

Policy Overview

To ensure that accurate and consistent processes are applied for all fees, charges and refunds at a national level for both fee for service and VET Government funded courses as per the RTO standards 2015 and VET contractual agreements per state.

Objective

To ensure that all applicable fees and charges payable for courses are communicated accurately, invoiced, recorded and where applicable - refunded, according to ASH Pty. Ltd. (trading as Ashley Institute of Training (ASH)) procedures, payment terms agreed to during enrolment, the service agreement, state funding contracts and national legislation.

Staff Responsible

- Business Development Managers (BDM)
- Administration
- Compliance Team
- Operations Manager
- Finance

Compliance Standards

This policy relates to the following Standards for RTO's 2015 Clauses: 5.2, 5.3, 7.3 & 8.5.

User Choice 2021-22 Policy - Clause 2 – Government contribution, Clause 2 – Fees and charges, Table 2 and Table 3 – Fund source codes, ref pages 35-41

Skills Assure Supplier Policy 2021-22 – Appendix 1 – Co-contribution fee, ref pages 38-40

Related Policies/Templates/Documents

- P-001.2 Enrolment Policy and Procedure
- P-003.2 Record Management and Maintenance Policy
- P-015 Financial Management Policy and Procedure
- P-057.2 Assessment Policy and Procedure
- F-048 Statement of Fees and Course Overview
- F-074 Financial Hardship Form

Definitions

Fees payment made for education services.

Charges – the prices for the services.

Student/s refers to all persons enrolled in a course at the RTO.

Client/s refers to all Employers, JSA providers or similar that are paying fees on behalf of the Student/s.

SMS refers to Student Management System.

Policy

Communicating Fees, Charges and Refund Information

- It is the responsibility of ASH to ensure all potential and enrolled students are accurately provided information in relation to fees, charges and refunds prior to and during enrolment. Communication of fees, charges and refunds may be published on the student flyer, the ASH website, communicated verbally and in writing during enrolment and/or any other form of provided by ASH. This information will include:
 - Fees associated with the course
 - Additional administration fees
 - Fees for materials and resources
 - Payment terms including when payment is due and refundable and/or non-refundable deposits; and
 - Refunds policy.

1. Terms of Fees

Statement of Fees

- All fees are detailed for any enrolment on a Statement of Fees (F-048) which all students must be given, and the information clearly explained.
- Where an employer is paying fees, they must sign the declaration on the statement of fees and be made aware of the clauses in this policy.

Funded Training

- When the enrolment is processed, the agreed fees and charges will be invoiced to the student/client in line with fees and charges outlined on the application form, statement of fees & course overview and State VET Funding Contract – refer to procedure.

Fee-for-Service (Non-State Funded Training)

- Depending on the individual agreement between ASH and the Student, ASH will charge the tuition fee in respect of the course, inclusive of any associated administration and course material fees payable by the Student/Client.

1.1 Payment of Fees

- ASH will not accept fees greater than \$1500 before training is commenced and no more than \$1000 is held in advance at any time during training.
- Failure to pay fees will result in ASH being compelled to withhold results, statement of attainment or certification.
- Payment terms of any invoice are 7 days
- Receipt of fees paid are outlined in the - **payment of fees procedure**.
- If payment is made via bank transfer, notification must be sent via email to: accounts@ash.edu.au

1.2. Payment Arrangements

- ASH will offer on an individual basis payment arrangement for students that may be experiencing financial hardship – **refer to procedure.**

1.3. Employer Fees

- A declaration is signed by the employer on the statement of fees for any enrolment
- Where an employer has noted they will pay fees on their employee's behalf, they will be held responsible for full payment
- It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that if they make arrangements with the employee regarding any fees that are to be reimbursed by the employee.
- **Fee for Service Students** - It is the employer's responsibility to inform ASH in writing if the student leaves their employment including the date ceased employment.
- On receipt of this notification, ASH will issue an invoice to the employer for the units started/completed up until the date of notification that has not already been billed.
- Failure to notify us of the student's employment status will result in fees payable for all units studied should the student continue their study past their employment date
- **Funded Students** - The payment of fees is required regardless of the approval and/or receipt of any other Federal or State incentive to the employer

1.4. Additional Fees

Additional fees that ASH will communicate during enrolment and may be charged are outlined as follows:

- Re-assessment fees for students requiring additional opportunities as per **P-057.2 Assessment Policy and Procedure.**
- Re-issue of a Testamur, Statement of Attainment or Record of Results.
- External agency fees associated with the Appeals Process as per **P-057.2 Assessment Policy and Procedure.**
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) fees per unit (excl GST) will be charged as the following:
 - Certificate II or III level = \$250 per unit
 - Certificate IV level = \$270 per unit
 - Diploma Level = \$300 per unit
- Any additional fees and charges that are guided by state funding body policies and contractual requirements.

1.5. Overdue fee payments

- Clients who are overdue in paying fees will be formally communicated with by an ASH financial representative to discuss payment options and possible consequences associated with non-payment.
- Where any fee becomes overdue, this could result in the suspension and/or halting further progress of the students training
- Long term outstanding fees may include the services of a debt recovery agency which may incur further debt recovery expenses.

Financial Hardship

- ASH is committed to providing opportunities for students to participate in training that improves employment outcomes for the student. In situations where a student can demonstrate genuine financial hardship, fees will be waived in line with government funding requirements. State funding guidelines will vary, however, the general process for determining and documenting financial hardship is outlined in the - Financial Hardship Procedure.

Deposits / Fees in Advance

- ASH collects fees in advance for services which are not yet provided to students. At various intervals throughout a course and in accordance with the courses relevant payment schedule, further payment may be taken. ASH will not accept fees greater than \$1500 before training is commenced and no more than \$1000 is held in advance at any time during training as outlined in 2.3 Payment of fees.

