

What Are the 3 Key Takeaways for a Career in Hospitality? – Complete Hospitality Training

Canonical: <https://cht.edu.au/news/what-are-the-3-key-takeaways-for-a-career-in-hospitality/>

Details:

If you take three things away before deciding whether hospitality is for you, make them these. They are the ones that change decisions rather than the ones that sound good.

Licensing is the gate, not the qualification — and licensing is state law, not national law.

The credential is permanent and portable, but only if it has a unit code behind it.

Progression is real, and a relevant Certificate III used at work sets a Level 4 floor in three of the four awards a hospitality job can sit under — which in a restaurant is a tradesperson grade .

Three human skills from our original career guide

The source article makes a more personal set of points alongside the structural rules below. Build transferable service skills: listen, communicate, solve problems and work well with a team across different venues. Keep learning: use experience and further training to move toward a role that interests you, checking whether a course is relevant before enrolling. Know your strengths and habits: reliability, patience and a willingness to help colleagues matter in a guest-facing job, and feedback can reveal what to improve.

These do not replace RSA, food safety or the credential and award rules that follow. They explain how a person makes use of those formal pathways in the workplace.

1. Licensing is the gate, not the qualification

You can work in most of hospitality without a qualification. You cannot work in significant parts of it without a licence-linked credential , and those are legal requirements with penalties attached.

Requirement	Who it binds	The critical detail
RSA	Anyone serving alcohol	The unit is SITHFAB021, but the credential is regulated under eight separate jurisdictions . There is no single Australian RSA.
Food handler training	Anyone who handles unpackaged food — including baristas handling milk and bar staff handling ice and garnishes	Must be completed before you engage in a prescribed activity. Must cover safe handling of food, food contamination, cleaning and sanitising, and personal hygiene.
Food Safety Supervisor	The business , not the individual — for category one and category two food businesses	Must be appointed before a prescribed activity, must remain reasonably available (onsite or

		easily contacted), and must hold a certificate issued within the immediately preceding five years .
Substantiation records	Category one businesses only	Kept for three months after being made, accessible at the premises.
Responsible Service of Gambling, Victoria	Gaming staff in Victoria	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.

The category one and two distinction, because it is routinely stated backwards

Standard 3.2.2A, which commenced 8 December 2023 , classifies by activity, not by audience or premises type .

Category one is a caterer or food service operation that processes unpackaged potentially hazardous food into food that is both potentially hazardous and ready to eat. Restaurants, cafes, pubs, fast food, bakeries, hospitals, aged care, childcare, school canteens. If it has a kitchen and cooks, it is category one.

Category two is retail sale of ready-to-eat potentially hazardous food the business did not make. Slicing, weighing, repacking, reheating and hot-holding do not count as making it. Delis, butchers, some convenience stores.

Most of hospitality is therefore category one, and only category one carries the records duty. Anyone telling you category two covers most of hospitality has it inverted.

One more correction worth carrying: the alternative to completed food handler training is possessing skills and knowledge commensurate with the activity — not being supervised by someone who has done the training. Supervision belongs to the separate Food Safety Supervisor tool and does not substitute for the training tool.

RSA is not national, and the differences are decision-changing

Jurisdiction	Position
Victoria	Use a current Victorian RSA certificate. Eligible interstate holders can apply for free bridging: approved original training within three years, with the online-course residence condition. Specific exemptions apply at qualifying producer events. Victorian RSA Refresher every three years.
NSW	Eligible temporary interstate workers can use approved interstate RSA. Permanent movers and security or RSA marshal roles must meet NSW training and competency-card requirements; eligible holders can use bridging instead of the full NSW RSA course. NSW competency card: five

