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1. Under the provisions of *Schedule 1A of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA)* and Chapter 3 of the *VET Guidelines 2015* (the VET Guidelines) Niche Education Group Pty Ltd (Niche) ABN: 29 116 420 369, ACN: 116 420 369, RTO: 51373 (the First Provider) must comply with the VET Tuition Assurance requirements. This is to protect students in the event that Niche ceases to provide a VET course of study in which a student is enrolled. The meaning of 'ceasing to provide a VET course of study' is set out in the VET Guidelines. A copy of these is available from: <http://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-support-act-2003-and-guidelines>.

2. In the event that the Niche ceases to provide a VET course of study in which a VET Student is enrolled the student is entitled to a choice of:

an offer of a place in a similar VET course of study with a Second Provider without any requirement to pay the Second Provider any tuition fee for any replacement VET units (this is known as the “**VET Course Assurance Option**”);

**OR**

a refund of the student's up-front VET tuition fee payments and/or a re-crediting of any FEE-HELP balance for any VET unit of study in which the student is enrolled or commences but does not complete because Niche ceases to provide the VET course of study of which the unit forms part (this is known as the “**VET Tuition Fee Repayment Option**”)

3. Niche has met the VET tuition assurance requirements as specified in the VET Guidelines, through current membership of Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (ASTAS). Contact details for ACPET:

*ACPET*

*Membership Office*

*PO Box 551*

*East Melbourne VIC 8002*

*website: [www.acpet.edu.au](http://www.acpet.edu.au)*

*email: [membership@acpet.edu.au](mailto:membership@acpet.edu.au)*

*phone number: 1800 774 176 Ph: (02) 8280 8100 Fax: (02) 9264 4550*

4. If Niche ceases to provide a VET course of study, ACPET will send a Student enrolled in the VET course of study a written VET Tuition Assurance Offer (the Offer) advising the Student of the options available under the VET tuition assurance requirements. The offer will include directions that the Student must follow in order to notify ACPET of the choice they have made for each affected VET unit. ACPET will provide this offer within twenty (20) business days after it knows, or should know by reasonable enquiries that Niche has ceased to provide the VET course of study.

5. For the purposes of VET FEE-HELP, all courses offered by Niche in accordance with the course requirements of clause 45 of Schedule 1A of HESA are covered by the ASTAS as part of Niche's membership of the ASTAS.

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6. A Student may choose either:

**The VET Course Assurance Option:**

- a. Under the VET course assurance option, a Student will be offered a place in a similar VET course of study by ACPET. If the Student accepts this option, ACPET will make all necessary arrangements to ensure a Student is able to enrol with the Second Provider in the similar VET course of study. This offered VET course will lead to the same or a comparable qualification without any requirement on the part of the Student to pay the Second Provider any VET tuition fee for any replacement VET units (that is, units that the Student had commenced but not completed because the VET course ceased to be offered). A Student will receive full credit from the Second Provider for any VET units of study successfully completed with Niche.
- b. The Second Provider nominated by ACPET may have different VET tuition fees to the fees the Student would have paid for VET units of study which were part of the VET course of study Niche ceased to provide but which the VET Student had not yet started studying.
- c. A Student is not obliged to enrol in a VET course of study with a Second Provider offered by ACPET under the VET Course Assurance Option. However, if the student enrolls with any other VET provider there is no obligation on that VET provider to offer full credit transfer for the VET units of study completed with Niche or to offer replacement VET unit/s free of charge.

**OR**

**The VET Tuition Fee Repayment Option**

- a. Under the VET Tuition Fee Repayment Option, ACPET undertakes to pay the Student the total of any up-front payments already paid by the Student for any VET units of study the Student has commenced but not completed because the VET course ceased to be offered. VET Students selecting this option will also have their FEE-HELP balance re-credited for the uncompleted VET units.

**Publication**

The method this *Statement of VET Tuition Assurance* will be made public to VET Students will be on Niche's website [www.nicheeducation.com.au](http://www.nicheeducation.com.au).

Students will be advised where the Statement of VET Tuition Assurance may be obtained as part of our enrolment information.