

**22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks
and Emergencies**

Version 1.0 - 3 October 2025

**This course has been accredited under Part 4.4 of the
Education and Training Act 2006.**

Accredited for the period:

1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.



Version History		Date
Version 1.0	Initial release approved to commence from 1/1/2026	3 October 2025

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Section A – Copyright and course classification information

1. Copyright owner of the course	Copyright of this material is reserved to the Crown in the right of the State of Victoria on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) Victoria. © State of Victoria (DJSIR) 2025		
2. Address	Executive Director Deputy CEO Victorian Skills Authority Department of Jobs Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) GPO Box 4509 Melbourne Vic 3001 Organisational Contact: Manager, Training and Learning Products Unit Engagement Branch Victorian Skills Authority Telephone: 131 823 Email: course.enquiry@djsir.vic.gov.au Day-to-day contact: Human Services Curriculum Maintenance Manager Swinburne University of Technology PO Box 218 Hawthorn, VIC 3122 Telephone: (03) 9214 5034 / 9214 8501 Email: cmmhs@swin.edu.au		
3. Type of submission	☐	Accreditation	
	☒	Reaccreditation	22556VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace
4. Copyright acknowledgement	Nil.		
5. Licensing and franchise	Copyright of this material is reserved to the Crown in the right of the State of Victoria. © State of Victoria (DJSIR) 2025. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivatives 4.0 International license (see Creative Commons for more information).		

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Request for other use should be addressed to:

Deputy CEO
Victorian Skills Authority
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR)
GPO Box 4509
Melbourne Vic 3001
Email: course.enquiry@djsir.vic.gov.au

Copies of this publication can be downloaded free of charge from the:

- [Victorian Government website](#), or
- [National Training Register](#).

6. Course accrediting body	Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority	
7. AVETMISS information	ANZSCO code	ANZSCO: GEN20 Non-industry specific training OSCA: GEN20 Non-industry specific training
	ASCED code	0699 Other Health
	National Course Code	22702VIC
8. Period of accreditation	01 January 2026 – 31 December 2030	

Section B – Course information

1. Nomenclature	Standard 4.1 and 5.8 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses
1.1 Name of the qualification	22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies
1.2 Nominal duration of the course	4 hours
2. Vocational or educational outcomes	Standard 5.1 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses
2.1 Outcome(s) of the course	The <i>Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies</i> is designed to provide learners with the skills and knowledge required to: • Develop, review, and update risk assessment and emergency management strategies for individuals identified with asthma and those presenting with asthma-like signs and symptoms. • Recognise the signs and symptoms of an asthma episode. • Respond safely to an asthma episode with first aid principles and procedures. • Use different types of asthma equipment and devices for adults, children and infants/babies.
2.2 Course description	Completion of this course will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to develop, review, and update an asthma risk assessment and emergency management strategy and to recognise and respond safely to an asthma episode using asthma related first aid interventions. This course applies to workers who have a duty of care requirement and work in a wide range of settings where emergencies involving asthma episodes may occur. The worker's duty of care requirement may be an industry, legislative and/or specific organisation/workplace requirement.
3. Development of the course	Standards 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses
3.1 Industry, education, legislative, enterprise or	Prevalence of asthma within the community

community needs

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) latest *National Health Survey 2022*¹ just under 2.8 million Australians (10.8% of the total population) have had asthma in 2022. Over the last decade the prevalence of asthma has remained steady, from 10.2% in 2011–12 to 10.8% in 2022. Overall, females were more likely than males to have asthma (12.2% compared to 9.4%). However, among children aged 0–14 years, boys were more likely to have asthma than girls (10.1% compared to 6.2%). This pattern has been consistent since 2001.

The *National Asthma Strategy*² states that while children are much more likely than adults to be hospitalised for asthma, there are now few deaths among the younger age groups due to improvements in asthma management for this cohort. Older people with asthma, on the other hand, are at higher risk of dying from asthma than younger people.

ABS data released by the National Asthma Council on *Asthma Mortality Statistics for 2023*³ shows that there were 474 asthma-related deaths recorded in Australia in 2023, made up of 325 females and 149 males, almost identical to the 473 asthma deaths recorded in 2022. Women aged over 75 accounted for most of the asthma deaths (43%).