	years. Interstate concessions have separate eligibility and certificate-age requirements.
SA	Check provider approval and training date. Training from 1 November 2020 must be through a Commissioner-approved RTO. Earlier RSA training need not be repeated solely because of that approval change. No routine RSA renewal period stated in the cited CBS guidance; check applicable licence conditions.
QLD	Accepted where the evidence is a Statement of Attainment for the nationally accredited Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol course. An attendance certificate is insufficient. Valid RSA training generally has no expiry; training completed before 2002 must be replaced.
WA	Provide the RSA certificate showing completion of the nationally accredited course. An interstate RSA card alone is not accepted as evidence. Keep the RSA certificate as training evidence; approved-manager cards have separate renewal requirements.
Northern Territory	Certificates from an RTO registered to deliver RSA are accepted, including interstate certificates. Check certificate age and the NT refresher requirements. NT guidance gives a three-year limit for interstate certificates and directs holders to a refresher; check current renewal guidance.
Australian Capital Territory	Valid interstate RSA certificates are recognised, subject to the ACT's three-year currency limit and ACT-approved refresher requirements. Three years from course completion, then an ACT-approved refresher.
Tasmania	Interstate certificates can be accepted under the Commissioner's conditions. Requirements differ for employees and liquor licence holders; check the appropriate role. No RSA expiry date in the regulator's FAQ; an employer may request updated training.

Current regulator guidance: NSW , VIC , SA , QLD , WA , NT , ACT , TAS .

The practical consequence: decide which state you will work in before you buy any training. See RSA and how long does an RSA last .

And for the Food Safety Supervisor certificate specifically, New South Wales is the outlier. It issues its own state certificate, requires the RTO to be approved by the NSW Food Authority under section 106H of the Food Act 2003 , and mandates state content covering allergen management, cleaning and sanitising, safe egg handling and Food Act offences. The state certificate carries a capped fee set by the regulator, separate from any training fee. We are not on that approved provider list , so we cannot issue the NSW Food Safety Supervisor certificate. That is stated here deliberately. The classic and expensive error is treating the national Statement of Attainment as the FSS certificate — an

NSW-approved RTO issues two separate documents , and keeping only the Statement of Attainment does not satisfy section 106G. See what food safety certificate do I need and Food Safety Supervisor .

2. The credential is permanent and portable — if it has a unit code

Nationally recognised training produces a Statement of Attainment linked to your Unique Student Identifier . It does not expire, it is retrievable for life from your USI transcript, it travels between employers and states, and it can be credit-transferred into a larger qualification later.

Non-accredited training — which many barista and cocktail courses are — produces a certificate of attendance. Real skills, no credential, no credit transfer.

For nationally recognised training, a Unique Student Identifier (USI) is generally required before a qualification or Statement of Attainment can be issued , unless an applicable exemption applies. See the official USI exemption guidance . A USI is free at usi.gov.au . If you already have one, recover it rather than creating another. We check the issuing RTO and the unit codes when verifying a credential; a USI request alone does not establish whether a provider is legitimate. Ask for the unit code before you pay.

Two practical points on the USI itself. It is free. And if you have studied any nationally recognised training since 2015 you already have one — recover it, do not create a second , because duplicates split your training history across two records and an employer verifying your transcript will only see half of it.

3. Progression is real, and the award puts a number on it

Hospitality is one of the few industries where you can reach management without a degree. The ladder is defined: Certificate III for operational work, Certificate IV where supervision begins , Diploma for management at AQF 5.

AQF	Qualification	Units	What changes
3	SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality	15 (6 core)	You work with some autonomy
3	SIT30722 Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)	20 (9 core)	RSA and cash handling become core , not elective
4	SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality	21 (9 core)	Three of the nine core units are HR units. This is the supervision qualification.
5	SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management	28 (11 core)	Legal risk, budgets, quality systems

First: which award are you even under?

