

Mareeba State High School

Registered Training Organisation (RTO Code 30077)

Vocational Education and Training Complaints and Appeals

Policy statement

This policy and procedure refers to Vocational Education and Training Complaints and Appeals. A separate Student Grievance Procedure is available to resolve complaints about other aspects of schooling.

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), Mareeba SHS will ensure that the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are adopted at every stage of the complaints and appeals process. All formal complaints and appeals relating to Vocational Education and Training (VET) will be heard and decided on within 60 calendar days of receiving the written complaint or appeal.

If the school RTO considers more than 60 calendar days are required to process and finalise the complaint or appeal, the complainant or appellant will be informed of the reasons in writing and will be regularly updated on the progress of the matter.

If the processes fail to resolve the complaint or appeal, a review by an independent party will be provided if requested.

The designated person will maintain a secure Complaints and Appeals Register, which documents all formal complaints, appeals and their outcomes.

Any substantiated complaints, as well as the complaints and appeals policy, will be reviewed as part of the continuous improvement processes and appropriate corrective action taken to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.

The Principal (as the chief executive officer) of the school RTO is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the school RTO complies with the Vocational Education and Training Quality Framework (VQF). This includes the complaints and appeals policy and procedures.

Procedures

1. Complaints procedure

- All formal complaints can be in writing or verbalised and addressed to the Principal, as CEO of the RTO.
- On receipt of a written or verbal complaint:
 - a written acknowledgement is sent to the complainant from the Principal (via admin support)
 - the complaint is forwarded to the RTO Manager.
- If the complaint is not finalised within 60 calendar days, the complainant is informed of the reasons in writing and regularly updated on the progress of the matter.
- The Principal and/or the RTO Manager will either deal with the complaint or convene an independent panel to hear the complaint; this shall be the complaints and appeals committee.
- The complaints committee shall not have had previous involvement with the complaint and will include representatives of:
 - the Principal
 - the teaching staff

- an independent person.
- The complainant shall be given an opportunity to present their case and may be accompanied by other people as support or as representation.
- The relevant staff member, third party or student (as applicable) shall be given an opportunity to present their case and may be accompanied by other people as support or as representation.
- The outcome/decision will be communicated to all parties in writing within 60 days.
- If the processes fail to resolve the complaint, the individual making the complaint will have the outcome reviewed (on request) by an appropriate party independent of the RTO.
- If the complainant is still not satisfied, the Principal will refer them to the QCAA website for further information about making complaints (www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/3141.html).
- **The root cause of any complaint will be included in the systematic monitoring and evaluation processes of the RTO so that appropriate corrective action can be instigated to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.**

2. Appeals procedure

- All formal appeals can be in writing or verbalised and addressed to the Principal, as CEO of the RTO.
- On receipt of a written appeal:
 - a written acknowledgement is sent to the appellant from the Principal (via admin support)
 - the appeal is forwarded to the RTO Manager.
- If the appeal is not finalised within 60 calendar days, the appellant is informed of the reasons in writing and regularly updated on the progress of the matter.
- The Principal and/or the RTO Manager will either deal with the appeal or convene an independent panel to hear the complaint; this shall be the complaints and appeals committee.
- The appeals committee shall not have had previous involvement with the appeal, and will include representatives of:
 - the Principal
 - the teaching staff
 - an independent person.
- The appellant shall be given an opportunity to present their case and may be accompanied by other people as support or as representation.
- The relevant staff member, if applicable, shall be given an opportunity to present their case and may be accompanied by other people as support or as representation.
- The outcome/decision will be communicated to all parties in writing within 60 days.
- If the processes fail to resolve the appeal, the individual making the appeal will have the outcome reviewed by an appropriate party independent of the RTO.
- If the appellant is still not satisfied, the Principal will refer them to the QCAA website for further information about making complaints (www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/3141.html).
- **The root cause of any appeal will be included in the systematic monitoring and evaluation processes of the RTO so that appropriate corrective action can be instigated to eliminate or mitigate the likelihood of reoccurrence.**