The importance of providing training and support to professionals working outside the health care system is emphasised by the *National Asthma Strategy*. These professionals from different sectors and settings “*have an important role to play in asthma care, including responding to emergency situations and promoting health and reducing asthma risk*”.⁴

Course background

The need for the development of a Victorian Crown Copyright accredited course to address the risk assessment, risk minimisation and first aid management of asthma emergency situations in the workplace was initially recognised in 2009. Accordingly, the first version of this course was developed and accredited in 2010 and subsequently re-accredited in 2015 and 2020. This re-accreditation represents the fourth iteration of this accredited course.

Since its initial accreditation in 2009, this course has experienced a high demand. In part, the demand has stemmed from the increased awareness of the management and emergency response to asthma and from policies and legislation related to asthma management training requirements. The

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Health Survey 2022*: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/national-health-survey/2022>

² National Asthma Council, *National Asthma Strategy 2018*: <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/living-with-asthma/resources/health-professionals/reports-and-statistics/national-asthma-strategy-2018>

³ National Asthma Council, *Asthma Mortality Statistics 2023 Infographic*: <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/living-with-asthma/resources/health-professionals/infographics/asthma-mortality-statistics-2023>

⁴ National Asthma Council, *National Asthma Strategy 2018* – pg 12

existing course (22556VIC) meets the needs of the following training requirements, and this re-accredited course (22702VIC) has been developed to continue to meet their requirements:

- **Victorian School Asthma Policy**

Department of Education's (Victoria) *Asthma Policy*⁵ for Schools states that accredited training in asthma management should be undertaken by targeted school staff (i.e. staff working with high-risk children, those with direct student wellbeing responsibility and staff in high-risk teaching areas). The current version of this course (22556VIC) is the only accredited asthma management course listed as being recognised by the Department as meeting this requirement for Victorian schools.

- **National Quality Framework (NQF) approved qualifications list**

All early childhood services in Victoria, whether approved under either the *Education and Care Services National Regulations/Law* or *Victoria's Children's Services Act*, must comply with the same asthma management training requirements which is met by completing an NQF approved course.⁶ The current version of this course (22556VIC) is included on the NQF approved qualifications list.⁷

This course, although aligned to the requirements of children's services and schools, is used in a variety of industry sectors and workplace settings such as (but not limited to): aged care, disability, sport/recreation, security, early childhood, and schools.

As such, this course supports compliance with health and safety laws and regulations regarding managing risks to health and safety and having appropriately trained individuals in the workplace to provide first aid, as required under:

- Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act and Regulations
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act and Regulations

This course best aligns to workplaces where there is a requirement that individuals at risk of asthma are identified, and risk assessment and emergency management strategies are developed for these individuals.

Target Audience

⁵ Department of Education (Victoria), *Asthma Policy*: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/asthma/policy>

⁶ *First aid, anaphylaxis and asthma management qualifications in early childhood services - Information for services under the National Quality Framework and the Children's Services Act*: <https://www.vic.gov.au/first-aid-anaphylaxis-and-asthma-management-early-childhood-services>

⁷ NQF approved qualifications list: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications/nqf-approved>

The target audience for this course are people who have a duty of care requirement and work in a wide range of settings where emergencies involving asthma episodes may occur. The duty of care requirement may be an industry, legislative and/or specific organisation/workplace requirement.

The casualty may be someone in the person's care, a colleague, other staff, a visitor, etc.

Workplaces may include, but are not limited to:

- Education:
 - Early Childhood Educators
 - Out of School Hours / Vacation Care educators
 - School teachers/staff
- Community:
 - Aged care
 - Disability support
 - Home and Community care
 - Palliative care
- Sport and Recreation sector:
 - Outdoor recreation workers
 - Sport clubs/facility leaders/coaches
- Other workplaces where organisational policies require first aiders to identify individuals at risk of asthma and develop risk assessment and emergency management strategies for these individuals.