Your pay comes from a classification inside a modern award, and the premises decides, not the job title . There are four destinations, not two:

Premises	Award
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Hotels, pubs, taverns, motels, resorts, casinos, caterers, accommodation	MA000009 Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2020
Not-for-profit registered clubs — RSL, bowls, golf, sporting, community	MA000058 Registered and Licensed Clubs Award 2020
Standalone restaurants, cafes, night clubs , reception centres, roadhouses	MA000119 Restaurant Industry Award 2020
Takeaway, food courts, food sold mainly to be eaten away from the counter	MA000003 Fast Food Industry Award 2010

Each covers its industry to the exclusion of any other modern award, so exactly one applies to a given employer. Two traps:

Clubs are not covered by MA000009. Clause 4.4(d)(i) expressly excludes "clubs registered or recognised under State or Territory legislation". Registered clubs sit under MA000058 , and only where the club is both registered under a liquor, gaming, associations or corporations statute and established and operating not-for-profit for the benefit of members and the community (clause 4.3).

Night clubs are not clubs. A night club is commercial, so it falls under MA000119 with restaurants and cafes.

Then: the Level 4 floor, in three of the four

A relevant AQF Certificate III or higher, used at work , sets a minimum classification of Level 4 :

Award	Floor	Rate clause
MA000009 Hospitality Industry (General)	Level 4	clause 18.1
MA000119 Restaurant Industry	Level 4	clause 18.1
MA000058 Registered and Licensed Clubs	Level 4	clause 18.3
MA000003 Fast Food	no equivalent provision	—

Under MA000119 that floor lands somewhere specific and worth knowing. Schedule A defines Level 4 as "Food and beverage attendant grade 4 (tradesperson)" and "Cook grade 3 (tradesperson)" , and the award's own standard rate is the Level 4 rate . So in a standalone restaurant or cafe, a relevant Certificate III used at work is an explicit route to a tradesperson grade without serving an apprenticeship . That is the single most concrete answer to whether the qualification pays for itself.

Three differences worth respecting, because this is a pay entitlement rather than a courtesy:

MA000009 and MA000119 require that you make use of the skills and knowledge derived from the Certificate III competencies. It is not automatic on completion — a certificate in a drawer while you work in an unrelated role does not meet the test.

MA000058 states the floor for "AQF Certificate III qualifications relevant to the classification in which they are employed" without the words "or higher", and adds that the Fair Work Commission may require the employee to demonstrate that they utilise the relevant skills.

Dispute routes differ : clause 40 under MA000009, clause 34 under MA000119, and referral to the Fair Work Commission under MA000058.

The definition that decides whether you qualify for the floor

The phrase the awards turn on is "appropriate level of training", and clause 2 of MA000009 defines it with three limbs . An employee has it if they have:

completed an appropriate training program meeting the training and assessment requirements of a qualification or one or more appropriate units of competency forming part of a training package ; or
been assessed by a qualified skills assessor as having skills at least equivalent to that training; or
as at 30 June 2010 , been doing the work of that classification for at least three months .

Two things follow, and both are commonly got wrong.

Limb 1 counts units, not only whole qualifications. A Statement of Attainment for the right units of competency can satisfy the test on its own. That is why finishing part of a qualification is not a wasted effort, and why a skill set is a real credential rather than a consolation prize.

Limb 3 is a closed transitional provision, not a rolling three-month test. It is anchored to the fixed date of 30 June 2010 , so it recognised people who were already doing the work when the award was made. It does not mean that three months in a role today gets you there — anyone starting now has to rely on limb 1 or limb 2. MA000119's own equivalent limb is anchored to 31 December 2009 , a different date, which is another reason to read the award covering your own employer rather than a generic summary.

Under MA000009 the classification structure runs from an Introductory level through Levels 1 to 6 across five streams — food and beverage, kitchen, guest services, clerical and casino gaming — and clause 14 obliges the employer to classify every employee under Schedule A. Introductory level lasts up to three months , extendable once by mutual agreement by a further three, with six months the maximum. It is not the trainee arrangement — a trainee under a registered training contract is paid under the National Training Wage instead.

No rates are printed on this page. Award rates re-set every 1 July, so confirm current figures against the Fair Work Ombudsman's Pay and Conditions Tool.

What you are assessed on before you supervise anyone

One unit is worth singling out, because it arrives earlier in the ladder than the table above suggests. SITXHRM007 Coach others in job skills is core in SIT30622 , SIT30722 , SIT30821 and SIT40422 — three Certificate IIIs as well as the Certificate IV. Training a colleague is treated as an operational skill, so you are assessed on it at operational level.

