



Australian Government

**REAL SKILLS
DESERVE REAL
RECOGNITION**

How to spot qualification scams

Red flags: what to look out for

Be cautious if you see ads that:

- Promise a certificate in **30 days or less**.
- Make claims like “**No study**”, “**No exams**”, “**No classes**” or “**100% guaranteed qualification**”.
- Don't mention the **training provider issuing the qualification**.

Be wary of training providers that:

- Only communicate through encrypted messaging apps like **WhatsApp** or **WeChat**.
- Only ask for a **resume** and **ID** as evidence.
- Offer training at a **location that doesn't match the course** (e.g. mechanic training at a house).

Watch out for assessment processes that are too quick or easy

- Scammers **offer qualifications without any training or assessment**.
- A genuine qualification requires a thorough assessment process to check your skills and competencies required for the qualification.

Be cautious about high non-refundable upfront fees

- Scammers often ask for money upfront and say it's non-refundable.
- If your qualification is cancelled because it's fraudulent, you won't get your money back.

Be careful of dishonest brokers, agents and 'third parties'

- Some agents and brokers promise fast-tracked qualifications by outsourcing training and assessment to 'third parties'. A third party is any organisation that delivers services such as training on behalf of the registered training provider.
- Training providers must tell you if they use any third parties. You should know which organisation will provide training and assessment, and which organisation will issue the qualification.

If the company isn't listed on the [National Training Register](#) or won't give you the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) registration number, it's probably a scam.



Watch out if you aren't given a written agreement

- Before you pay any fees, the organisation should give you a formal written agreement or contract that shows:
 - The qualification to be issued
 - The RTO responsible for issuing it
 - The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process and assessment criteria
 - Refund policies

If they don't give you a written agreement or contract, it's probably a scam.

What are the risks?



Your qualification can be cancelled

The national vocational education and training (VET) regulator, the [Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\)](#) is taking action against fraudulently issued qualifications.

If your training provider issues a qualification without assessing your skills properly, ASQA may cancel your qualification.

For more information about ASQA's work targeting fraudulent qualifications, visit the [ASQA website](#).



Using fake qualifications is illegal

Using or showing a fake qualification is fraud. You could face fines or even criminal charges.



You may lose money

Fraudulent providers won't refund your fees if your qualification is cancelled. You could be left with no qualification and won't be refunded the cost of the fake qualification.



You can put others at risk

A fake qualification means you might not have the skills to do the job safely. This can be dangerous in areas like healthcare, construction, education and aged care.



You can put yourself at risk

Working in a role you're not trained for puts you at risk of injury, failure and loss of your job.

Report suspicious providers:

If you suspect the service you are being offered is a scam, report it:

- Call [1300 644 844](tel:1300644844) (within Australia) or [+61 2 5933 2022](tel:+61259332022) (outside Australia)
- Use the [online tip-off form](#)



Find out more at
yourcareer.gov.au/VETIntegrity