2. Refund of fees

2.1. Cooling off period

A cooling-off period of 10 business days applies on any qualification enrolment from the contract signed date, unless State legislation specifies a differing cooling-off period. During this period the student can cancel the contract without payment or penalty.

2.2. State Government Funded Refunds

Due to state contractual refund obligations, this process will be managed on a state level – refer to procedure.

2.3. Fee-for-Service Non-State Funded Refunds

Depending on the individual agreement between ASH and the Student, ASH will refund the Tuition fee paid in respect of the course, less the minimum charge, inclusive of any associated administration and course material fees payable by the Student/Client.

Where admin fees are charged, these are non-refundable as per the agreement.

Depending on the individual agreement between ASH and the Client, unless it is stipulated otherwise:

- There is no refund for fee-for-service traineeship training after a student has commenced a unit of competency.
- Where a student has not commenced a unit of competency or booked into attend the course (and therefore been provided with all resources to complete the course), and payment has been made, this may be refunded as long as suitable notice has been provided in writing by the Client or Student.
- Where a student has booked in to attend a course, refunds for those units of competency will be applied as per the fee for service short course refunds below.

2.4. Fee for Service Short Course Refunds

If a student withdraws, from a course where a fee is payable prior to the commencement date, then ASH will refund the tuition fee – refer to procedure.

Action / Task	Responsible	Timeline
<p>ASH will accept fees to be paid by using one of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cash; ▪ Eft; ▪ Direct Debit; or ▪ Visa or MasterCard. <p>Complications with regards to receiving payment by the student/client should be reported to the Operations Manager and Accounts.</p> <p>Receipt of payment:</p> <p>Receipt of payment must be in the form of receipt provided through ASH's Student Management System. Alternatively, should ASH be faced with complications with the SMS, a hard copy receipt and/or verifiable through company bank statements will be sufficient.</p> <p>Information should include (but is not limited to) student name, amount and date of payment.</p>	<p>Operations Manager Accounts</p>	
Financial Hardship		
<p>During enrolment BDMs need to discuss the students' financial situation to make a determination of severe financial hardship. Considerations may include duration of unemployment, assets, etc.</p> <p>Should financial hardship be identified the BDM is responsible for completing with the student – F-074 Financial Hardship Form which <u>MUST</u> be signed by the student.</p> <p>The Operations Manager must ensure that all requirements for eligible students are as per the relevant VET Funded Contract.</p> <p>The student must include within the form an estimate of all outgoing and ingoing financials and provide supporting documentation to authenticate.</p> <p>Financial supporting documentation must be sighted when completing the F-074 Financial Hardship Form and as a minimum consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bank statements highlighting the institution; ▪ Credit card statement; ▪ Utility bills; ▪ Childcare invoices/statements highlighting the provider; ▪ Mobile phone bills; ▪ Letter from a job service agency confirming period of unemployment; ▪ Lease/tenancy/rental agreement. <p>Students who can provide evidence of eligibility of below are eligible for fee waiver:</p>	<p>BDM</p> <p>Operations Manager</p> <p>BDM</p>	<p>During enrolment</p>

Action / Task	Responsible	Timeline
<p>State Government Funding requirements:</p> <p>The Operations Manager is responsible for ensuring all State refund requirements are current and accurate as per the VET funding contract.</p> <p>Where a student contribution has been charged and collected, a full refund will be issued for each individual unit of competency where no participation in training has been undertaken at the time of cancellation of enrolment.</p> <p>Administration will complete all approved request for refunds by using the applicable form provided by Accounts Team.</p> <p>Where the amount is equal or greater than \$500, it must be approved by the Operations Manager and the General Manager before Accounts Team will process the refund.</p> <p>Accounts Team will contact the recipient of the refund directly to confirm their contact and payment details within 5 business working days and will process payment. Note: <i>There will be a delay if the Accounts Team are not able to verify any missing or incorrect contact and or payment details.</i></p>	<p>Operations Manager</p> <p>Operations Manager to approve</p> <p>Admin to complete approved request and send to Accounts Team for processing</p> <p>Operations Manager and General Manager to approve before Accounts Team will process</p> <p>Accounts Team</p>	<p>Annual Review of state contracts</p> <p>When required</p> <p>When required</p> <p>When required</p> <p>Within 5 Business Working Days</p>

Document Revision History

Version Number	Author	Date	Description
3.0	Aleena Velich	11 June 2017	Full revision and rewrite Added Procedure
	Patricia Fulcher	23 June 2017	Revised and approved
	Natalie Robinson	28 June 2017	Formatted and published
3.1	Natalie Robinson	04/08/2017	Corrected title of Procedure
3.3	Hetty Coles	26/10/2017	Updated payment of fees requested by the RTO, clause 2.3.
3.4	Patricia Fulcher	20/02/2018	Included further information about Statement of Fees, Employer Fees, and Overdue Fee Payments.
	Rosemary Vasallo		Reviewed policy and provided feedback.
3.5	Dayna Jackiw	18/2/2019	References to F-005 Student Enrolment Form changed to F-005 Student Application Form.
3.6	Dayna Jackiw	03/07/2019	Amended policy title and file name (to remove '&')
3.7	Aaron Hansen	15/07/2019	Added cooling-off period information.
4.0	Rebekah Faleafaga	30/01/2020	Reviewed and updated as per current requirements.
4.1	Pippa Price	03/02/2020	Footer corrected and updated
4.2	Fiona Dunkerton	09/07/2020	Formatting and RPL information updated
4.3	Pippa Price	15/08/2020	Fees collected prior to and during training updated.
4.4	Rebekah Faleafaga	June 2022	Reviewed and updated as per current state requirements.