
1. Purpose

This statement relates to all divisions of Niche Education Group Pty Ltd (Niche) and by its Training Partner Organisations (TPOs), including:

- Australasian Academy of Cosmetic Dermal Science (AACDS),
- Australian College of Beauty Therapy (ACBT),
- Australian College of Specialist Make-Up (ACSM),
- Australasian College of Massage & Myotherapy (ACMM),
- and all current TPOs who advertise, market deliver and assess on behalf of Niche Education in relation to Niche's Scope of Registration.

Under the provisions of Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 where Niche Education Group Pty Ltd (Niche) is required, either directly or through a third party, a prospective or current learner to prepay fees in excess of \$1,500 (being the threshold prepaid fee amount), Niche must meet the requirements for protecting fees prepaid by a learner. This is to protect students in the event that Niche ceases to provide a course of study in which a student is enrolled.

2. Definitions

ASTAS – Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme

Prepaid fees - fees paid in advance in excess of \$1,500 where some or all tuition is yet to be provided (based on timing). Where fees have been paid and only part of the tuition (based on timing) has been provided, only the portion of the fees where tuition has not been provided will be considered prepaid.

RTO – Registered Training Organisation

3. Overview

Niche has met the requirement of protecting fees prepaid by individual learners, or prospective learners through current membership of Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (ASTAS) which is approved by the VET Regulator.

Contact details for ACPET:

ACPET

Membership Office

PO Box 551

East Melbourne VIC 8002

website: www.acpet.edu.au
email: membership@acpet.edu.au
phone number: 1800 774 176
(02) 8280 8100
Fax: (02) 9264 4550

ACPET offers tuition assurance protection to students in the event that a student is unable to complete a course as a result of the insolvency of a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

4. Responsibility

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for ensuring that the RTO's student fees are protected by maintaining adequate ASTAS cover or by other eligible means.

5. Statement of Tuition Assurance

The ACPET Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (ASTAS) relates to that portion of a student's tuition fees that were paid in advance of that tuition and covers fees paid in advance, fee for service and full fee-paying students. It does not cover students funded under FEE HELP, VET FEE HELP or Vet Student Loans, except for fees paid in addition to the loan schemes and collected in advance by Niche.

The Scheme offers two choices in the event Niche ceases to trade, students can request to:

- continue their study in a comparable course with an alternative provider, or
- discontinue with their studies and obtain a refund for the fees prepaid but unutilised.

The ASTAS is underpinned by an Insurance Policy and all refunds are carried out in accordance with this policy.

Alternate Provider

The learner will be placed into an equivalent course such that:

- the new location is geographically close to where the learner had been enrolled; and
- the learner receives the full services for which they have prepaid at no additional cost to the learner

Refund

If an equivalent course cannot be found, the learner is paid a refund of any prepaid fees for services yet to be delivered. The Policy does not provide for the full refund of all fees as at the date of payment of those fees. Rather, the policy operates based on the effluxion of time, from the commencement of your enrolment to your expected completion date.

The policy will pay out the proportion of your course fees calculated from the date of Niche's insolvency. That is, the proportion of unutilised fees left as at the date of insolvency.

This effectively means that if you paid 100% of your course fees in advance and are half way through the time agreed for your course, you would receive 50% of your fees, subject to the other terms and conditions in the policy.

If Niche ceases to provide a course of study, ACPET will send a Student enrolled in the course of study a written Tuition Assurance Offer (the Offer) advising the Student of the options available under the 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 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 course of study.

6. Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

- [Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTO\) 2015](#)

7. Publication

The *Statement of Student Tuition Assurance* will be made public to Students will be on Niche's website www.nicheeducation.com.au.

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

Policy Version Details	
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Date:	16/07/2018
Author:	Simon Ross
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Position:	Chief Executive Officer