Course consultation and validation process

The development of the *22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies* was overseen by a project steering committee who confirmed the:

- required skills and knowledge outcomes of the course,
- alignment of the course to current practices for managing asthma risks and provision of first aid responses to asthma emergencies,
- course structure, and
- final accreditation submission.

The members of the steering committee provided input on course content and structure via steering committee meetings and circulation of draft course/unit documents for review and written feedback.

Members of Steering Committee:

The accreditation of this course was guided by a steering committee who provided advice on and validated the skills and knowledge requirements for the course.

The steering committee consisted of the following members:

Phillipa Wilson (Chair) Australian Resuscitation Council (Vic Branch)

Anna Sims Ambulance Victoria

Anthony Cameron Australian Red Cross

Debbie Rigby National Asthma Council Australia

Kristina Rueter Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy

Natalie Donohoe Premium Health

Sandra Vale National Allergy Council

Sarah Guenther Asthma Australia

Tamara Brown St. John Ambulance Australia (Victoria)

Aisha Grewal Community Child Care Association Inc

Karen Morley Department of Education (Victoria) – Early Childhood

Steve Passalis Department of Education (Victoria) - Schools

This course:

- does not duplicate, by title or coverage, the outcomes of an endorsed training package qualification
- is not a subset of a single training package qualification that could be recognised through one or more statements of attainment or a skill set
- does not include units of competency additional to those in a training package qualification that could be recognised through statements of attainment in addition to the qualification
- does not comprise units that duplicate units of competency of a training package qualification.

3.2 Review for re-accreditation

The review and redevelopment of this course was based on extensive monitoring, evaluation, research, consultation and validation processes to ensure the course remains relevant and reflects the current practices for management of asthma risks and the first aid response to asthma emergencies.

This included:

- A review of sample *Asthma Action Plans*⁸ and the National Asthma Council's *Asthma First Aid protocol*,⁹ *My Asthma Guide*,¹⁰ and the *Australian Asthma Handbook*.¹¹
- A review of the asthma management training requirements in Department of Education's (Victoria) Asthma Policy for schools and the requirements emergency asthma management courses must meet to be approved for the NQF approved qualifications list.
- Steering Committee consideration of the feedback received during the mid-cycle review process for the current course (22556VIC).

The following changes were incorporated during this reaccreditation:

- Clarification added to course document and unit application field that the course is aimed at workers who have a duty of care requirement and that the course best aligns to workplaces where there is a requirement that individuals at risk of asthma are identified, and risk assessment and emergency management strategies are developed for these individuals.
- Inclusion of specific Performance Evidence related to the selection of devices, fitting of devices and administration of asthma medication to casualties in different age ranges.
- Translation of the unit into the unit template required under the *AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses*, including the addition of new fields: Range of Conditions, Foundation Skills and Performance Evidence.
- Split one unit into two separate units for clarity: one unit to address the emergency/first aid response and the other unit to address risk management. There is no change to total nominal hours for the course.

NCVER Total VET Activity Enrolment Data

Enrolment data for the current course, *22556VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace* can be seen below. At the time of reaccreditation, this course was on Scope of 57 RTOs nationally.

⁸ National Asthma Council Australia, *Asthma Action Plan Library*: <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/health-professionals/asthma-action-plans/asthma-action-plan-library> & Asthma Australia Action Plans: <https://asthma.org.au/manage-asthma/asthma-action-plan/>

⁹ National Asthma Council Australia, *Asthma first aid*: <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/asthma-first-aid>

¹⁰ National Asthma Council Australia, *My Asthma Guide*: <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/living-with-asthma/resources/patients-carers/brochures/my-asthma-guide>

¹¹ National Asthma Council Australia, *Australian Asthma Handbook*: <https://www.asthmahandbook.org.au/>

NCVER – COURSE-LEVEL enrolment data	22556VIC (current course)			
<i>Data extracted March 2025 Filter: State/territory of delivery location</i>	2020 (half-year)	2021	2022	2023
Victoria	4,415	11,350	15,200	10,015
Queensland	605	2,080	2,270	2,650
New South Wales	660	1,325	1,670	1,960
Tasmania	20	1,050	355	335
Australian Capital Territory	95	330	65	110
Northern Territory	-	185	80	80
Western Australia	15	40	20	45
South Australia	80	130	130	60
TOTALS	5,890	16,490	19,790	15,255

In addition, the enrolments in the course under the course code 22556VIC, NCVER enrolment data shows there has been a significant number of enrolments in the unit from this course (*VU22927 Manage asthma risks and emergencies in the workplace*) under the program name 'non-nationally recognised programs'.