What that assessment counts: on-the-job coaching delivered to two different colleagues , and in each session you must address identified performance problems or difficulties and rectify or refer them, then evaluate the colleague's performance and give constructive feedback . It has to be done within commercial time constraints , and it applies the six key principles of training — explanation, demonstration, review, listening to the trainee's explanation, observing and evaluating their demonstration, and providing feedback.

So the third takeaway has a corollary: the first step up is not a title, it is being able to show you taught two people something during real service. That is a concrete thing to arrange before you need it.

Three honest constraints

Our ceiling is AQF level 5. No Advanced Diploma on scope. A Diploma is a common basis for credit into a degree, but the university decides how much.

Geography matters. Both Diplomas are Victoria only ; commercial cookery is limited to South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia, and kitchen management to Victoria and Western Australia. Be careful where you verify that, though: the training.gov.au scope register for RTO 3722 lists every component at extent "Deliver and assess" with no jurisdiction field at all , so the state limits cannot be read off the register and should be confirmed with us directly. What the register does show is the size of the scope — 17 qualifications, 81 skill sets and 579 units — and that one of the 17, SIR30216

Certificate III in Retail, ended on 28 June 2024 and is not available.

If migration is the goal, the occupation matters more than the course. Chef (351311) and Cook (351411) are on the Core Skills Occupation List. Cafe or Restaurant Manager (141111) is not. Hotel or Motel Manager (141311) and Licensed Club Manager (141411) are. Note also that although the Australian Bureau of Statistics superseded ANZSCO with OSCA in 2024, migration programs still run on ANZSCO codes. And list status is not a clear pathway: Home Affairs applies caveats to Chef and Cook in certain circumstances — fast food outlets, limited-service restaurants and business size are the named examples — and those caveats were not retrieved for this page and could materially narrow the practical pathway . Verify them with the Department of Home Affairs.

See how far can a hospitality qualification take you and how to build a career in hospitality .

The one thing most people miss

Recognition of prior learning, and its quieter sibling, credit transfer. They are not the same thing and they are governed by different Standards.

	RPL (Standard 1.6)	Credit transfer (Standard 1.7)
What is assessed	Evidence of prior skills, learning and experience against the unit requirements	Prior completion of an equivalent training product
Evidence	Payslips, position descriptions, references, a supervisor who will verify what you did	AQF certification documentation or an authenticated VET transcript
It is not	A waiver. It is a genuine assessment against the same requirements.	Automatic where licensing or regulatory requirements say otherwise.

Both Standards require the RTO to offer the opportunity, publish its policy, document the decision, and decide in a way that is fair, transparent, consistent among students and protective of the integrity of the training product.

Where both get raised, and the Standard that requires it

Both are raised at the pre-training review , and that review is not optional or promotional. It is required by Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs : "VET students are advised, prior to enrolment, about the suitability of the training product for them, taking into account the student's skills and competencies."

Its performance indicators require procedures to review, prior to enrolment , the skills and competencies of prospective students — including their language, literacy and numeracy proficiency and their digital literacy — and to advise each prospective student whether the product suits them, taking account of individual requirements including physical skills, prior experience, prerequisites and entry requirements .

Name the instrument if you go looking for it. The National Code 2018 also has a Standard 2.2, and it is a different provision for a different cohort — assessing an overseas student's English, qualifications or work experience for course entry. Quoting the wrong one is an easy mistake to make and an obvious one to spot.

Whether an older certificate credits depends on equivalence

If you already hold a superseded qualification, the question is not whether it is "still valid" — it is whether the current code is equivalent to it. Equivalence decides whether the whole thing maps across or only some units do.

Equivalent to their predecessors : SIT20322 , SIT20421 , SIT30821 , SIT40521 and BSB40520 . Both Certificate IIs are in this group, and BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management is equivalent to the superseded BSB42015 .

