

# Senior Secondary Certificate of Education Guideline

(Revised November 2004)

## 1. Purpose

To assist employers, employees, professional associations, unions, curriculum developers, accrediting bodies and the wider public, including students, parents, and education and training bodies, to understand factors determining the level of the qualification.

## 2. Context

Senior Secondary Certificates of Education (local titles are used at State/Territory level) certify the completion of secondary education.

## 3. Learning Outcomes

### 3.1 Authority

At a State/Territory level, requirements for the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education are set by statutory authorities, which are responsible for the development and accreditation of courses of study, assessment, issuance of the qualification and associated quality assurance and consultative processes.

### 3.2 Characteristics

The characteristics of learning outcomes at this level include the knowledge, skills and understandings, both generic and subject-specific, required as a basic preparation for civic life, work and lifelong learning. These are developed through studies that may include academic disciplines, vocational education and training, and community-based learning.

## 4. Responsibility for Assessment

In each State/Territory, statutory authorities are responsible for determining assessment requirements and ensuring that assessment standards are maintained through appropriate quality assurance processes. The work of the statutory authorities is underpinned by nationally agreed principles of integrity and quality in assessment and certification.

## 5. Pathways to, through and from the Qualification

Entry to this qualification normally requires the equivalent of Year 10. Adult students may undertake the qualification without necessarily having completed Year 10 and in most States/Territories may receive recognition for prior learning.

Pathways through the qualification may include:

- Full-Time School Study  
A two-year post Year 10 Senior Secondary School Certificate of Education program.
- Schools/TAFE Programs

A Senior Secondary School Certificate of Education program incorporating units of competency from a National Training Package or recognising other community-based learning.

- A combination of an accredited course of study and credit for prior learning which may include a formally recognised program or other learning achieved by an individual, meeting the quality assurance requirements of the senior secondary certificate.

These examples suggest only some of a wide range of possible programs of study. They are not intended to be prescriptive, nor are they limited to this particular qualification.

Time taken to gain the qualification will vary according to the pathway taken but typically requires two years of full-time study (normally Years 11 and 12) although students who are able to meet the requirements may commence studies in earlier years. Longer part-time programs are available in most States. Some States specify a limit of five years for the completion of the Certificate requirements; others have no limits.

Pathways for students who complete the requirements of the Certificate can include higher education, vocational education and training and direct entry to the work force or a combination thereof.

## 6. Authority to Issue the Qualification

The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is issued in each State/Territory by a statutory authority.

## 7. Certification Issued

A qualification is:

*formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved learning outcomes relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs.*

Each State/Territory has legislative responsibility for authorising the issue of the Certificate. These qualifications may be referred to using a number of local titles at State/Territory level.

Individuals who complete some of the requirements for the Certificate will receive a record of their achievements.

The State/Territory statutory authorities are responsible for providing and maintaining records in relation to the above.