

## COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS POLICY

RELEVANT STANDARD/S	National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Outcome Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations) Instrument 2025 Standards 2.7 and 2.8
PURPOSE	Dynamite Studios Australia is committed to providing quality training and assessment services by fostering a fair, supportive, and transparent environment where feedback, complaints, and appeals are welcomed and effectively managed.  This policy establishes the principles and responsibilities to ensure procedural fairness and continuous improvement through effective complaints and appeals handling.
VERSION	v 1.0
UPDATED	06 August 2025

### POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. **Fair and Transparent Process**
  - Dynamite Studios Australia ensures that processes for handling complaints and appeals are clear, accessible, and applied consistently.
2. **Procedural Fairness**
  - All complaints and appeals are handled impartially by individuals who are not directly involved in the issue. Complainants and appellants are given the opportunity to present their case.
3. **Accessibility and Support**
  - Information on how to lodge complaints and appeals is publicly available through Dynamite Studios Australia's website, and Student Handbook.
  - VET students are supported in submitting feedback and complaints, with staff available to assist if required.
4. **Timely Resolution**
  - Complaints and appeals are acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt. Dynamite Studios Australia aims to resolve issues within 30 calendar days where possible. If delays occur, regular updates are provided.
5. **Confidentiality**
  - Information related to complaints and appeals is treated confidentially and shared only with individuals directly involved in resolving the issue.
6. **Continuous Improvement**
  - Outcomes of complaints and appeals are reviewed and used to inform improvements to RTO practices and service delivery.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Complaints Officer:** The initial point of contact for complaints and appeals. Responsible for acknowledgment, tracking, and ensuring appropriate follow-up.
- **Head of Educational Studies:** Reviews and resolves complaints and appeals in line with procedural fairness.
- **Artistic Director:** Oversees complex cases and ensures effective resolution when required.

## CATEGORIES OF COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

- Complaints related to Dynamite Studios Australia's services, processes, or resources.
- Complaints regarding staff or student behavior.
- Appeals related to assessment outcomes, enrolment decisions, RTO policies, and any other decisions made by the RTO such as results of a previous complaint.

## POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### *Informal Complaints*

- Before lodging a complaint, all VET students are encouraged to first attempt to resolve their issues informally. This can often lead to a quicker and more satisfactory resolution.
- If there is a concern, VET students are encouraged to talk to the trainer or contact Student Services at 07 1234 567 or via email@email.com.au. The trainer / Student Services will work with the VET student to try and resolve the issue promptly and informally.
- If the VET student is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal resolution process, he/she has the right to lodge a formal complaint.

### *Complaints Handling System*

- Formal complaints can be submitted through multiple channels, including the Complaints Lodgment Form, email, phone, or in-person.
- Complainants will receive written acknowledgment within 5 working days.

### *Informal Appeals*

- Before lodging an appeal, VET students are encouraged to first attempt to resolve it informally by contacting Dynamite Studios Australia's Complaints Officer at 07 1234 567 or via email@email.com.au. This initial contact provides an opportunity to discuss the decision made by Dynamite Studios Australia, clarify any misunderstandings, and present any supporting evidence.
- VET students are asked to explain why they believe the decision made by Dynamite Studios Australia is incorrect and provide evidence that supports their claim. The Complaints Officer will review the information and attempt to resolve the appeal informally.
- If the VET student is still not satisfied with the outcome of the informal resolution process, they may submit a formal appeal in writing using Dynamite Studios Australia's Appeals Lodgment Form.

### *Appeals Handling System*

- Appeals must be submitted using the Appeals Lodgment Form and will be acknowledged within 5 working days.
- An unbiased person not involved in the original decision will review the appeal.
- Appellants are kept informed of progress, with outcomes provided within 30 days where possible.

***Procedural Fairness***

- All parties involved in complaints and appeals are given the opportunity to be heard.
- Decisions are made impartially, and similar cases are treated consistently.
- The privacy of complainants and appellants is protected.

***Communication of Outcomes***

- Written statements of outcomes, including reasons for decisions, are provided to all relevant parties.
- Where complaints or appeals cannot be resolved internally, information about external escalation options is provided.

***Continuous Improvement***

- Complaints and appeals data are reviewed periodically to identify trends.
- Action items are recorded in the Continuous Improvement Register and tracked for resolution.

**EXTERNAL ESCALATION OPTIONS**

- If complainants or appellants are not satisfied with the outcome, they can seek external review through independent third parties, such as:
  - National Training Complaints Hotline
  - Training Ombudsman
  - Other relevant regulatory bodies

VERSION CONTROL

VERSION CONTROL TABLE					
DATE	MODIFICATIONS	MODIFIED BY	VERSION	IMPLEMENTED	NEXT REVIEW
06 AUG 2025	DOCUMENT FORMATTED	ABBE BRADBURY	v. 1.0	06 AUG 2025	-