Not equivalent : SIT30622 , SIT30722 , SIT40422 , SIT50322 , SIT50422 , BSB30120 , BSB40120 , BSB50120 , CHC33021 , CHC43015 and CHC43415 . Note that CHC43015 maps to two predecessors, CHC40108 and CHC40212.

A superseded-but-not-equivalent qualification does not map unit for unit onto the current one, so gap assessment is the realistic expectation rather than a clean transfer. Bring the certificate and the transcript to the pre-training review and ask which specific units credit, rather than assuming either answer. Ask before you enrol, not after — see course enquiry or lodge an expression of interest .

About us

We are Complete Hospitality Training — legal name Complete Hospitality Training (Vic) Pty Ltd , RTO 3722 , CRICOS 04242E , ABN 27 006 947 262 , ACN 006 947 262 . Registered as RTO 3722 since 1 June 1994 . Regulated nationally by ASQA since 8 September 2017 , when registration transferred from the Victorian regulator (VRQA). The current registration period runs 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 , exercised by ASQA under the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 .

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Trading names on the RTO 3722 record. Five are current — Victorian Bar School (from 1 June 1994, the original), Complete Hospitality Training (2011), Ready Serve Achieve Melbourne (2018), Coffee School by CHT (2021) and Alchemy Institute of Australia (2024). A sixth, Complete Healthcare Training , ran from 24 October 2023 to 19 April 2025 and has ended. A certificate issued under any of those names is an RTO 3722 credential.

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.

SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality

SIT30722 Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)

SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality

SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Victoria)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Queensland)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Western Australia)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (South Australia)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Tasmania)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Australian Capital Territory)
Food Safety Supervisor certificate requirements (New South Wales)
Food Standards Code — Standards 3.2.2 and 3.2.2A (food safety practices and food safety management tools)
Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2020 (MA000009)
Restaurant Industry Award 2020 (MA000119)
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

Can I start without any qualification?

In many roles yes — but not serving alcohol, and not as a Food Safety Supervisor.

Which credential should I get first?

Whichever your state requires for the work you want. Usually RSA, and food handler training.

Which award covers the venue I work in?

The premises decides. Hotels, pubs, taverns, motels, resorts, casinos and caterers fall under MA000009; not-for-profit registered clubs under MA000058; standalone restaurants, cafes, night clubs, reception centres and roadhouses under MA000119; takeaway and food-court outlets under MA000003.

I work in a registered club. Is that the hospitality award?

No. MA000009 clause 4.4(d)(i) excludes clubs registered or recognised under State or Territory legislation by name. Registered clubs are covered by MA000058, where the club is both registered under a liquor, gaming, associations or corporations statute and operating not-for-profit for members and the community.

Is a night club covered by the clubs award?

No — MA000119, the Restaurant Industry Award, because a night club is a commercial venue rather than a not-for-profit registered club.

Does a Certificate III guarantee a pay rise?

A relevant Certificate III or higher, used at work, sets a minimum classification of Level 4 under MA000009 (clause 18.1), MA000119 (clause 18.1) and MA000058 (clause 18.3). The fast food award has no equivalent provision. Holding the certificate without using the competencies is not the same test.

What does "appropriate level of training" actually mean?

Under clause 2 of MA000009 it has three limbs: completing an appropriate training program meeting the requirements of a qualification or one or more appropriate units of competency; or being assessed by a qualified skills assessor as having at least equivalent skills; or, as at 30 June 2010, having done

the work of that classification for at least three months.

So three months in the job gets me there?

No. That third limb is a closed transitional provision fixed to 30 June 2010, not a rolling three-month test — it recognised people already doing the work when the award was made. Anyone starting now relies on limb 1 or limb 2. MA000119's equivalent limb is anchored to a different date, 31 December 2009.

What does Level 4 actually mean in a restaurant?

Under MA000119, Schedule A defines Level 4 as "Food and beverage attendant grade 4 (tradesperson)" and "Cook grade 3 (tradesperson)", and the Level 4 rate is the award's standard rate. A relevant Certificate III used at work is therefore a route to a tradesperson grade without an apprenticeship.