'Non-nationally recognised programs' means the nationally recognised subjects (i.e. units of competency) has been delivered either as stand-alone or as part of a non-nationally recognised program (such as a locally developed skill set).

The enrolment data for this is included below:

NCVER – UNIT-LEVEL enrolment data	VU22927 (unit from current course)			
<i>Data extracted March 2025 Filter: Course/Program name of delivery</i>	2020 (half-year)	2021	2022	2023
'Non-nationally recognised programs' (e.g. stand-alone unit or local skill set)	370	2,400	2,725	7,900

This data shows that there is a significant amount of training occurring under the program identifier 'non-nationally recognised programs' - the unit VU22927 from the current course (22556VIC) has seen a total of 13,395 enrolments under this program identifier. This delivery is not occurring within an accredited course or in a training package qualification, but as either stand-alone unit delivery or delivered within a locally developed skill set.

Transition and equivalence

The 22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies replaces and is **not equivalent** to the 22556VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace.

Transition Table

22556VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace	22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies	Relationship
VU22927 Manage asthma risks and emergencies in the workplace	VU24021 Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency	Not Equivalent Unit content split into separate units.
	VU24022 Manage asthma risks	Not Equivalent Unit content split into separate units.

4. Course outcomes

Standards 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

4.1 Qualification level	The 22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies meets an industry and community need, but does not have the breadth, depth or volume of learning of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification.
4.2 Foundation skills	Foundation skills applicable to the outcomes of this course are identified in the unit of competency.
4.3 Recognition given to the course (if applicable)	Not applicable.
4.4 Licensing/regulatory requirements (if applicable)	There are no licensing requirements for this course.

5. Course rules

Standards 5.8 and 5.9 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

5.1 Course structure

To be eligible for the award of a Statement of Attainment for the **22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies**, participants must successfully complete the two (2) units listed in the table below.

Where the full course is not completed, a Statement of Attainment will be issued for the completed unit.

Unit of competency code	Unit of competency title	Field of Education code (6-digit)	Pre-requisite	Nominal hours
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Core unit

VU24021	Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency	069907	nil	2
VU24022	Manage asthma risks	069907	VU24021	2
Total nominal hours				4

Standard 5.11 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

5.2 Entry requirements

There are no mandatory entry requirements for the *22702VIC Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies*.

Learners enrolling in this course are best equipped to successfully undertake the training if they have language, literacy and oral communication skills that align to Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), see [ACSF](#) for more information.

Learners with language, literacy, and oral communication skills at levels lower than suggested above may require additional support to successfully undertake this course.

6. Assessment

Standard 5.12 and 5.14 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

6.1 Assessment strategy

All assessment, including Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), must be compliant with the requirements of:

- Standard 1 of the AQTF: Essential Conditions and Standards for Initial/Continuing Registration and Guidelines 4.1 and 4.2 of the VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers,
- or
- the 2025 Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs),
- or
- the relevant standards and Guidelines for RTOs at the time of assessment.

Assessment procedures for this course should be developed to simulate a range of different workplace environments, as closely as possible.

Evidence should be gained through a range of methods to ensure valid and reliable assessment and consistency in performance. The following examples are appropriate:

- Critical incident scenarios involving role playing which includes a person and/or a manikin in the role of a simulated casualty, where appropriate.
- Completion of workplace documentation.
- Practical demonstration of skills.

Verbal and written assessment of underpinning knowledge and its application.

Assessment of the use of the placebo asthma reliever medication inhaler device (inc. spacer and/or mask where relevant) must be demonstrated on a manikin in an upright position with the placebo device administered into the mouth of the manikin, not to the side of the face.

For the remainder of the skills demonstration assessments, either a manikin or a person in the role of a simulated casualty may be used. Where the simulated casualty is an infant or child, a manikin must be used.

