eAssessment

eAssessment is the use of technology for any assessment-related activity. This could be in the design, delivery, marking and administration of assessment activities.

In some cases, e-assessments are complete systems, which enable assessors to:

- Create assessment items
- Publish assessments
- Deliver assessments to students
- Judge assessment evidence and provide feedback to students
- Record student performance on assessments

More often, e-assessment involves the use of one or more technologies to support the overall assessment process. Watch this video on eAssessment for a quick introduction (6 mins).

Why use e-assessment?

There are benefits to:

- **Students** including opportunities for improved explanation of competency requirements; access to information, and the ability to be assessed, at all hours and from work, home, college or anywhere; gaining of immediate feedback; increased opportunities for self-assessment.

- **Assessors** including rapid sharing of assessment materials with students and other assessors; collecting evidence on skills and knowledge in an accessible way; opportunities for providing ongoing feedback to students, even while evidence is being generated (eg in e-portfolios); accessing workplace evidence; observing recordings of workplace activities, or observing them in real time.

- **The Institute** including more efficient sharing of resources between sections; improved consistency and speed in processing assessment evidence; reliable submission and storage of assessment evidence.

- **Employers** including the opportunity, with student permission, to view and verify assessment evidence (eg in e-portfolios); to upload 3rd party reports; to view teacher feedback to the student; to establish closer links with TAFE teachers; to have their students assessed in the workplace.

E-assessment resources and materials can be useful for:

- Assisting candidates to understand assessment requirements and select / download assessment materials

- Gathering evidence of student knowledge and skills. Evidence of knowledge can be gained by questioning through on-line quizzes, online forums and virtual classrooms such as Adobe Connect. Evidence of skills can be gained by students interacting with on-line simulations, responding to case studies, uploading photos and videos of work performance, the preparation of e-portfolios that the assessor can access, or observing students demonstrating workplace skills via on-line streaming.
• Supporting the student through the assessment process. This can be achieved through assessors giving differentiated feedback on self-assessment and formative assessment activities via a range of technologies.

• Making the assessment decision. Computer-generated answers to knowledge assessments can speed up assessment decisions. Ongoing preparation of e-portfolios by students can enable assessors to examine evidence submitted over time.

• Providing feedback to students. Assessors can provide prompt individualised feedback with suggestions for improvement for both formative and summative assessment activities. Where students are uploading evidence of “work-in-progress”, assessors can provide helpful feedback along the way.

• Recording and reporting assessment decisions.

In this field, there are new strategies and technologies being developed, trialled and implemented all the time. In order to keep improving your practice, connect yourself to useful information sources, such as assessor collaboration forums, resource sites and on-line recordings of webinars and training sessions.

For information about e-assessment (and all manner of learning technologies) visit the WSI eLearning Toolkit, via the drop down button on the top line of the WSI Intranet.

You will find useful information related to techniques and technologies for e-assessment in:

• the Tech Guides
• the Assessment area

For more information on eAssessment see the 2014 AFLF report An Australian enquiry into the veracity and authenticity of VET online e-assessment: a risk management approach to stakeholder concerns: a risk management approach to stakeholder concerns and the 2011 AFLF report E-Assessment guidelines for the VET sector.

The highly recommended Queensland Government site eAssessment Program 2012 has videos, case studies, factsheets that explore and explain this area of assessment.