

# E-standards: Enabling e-learning in the VET sector

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## Australian Flexible Learning Framework

- The Australian Flexible Learning Framework (Framework) is funded by DEEWR
- The Framework is the National vocational education and training system's E-learning strategy. It provides the VET system with essential e-learning infrastructure and expertise
- Strategic focus
  - 2000-2004: Raising the awareness of the potential of e-learning
  - 2005-2008: Embedding e-learning
  - 2008-2011: E-learning as an integral part of the training system

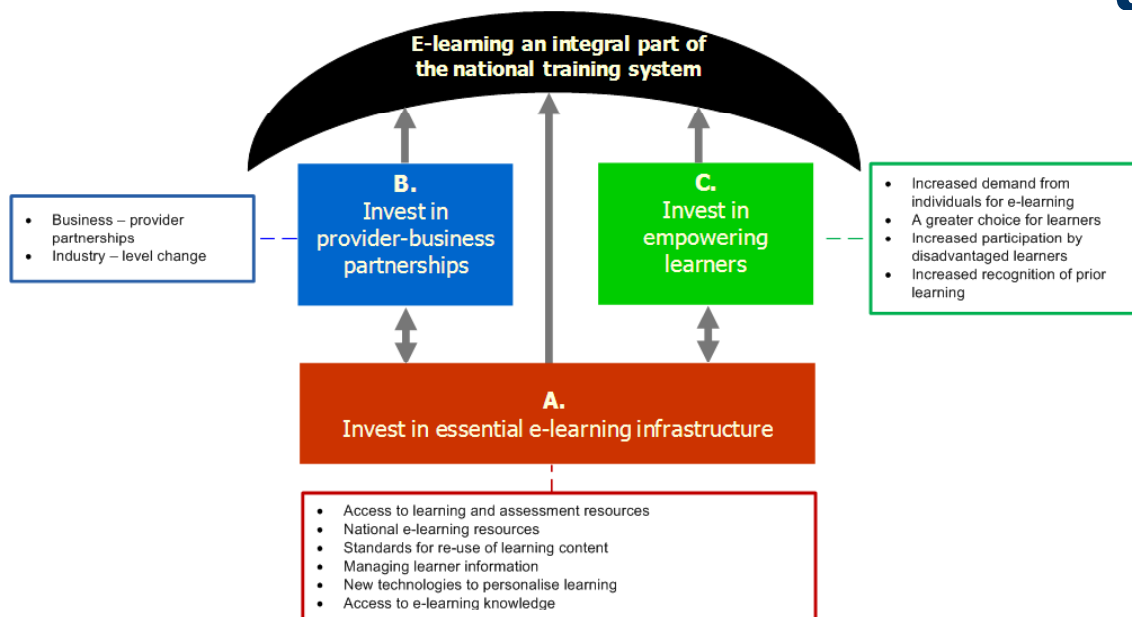
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# The 2008–2011 Framework Strategy



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## Framework Business Activities

- Flexible Learning Toolboxes
- Learning Object Repository Network (LORN)
- **E-standards for Training**
- E-portfolios
- Benchmarking & Research
- Access to E-learning knowledge
- Industry Integration of E-learning
- State & Territory E-learning Innovations
- Brand Management

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## E-standards for Training activity

Ongoing objectives:

- To secure and maintain a national VET e-learning infrastructure capable of meeting current and projected demands on the VET system.
- To provide up-to-date information on and support for standards adoption and implementation.
- To facilitate collaboration on standards adoption and promotion across VET agencies, jurisdictions and institutions.
- To advocate the VET system perspective on standards at national and international levels.

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## E-standards for Training activity

To achieve those objectives:

- Collaboratively researches, develops and recommends technical standards for e-learning content and systems
- Provides a process for ratifying technology standards through the National E-standards Expert Group with representation from each Australian state and territory, DEEWR and key stakeholder groups
- Supports new and emerging technologies through funded trials and research
- Develops tools and applications to support standards compliant development

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## Why use e-standards?

- Organisations and practitioners across the national VET sector use many different systems for storing, accessing, creating and delivering electronic learning resources in training programs.
- Standards provide an environment that is more predictable, safer, efficient, and dependable than one assembled in an ad hoc manner.
- Standards stimulate innovation and development of products and services, while reducing the duplication of effort, unnecessary costs, and complexity.

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## The benefits of e-standards

- e-learning content and systems are more reliable
- Technical problems for e-learning systems and content are minimised
- Return on investment is maximised
- Access to resources and training is enhanced
- Cost effectiveness, minimising duplication of effort
- Participation and collaboration
- Efficient information management
- Greater interoperability

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## E-standards for Training priorities

Standards are supported, reviewed and maintained on an ongoing basis:

- Content formats, packaging and client platforms
- Metadata (Metadata) & vocabularies
- Intellectual property
- Mobile technologies
- Authentication, authorisation and identity management

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## E-standards for Training priorities

A number of areas have been targeted in 2009:

- Trials of emerging technologies and tools
- Analysis of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
- Trust federation/single sign-on trial
- Persistent identifier implementation
- **Improved teacher/trainer access to e-learning functionality (Teacher/Trainer E-learning Toolkit)**

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# Computer Network Access Study

2007

- Research identified access to computer networks and across firewalls as a barrier to the uptake of, innovation in, and effective delivery of, e-learning due to:
  - Blocked websites/applications
  - Communication issues between IT & teachers/trainers
  - Network changes without consultation
  - Inadequate notice of network requirements
  - Inconsistent policy between jurisdictions (states & territories)
- Development of the document, 'Basic technical requirements for commonly-used VET E-learning applications'

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# Computer Network Access Study

2007

- National forum (IT managers & practitioners):
  - greater understanding of the educational benefits offered by web applications and tools
  - stronger support from educational management for implementation and development of e-learning
  - strategic timing/planning of the implementation of applications. IT managers have been included at an earlier stage in the process.
  - mentoring-based collaboration
  - co-location of e-learning managers and IT managers

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# Computer Network Access Study

2008

- Research
  - Environment scan, surveys and interviews
- National forum (IT managers & practitioners)
  - built on 2007 forum
  - recognised that practitioners require some standard e-learning functionality
  - developed communication models to enhance and sustain dialogue between practitioners and IT managers
    - Representation on relevant planning meetings within organisations
    - Representation on relevant regional IT committees and meetings
    - Mentoring roles, practitioners, middle-managers, IT managers

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# Computer Network Access Study

2008

- Development of the 'Teacher/Trainer E-Learning Toolkit'
  - specifies the minimum web and desktop-based functionality requirements to support e-learning
  - Intended to inform the development of VET SOE
  - e-learning functionality essential for implementing e-learning should be available on all teacher and trainer computers
- <http://e-standards.flexiblelearning.net.au/support/tet>
- Review and update of 'Commonly-used E-Learning applications' document:
  - [List of commonly used VET e-learning applications/tools](#)

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# Computer Network Access Study

2009

- Review and update of 'Commonly-used E-Learning applications' document
  - Method for automated maintenance of list
- Dissemination of the 'Teacher/Trainer E-Learning Toolkit' (TET)
  - List of recommended functionality requirements to support E-Learning
  - Endorsed by the EEG, FLAG, and tabled for discussion at NSOC
- National online forum (IT managers)
  - Unpacking the TET
  - Alternate approaches to site blocking and duty of care
- Online resources

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STANDARDS FOR E-LEARNING RESOURCES ACCESS

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