6.2 Assessor competencies

Assessment must be undertaken by a person or persons in accordance with:

- Standard 1.4 of the AQTF: Essential Conditions and Standards for Initial/Continuing Registration and Guidelines 3 of the VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers,
- or
- the 2025 Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs),
- or
- the relevant standards and Guidelines for RTOs at the time of assessment.

In addition, assessors are required to have either:

- A current advanced first aid certificate,
- or
- Hold current registration with the relevant National Board/ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a Nurse, Medical Practitioner, Pharmacist or Paramedic,
- or
- A qualification or course that addresses higher-level skills and knowledge in asthma first aid.

These additional competency requirements were identified by the project steering committee as essential due to the high-risk nature of the course.

7. Delivery

Standards 5.12, 5.13 and 5.14 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

7.1 Delivery modes

There are no restrictions on offering the program on either a full-time or part-time basis. Where possible, participants should be exposed to real work environments and examples/case studies.

This course may be delivered in a variety of modes including:

- Educational/classroom setting.
- Workplace or simulated workplace.
- Blended learning.

Delivery methods should allow for self-directed development and achievement, independent and peer to peer judgement and accountability for a high standard of outcomes.

Trainers and assessors should contextualise delivery of the course in response to learner needs, while still meeting the requirements of the units of competency.

7.2 Resources

Training must be undertaken by a person or persons in accordance with:

- Standard 1.4 of the AQTF: Essential Conditions and Standards for Initial/Continuing Registration and Guideline 3 of the VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers,
- or
- the 2025 Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs),
- or
- the relevant standards and Guidelines for RTOs at the time of assessment.

In addition, trainers are required to have either:

- A current advanced first aid certificate,
- or
- Hold current registration with the relevant National Board/ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a Nurse, Medical Practitioner, Pharmacist or Paramedic,
- or
- A qualification or course that addresses higher-level skills and knowledge in asthma first aid.

These additional competency requirements were identified by the Project Steering Committee as essential due to the high-risk nature of the course.

Resources include:

- Placebo asthma reliever medication inhaler device
- Single-use spacer
- Masks
- Sample documentation, including:
 - Incident reporting documents
 - Personal Asthma Action Plans (*completed with simulated/sample information*)
 - Relevant workplace documentation
- A person in the role of a simulated casualty for practical demonstration of skills, where appropriate
- First aid manikins (adult, infant and child)
- Asthma First Aid protocol developed by National Asthma Council Australia

Training providers must ensure that all reference material is current and follows the National Asthma Council Australia guidelines.

8. Pathways and articulation

Standard 5.10 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

There are no formal articulation arrangements in place at the time of accreditation.

9. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Standard 5.15 AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses

This course is maintained and monitored by the Curriculum Maintenance Manager – Human Services.

A formal review of the course will take place at the mid-point of the accreditation period. Feedback will be sought from industry, those providers offering the course, and other relevant stakeholders as part of the review process.

Recommendations for any significant changes will be reported to the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA).

Section C – Units of competency

Units of competency contained in the course

Units of competency developed for the course

Code	Title
VU24021	Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency
VU24022	Manage asthma risks



Unit code	VU24021		
Unit title	Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency		
Application	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to apply appropriate first aid procedures in response to an asthma emergency. It includes the background knowledge of the triggers, signs, symptoms and effects of asthma and asthma like symptoms. The management of the situation should be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures. The Asthma first aid response is provided in line with the personal Asthma Action Plan of the casualty, Asthma First Aid protocol developed by the National Asthma Council Australia, Australian and New Zealand Committee on Resuscitation (ANZCOR) Guidelines and other Australian national peak clinical bodies. The casualty may be someone in the person's care, a colleague, other staff, a visitor, etc. <i>No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</i> <i>Requirements for refresher training and currency should be obtained from the relevant state/territory Work Health and Safety Regulatory Authority and industry sector Regulatory Authorities where applicable.</i>		
Pre-requisite Unit(s)	N/A		
Competency Field	N/A		
Unit Sector	N/A		
Element	Performance Criteria		
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the assessment requirements.</i>		
1. Assess the emergency situation	1.1	Identify, assess and minimise hazards for the emergency situation which may pose a risk to self and others	
	1.2	Evaluate the casualty's condition and recognise the signs and symptoms of an asthma episode or asthma like episode	
	1.3	Assess severity of an asthma episode or asthma like episode	
	1.4	Determine appropriate response required for the emergency in order to ensure prompt management of the situation	

