, demonstrate current industry practice, and maintain industry engagement — which in hospitality means recent time in a real kitchen or a real venue, not a qualification earned a decade ago. The RTO must ensure and facilitate continuing professional development , and must quality assure its assessment system through regular validation of both assessment practices and assessment judgements by credentialled people, at least one of whom holds a validation credential.

Two fair questions at enrolment: who holds the credential that will sign off my assessment, and when was this assessment tool last validated.

Before you enrol

Check your own eligibility against the Victorian Government's online eligibility indicator, then ask the provider to confirm in writing

Ask whether a concession or a full fee waiver applies to you

Ask for the itemised invoice , with tuition, administration and amenities separated

Check the qualification is delivered in your state , and that the provider's registration runs at least as long as your course

Ask the unit list, and how many units are core

Raise recognition of prior learning — RTOs must offer it under Standard 1.6 and it is consistently under-used

Ask separately about credit transfer under Standard 1.7 for any unit you already hold

Ask what the work placement requires of you in unpaid hours, travel and accommodation

Ask what is not included

RPL is raised at the pre-training review , which every learner completes under Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs and which 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. 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 the two get confused.

Credit transfer is not RPL, and on a funded enrolment the difference is money

Two separate rules sit side by side at that review, and providers routinely conflate them.

Recognition of prior learning is Standard 1.6. It is a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements as the unit itself, not a waiver — you still have to prove the skill.

Credit transfer is Standard 1.7, and it is a different thing entirely. Whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment, with your statement of attainment as the evidence. We verify the evidence and decide eligibility. 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.

For a funded student the practical difference is stark. Our own policy is that credit transfer attracts no student fee, while recognition of prior learning is not available through government funding at all — it is a fee-for-service service. So if you already hold the unit, say so at the pre-training review and produce the statement of attainment; if you hold the skill but not the unit, understand that having it recognised will be a private arrangement rather than a subsidised one.

This is also what makes our 81 skill sets useful rather than merely short. Units completed inside a skill set credit-transfer into a full qualification later under Standard 1.7, and produce a statement of attainment in the meantime — subject to the two-skill-sets-per-calendar-year limit above. See course enquiry or submit an expression of interest.

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.

Source records and further guidance

We link the unit records and regulator guidance relevant to this page below. Check the current source before making an enrolment, licensing or employment decision.

SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management

SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management

BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management

SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality

SIT20421 Certificate II in Cookery

Responsible Service of Gaming (RSG) training requirements (Victoria)

Skills First (Victoria) — VET Funding Contract obligations

National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 — Standards 1 to 11

Outcome Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2025 (full text)

Unique Student Identifier (USI) requirements for RTOs

Is this Melbourne's best government-funded hospitality course?

That is not a claim a provider can substantiate about itself, and this page does not make it. The verifiable facts are the qualification structures, where they are delivered, the provider's registration period, and the eligibility rules set out above.

Are you genuinely government funded?

In Victoria, yes — it holds a Skills First VET Funding Contract and appears on the published provider list. Outside Victoria, no: that delivery is fee-for-service.

How long have you been registered?

Since 1 June 1994 under RTO code 3722. Our current registration period runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 under ASQA, and we transferred from the Victorian regulator to the national regulator on 8 September 2017.

Does funded mean free?

No. A student contribution generally applies. A concession caps tuition at no more than 20% of the standard fee, and four specific cohorts receive a full waiver, but "free" is usually the wrong word.

Why might I be ineligible?

Most often because you are 20 or over and already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I. Other common reasons: residency status, being enrolled at a school, studying outside Victoria, or having already commenced two subsidised qualifications this calendar year.

I already have a degree. Can I get a funded Certificate III?

Generally not, and the field of the degree does not help — the rule is about the level you hold, not its relevance. Fee-for-service enrolment is normally still available.

Can I get funding for a short course?

Skill sets are treated separately from qualifications, with their own limit of two per calendar year counted on commencement. Foundation Skills are excluded from the count. We hold 81 current skill sets, so the constraint is the annual limit rather than availability. Ask about your specific case before you enrol in the second one.

Does credit transfer cost me anything on a funded place?

No. Our policy is that credit transfer under Standard 1.7 attracts no student fee — whole units already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment, on the strength of your statement of attainment. Recognition of prior learning under Standard 1.6 is different: it is a real assessment against the same evidence requirements, and it is not available through government funding, so it is a fee-for-service arrangement. Raise both at the pre-training review, and be clear which one you are asking for. 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>).

How long should a funded qualification take?

Long enough to meet the AQF volume of learning for its level — 1 to 2 years for a Certificate III, 0.5 to 2 years for a Certificate IV, 1 to 2 years for a Diploma — and that is independent of delivery mode. The underlying test is that the volume must be sufficient for graduates to achieve the learning outcomes. ASQA treats shortening training without allowing time for skill development, and marketing unrealistically short courses, as compliance risks in their own right.

Who is allowed to decide I am competent?

Only a trainer or assessor credentialled under Standard 3.2 and the accompanying Credential Policy — TAE40122, TAE40116 or TAE40110, or a diploma or higher in adult education or VET, or a secondary teaching qualification plus a specified VET skill set. Assessment only adds TAESS00001. Someone without those credentials may deliver training and contribute to assessment under direction but may not make the assessment judgement. All of them must also hold current industry skills and maintain industry engagement.

When do I get my certificate, and how do I know it is real?

Within 30 calendar days of completion of the assessment, provided you finished the qualification and paid all agreed fees. It must carry the Nationally Recognised Training logo, the issuing RTO's name, registration code and logo, the qualification code and title, an authorised signature, and a seal, corporate identifier or unique watermark — and it must not show your USI. The RTO keeps a record for thirty years, so a replacement remains obtainable long afterwards.

I am 16. Can I enrol?

You may need an exemption from school attendance unless you are a school-based apprentice or trainee or have completed Year 12. The exemption requires full-time training of at least 25 hours per week, or training combined with employment, and must be signed by your principal or a Department of Education Regional Director depending on your schooling history. The provider must sight and keep it.

Can I study a funded course online from home in Sydney?

No. A Skills First student must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria or a listed border-region postcode. The only exception is a short period while on a Practical Placement, capped at no more than 50% of Scheduled Hours.

Why does the enrolment ask for so many documents?

Because the provider determines your eligibility and must be able to produce the evidence — including evidence of eligibility, of any concession, your Statement of Fees, evidence of participation and evidence of the pre-training review. If a record cannot be produced on request, the activity is deemed not to have occurred.

Can the provider give me a discount off the books?

No, and you would not want it. The department reconciles reported fee revenue against the provider's bank statements, so an informal discount is visible at the bank-record level and puts your enrolment at risk, not just the provider's.

Does funding cover my materials and uniform?

The subsidy attaches to tuition. Materials, uniforms, re-assessment and certificate re-issue generally sit outside it, and all of them must be disclosed to you before you pay.

Will RPL reduce a funded fee?

It can, by reducing the units you need, but remember that RPL itself is not available through government funding. How much room there is depends on the qualification's core ratio — there is far more in SIT50422 at 39% core than in SIT40521 at 82%. Credit transfer, by contrast, is free.

What if I disagree with an eligibility decision?

Use the provider's complaints and appeals processes, which must afford procedural fairness, set published timeframes, provide escalation avenues, and include independent review at no or low cost. You must be told all avenues for independent review. Start at policies (/policies/), and see the difference between a good and a bad course provider (/news/difference-between-a-good-and-a-bad-course-provider/).