Does the Level 4 floor work identically in all three awards?

Nearly. MA000009 and MA000119 require you to make use of the skills derived from the Certificate III competencies. MA000058 omits "or higher" and adds that the Fair Work Commission may require you to demonstrate that you utilise the relevant skills.

If my employer disagrees about my classification, where does that go?

Clause 40 under MA000009, clause 34 under MA000119, and referral to the Fair Work Commission under MA000058.

What is the first unit that assesses me on training someone else?

SITXHRM007 Coach others in job skills, and it arrives at Certificate III — it is core in SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT30821 and SIT40422. You coach two different colleagues, in each case addressing performance problems and rectifying or referring them, then evaluating performance and giving constructive feedback, within commercial time constraints, using the six key principles of training.

Which Standard requires the pre-training review?

Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs, which requires students to be advised before enrolment about the suitability of the training product for them. Its performance indicators cover language, literacy and numeracy proficiency and digital literacy, plus physical skills, prior experience, prerequisites and entry requirements. Do not confuse it with Standard 2.2 of the National Code 2018, which is about an overseas student's English, qualifications or work experience.

I hold a superseded qualification. Does it still count?

It depends on equivalence. SIT20322, SIT20421, SIT30821, SIT40521 and BSB40520 are equivalent to their predecessors, so an older certificate in those lines credits cleanly. SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT40422, SIT50322, SIT50422, BSB30120, BSB40120, BSB50120, CHC33021, CHC43015 and CHC43415 are not equivalent, so expect gap assessment rather than a whole-qualification transfer.

Is my RSA valid if I move interstate?

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 ([/rsa/](#)), NSW's rules (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/business-and-economy/liquor-and-gaming/training/rsa-bridging>) and SA's rules (<https://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/sections/LGL/RSA-approved-providers>).

Does food handler training have to be accredited?

No. Standard 3.2.2A requires the four topics to be covered before you engage in a prescribed activity. It does not require national accreditation, does not mandate a refresher period, and does not require the business to keep records of it. The five-year clock belongs to the Food Safety Supervisor certificate, not to food handler training.

Is my business category one or category two?

If it processes unpackaged potentially hazardous food into food that is both potentially hazardous and ready to eat, it is category one. A kitchen that cooks is category one. Category two is retail sale of ready-to-eat food the business did not make.

How long do category one records have to be kept?

Three months after being made, accessible at the premises.

Does a hospitality qualification work overseas?

Not by itself. Skills assessment turns on the nominated occupation. Our TRA appointment (<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/skills-assessment>) covers Chef (351311) and Cook (351411). See skills assessment ([/skills-assessment/](#)).

Can I use a Diploma of Hospitality Management for skilled migration?

Not as a Cafe or Restaurant Manager — 141111 is absent from the Core Skills Occupation List. Related management occupations are on it, so the pathway turns on which occupation the nomination is made in.

Are there conditions on the Chef and Cook occupations?

Yes, and they are not reproduced here. Home Affairs applies caveats to both in certain circumstances — fast food outlets, limited-service restaurants and business size are the named examples — and those caveats were not retrieved for this page. Confirm the current position with the Department of Home Affairs rather than relying on list status alone.

How big is your scope?

17 qualifications, 81 skill sets and 579 units, every component at extent "Deliver and assess". SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail is one of the 17 but ended on 28 June 2024 and is not available.

What is the single most common mistake?

Buying training that does not satisfy the state you will actually work in.

What is the second most common?

Creating a second USI instead of recovering the one you already have, and splitting your training history in two.

Where do I check whether a course is delivered in my state?

Ask through course enquiry (/contact/), naming the qualification code and your state. The training.gov.au scope register will not answer this — it carries no jurisdiction field.

Is a short non-accredited course a waste of time?

Not for skills. But it produces no Statement of Attainment, does not credit-transfer, and does not satisfy anything that is legally gated.