2.	Apply the appropriate first aid procedures for an asthma episode or asthma like episode	2.1	Reassure casualty in a caring and calm manner and make comfortable using available resources
		2.2	Determine the casualty's asthma history and confirm the availability of their personal Asthma Action Plan, their asthma reliever medication and (if required) their spacer and/or mask
		2.3	Identify, assess and access resources and equipment appropriate for the situation
		2.4	Provide appropriate emergency action for an asthma episode or asthma like episode that reflects the severity of the casualty's condition
		2.5	Monitor casualty's condition in accordance with first aid principles and procedures and identify signs that immediate emergency assistance is required
3	Communicate details of asthma emergency incidents	3.1	Request immediate assistance from emergency response services, where required, by calling 000, and accurately convey incident details
		3.2	Identify and seek additional assistance that may be available within the organisation or the specific setting, where required
		3.3	Accurately convey details of casualty's condition and emergency actions undertaken to relieving personnel
		3.4	Communicate information and report incident to relevant others as specified in casualty's personal Asthma Action Plan and/or organisational policies and procedures
		3.5	Complete applicable workplace or site documentation in a timely manner, including incident report form, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
		3.6	Maintain privacy and confidentiality of information in line with statutory or organisational policies
4	Evaluate responses to asthma emergencies	4.1	Follow organisational procedures for psychological safety and post-incident support after an asthma emergency and identify supports that are available
		4.2	Contribute to a review of the first aid response and make recommendations for identified areas of improvement
		4.3	Provide relevant information to casualty (and/or parent/guardian/authorised person) regarding consulting with their physician to review their personal Asthma Action Plan or to develop a Plan as a result of the asthma episode

Range of conditions

In this unit, these terms are intended to be interpreted as follows:

- *Specific setting* refers to the activity or location relevant to the individual. This may include:
 - Primary or regular settings such as usual workplace, classroom or activity location.
 - Secondary or unique/one-off settings such as:
 - Excursions, field trips, camps
 - Festivals or events
 - Conference or meetings
 - Student work placements
 - Transport to/from the secondary setting
- *Relevant others* are determined by the workplace context, the specific setting and requirements of the industry sector and may include:
 - Parent, guardian or authorised person
 - School principal
 - Workplace, camp or activity supervisor
- *Additional assistance* may refer to other non-emergency medical personnel such as a doctor or nurse, designated first aiders or other personnel deemed competent or a colleague who has rapport with the casualty
- *Relieving personnel* may include emergency responders or additional emergency assistance personnel available within the organisation or workplace

Appropriate emergency action for an asthma episode or asthma like episode includes: following the Australian and New Zealand Committee on Resuscitation (ANZCOR) basic life support flow chart, and then following the casualty's personal Asthma Action Plan.

When the casualty's personal Asthma Action Plan is not available, or the casualty is not known to have a history of asthma, the Asthma First Aid protocol developed by the National Asthma Council Australia should be followed.

Where there is uncertainty whether the casualty is experiencing anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) or an asthma episode, always administer adrenaline injector first in accordance with the Asthma First Aid protocol developed by the National Asthma Council Australia.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here and must be assessed.

