

# Changes to User Choice from July 2010

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From 1 July 2010, the Queensland Government will introduce a range of changes to User Choice to better meet the needs of employers, apprentices and trainees.

User Choice provides public funding to training providers to provide quality accredited training to apprentices and trainees. The program allows the apprentice or trainee and their employer to select their preferred training provider, whether public or private, to deliver the off the job training for the apprenticeship or traineeship.

The economic downturn has highlighted the need for the User Choice program to be highly flexible in responding to the changing needs of employers and industry.

Key changes include:

- a focus on addressing major skills shortages
- funding for training to be linked to the student rather than contracted to training providers
- a new online process for training providers to apply for preferred supplier status
- apprentices or trainees and their employer able to select their preferred supplier, move between registered suppliers, and negotiate cost.

These changes will result in a higher level of effectiveness and greater flexibility to meet the future needs of industry and the training market.

An information roadshow will be held in January and February to inform existing and potential participants of the changes.

More information about planned sessions and the changes are available on the Department of Education and Training website at [www.training.qld.gov.au](http://www.training.qld.gov.au) or by contacting Skills Queensland on 07 3237 1621.