Skill	Description
Reading skills to:	• access and interpret a range of textual information relevant to managing asthma emergencies

Writing skills to:

- complete required documentation using relevant structure, tone and vocabulary appropriate to audience, context and purpose

Oral communication skills to:

- convey and elicit required information in a manner appropriate to the audience context and purpose

Unit mapping

Current version	Previous version	Comments
VU24021 Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency	VU22927 Manage asthma risks and emergencies in the workplace	Not Equivalent

Assessment Requirements

Title	Assessment Requirements for VU24021 Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency
Performance Evidence	The candidate must demonstrate evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of their role, including evidence of the ability to: • Recognise and respond safely to at least two (2) asthma episodes in accordance with first aid principles and procedures, which includes demonstrating: ○ At least one (1) emergency response in accordance with a personal Asthma Action Plan, - AND ○ At least one (1) emergency response in accordance with the Asthma First Aid protocol developed by National Asthma Council Australia. • Demonstrate selection of devices, fitting of devices and correct administration technique (using placebo asthma reliever medication inhaler device) for: ○ Infant (up to 12 months) ○ Child ○ Adult This includes: ▪ with single-use spacer on at least one occasion ▪ with a mask and spacer on at least one occasion ▪ without a single-use spacer or mask on at least one occasion
Knowledge Evidence	The candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge required to effectively complete the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of: • Common asthma triggers including but not limited to: ○ Allergens ○ Respiratory infections ○ Exercise ○ Drugs ○ Food chemicals and additives ○ Gastro-oesophageal reflux ○ Allergic rhinitis (hay fever) ○ Smoking ○ Air pollutants ○ Occupational factors

- Temperature change
- Signs and symptoms of asthma, including:
 - Features that indicate severity of an asthma episode (mild/moderate, severe and life-threatening)
 - Asthma like symptoms, including in infants and young children
- Potential consequences of an asthma episode
- Relevant first aid principles and procedures in line with current ANZCOR basic life support flow chart (DRSABCD)
- First aid principles and procedures for the emergency management of asthma, including:
 - personal Asthma Action Plans
 - Asthma First Aid protocol developed by National Asthma Council Australia.
- Common asthma medication, including which asthma medication requires use of spacers and which do not
- Key features, functions and purposes of different types of asthma equipment and devices for individuals with different needs, including: adults, children and infants
- Sources of medical assistance, including designated first aiders, first aid officers, general practitioners, ambulance
- Appropriate action to take if:
 - There is uncertainty whether the casualty is experiencing anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) or asthma, in accordance with National Asthma Council's Asthma First Aid protocol
 - The event is possibly first-time asthma episode or not sure if casualty has asthma
 - A spacer or other equipment is not available
 - The casualty becomes unresponsive or unconscious after providing asthma first aid
- Signs of anaphylaxis, including: difficulty/noisy breathing, swelling of tongue, swelling or tightness in throat, wheeze, persistent cough, difficulty talking, hoarse voice, persistent dizziness or collapse, pale and floppy (young children)
- Guidelines of asthma peak bodies, including guidelines on administration techniques for asthma inhaler devices
- Environmental hazard identification and minimisation
- Relevant organisational policies and procedures for:
 - management of an asthma emergency
 - Post-incident support following an emergency incident
- Sources of psychological safety and wellbeing assistance
- Privacy and confidentiality requirements

- State or Territory regulations, first aid codes of practice and workplace requirements for refresher training to maintain currency of competence

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in simulated environment where the conditions are typical of those in a working environment in this industry. The simulated environment must provide realistic in-depth, scenarios and simulations to assess candidates' skills and knowledge.

Skills demonstration of the emergency response must be directly observed in real-time by the assessor.

Assessment of the use of the placebo asthma reliever medication inhaler device (inc. spacer and/or mask where relevant) must be demonstrated on a manikin in an upright position, with the placebo device administered into the mouth of the manikin, not to the side of the face.

For the remainder of the skills demonstration assessments, either a manikin or a person in the role of a simulated casualty may be used. Where the simulated casualty is an infant or child, a manikin must be used.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- Placebo asthma reliever medication inhaler device
- Single-use spacer
- Mask
- Sample documentation, including:
 - Incident reporting documents
 - Personal Asthma Action Plans (*completed with simulated/sample information*)
- A person in the role of a simulated casualty for practical demonstration of skills, where appropriate
- First aid manikins (adult, infant and child)
- Asthma First Aid protocol developed by National Asthma Council Australia
- Emergency first aid kit containing asthma equipment and devices appropriate to workplace context

Assessor requirements

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable Vocational Educational and Training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

In addition, assessment must be undertaken by trainers and assessors who hold:

- A current advanced first aid certificate,

OR

- Hold current registration with the relevant National Board/ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a Nurse, Medical Practitioner, Pharmacist or Paramedic,

OR

- A qualification or course that addresses higher-level skills and knowledge in asthma first aid.

Unit code	VU24022		
Unit title	Manage asthma risks		
Application	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to develop, review and update asthma risk assessment and emergency management strategies for an individual. It includes the ability to identify known triggers, modifiable and unmodifiable risks for the individual, and develop strategies in context of a specific setting. This unit applies to people who have a duty of care requirement and work in a wide range of settings where emergencies involving asthma episodes may occur. The duty of care requirement may be an industry, legislative and/or specific organisation/workplace requirement. <i>No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</i>		
Pre-requisite Unit(s)	VU24021 Provide first aid management of an asthma emergency		
Competency Field	N/A		
Unit Sector	N/A		
Element	Performance Criteria		
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the assessment requirements.</i>		
1	Develop risk assessment and emergency management strategies for an individual	1.1	Examine the personal Asthma Action Plan for an individual who has been identified at risk to identify known triggers
		1.2	Identify modifiable and unmodifiable risks for the individual in context of the specific setting
		1.3	Identify where consultation with relevant others is required and determine, in context of the specific setting, who should be included in the consultation
		1.4	Identify and access the organisation's policies, procedures or plans related to asthma
		1.5	Develop and document risk assessment and emergency management strategies for the individual in context of the specific setting

		1.6	Develop and document a communication plan to raise awareness of the strategies developed for the individual in context of the specific setting
2	Review risk assessment and emergency management strategies	2.1	Determine the need to review the individual's risk assessment and emergency management strategies
		2.2	Review the individual's risk assessment and emergency management strategies to identify areas for improvement or correction
		2.3	Make changes, where required, to the individual's risk assessment and emergency management strategies, seeking consultation with relevant others
		2.4	Contribute to a review of the organisation's policies, procedures or plans related to asthma, where required
		2.5	Communicate changes to the individual's risk assessment and emergency management strategies to relevant others
3	Complete documentation	3.1	Comply with the organisation's recordkeeping requirements
		3.2	Maintain documentation in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

Range of conditions

In this unit, these terms are intended to be interpreted as follows:

- **Specific setting** refers to the activity or location relevant to the individual. This may include:
 - Primary or regular settings such as usual workplace, classroom or activity location.
 - Secondary or unique/one-off settings such as:
 - Excursions, field trips, camps
 - Festivals or events
 - Conference or meetings
 - Student work placements
 - Transport to/from the secondary setting
- **Relevant others** are determined by the workplace context, the specific setting and requirements of the industry sector and may include:
 - Parent, guardian or authorised person
 - School principal
 - Workplace, camp or activity supervisor

Risk assessment and emergency management strategies are strategies developed for individuals identified with asthma and those presenting with asthma like signs and symptoms.

They may include and/or be informed by:

- Organisational policies, procedures or plans related to asthma
- Individual's personal Asthma Action Plan
- Asthma First Aid protocol developed by National Asthma Council Australia
- Identification of staff competencies and training requirements
- Identification and risk assessment of avoidable (manageable) and unavoidable asthma triggers
- Procedures for obtaining up-to-date forecasts and warnings for pollen count, air pollution and Thunderstorm asthma
- Persons to be notified following an asthma emergency incident
- Location of the individual's personal Asthma Action Plan, their reliever medications and (where relevant) their spacer
- Location of the workplace's emergency first aid kit containing the workplace's reliever medication and single-use spacers

The organisation's policies, procedures or plans related to asthma will vary dependent upon the industry sector context and workplace of the learner.

Some industry sectors have specific requirements related to asthma. Learners from these sectors will require access to organisational policies, procedures or plans which have been developed in accordance with the requirements of their industry sector.

For example, learners from Victorian schools will require access to policies, procedures or plans related to asthma which have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education (Victoria) asthma policy for schools; or where learners are from the early childhood sector in Victoria, they will require access to policies, procedures or plans related to asthma which reflect Victoria's regulatory requirements for the sector.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here and must be assessed.

Skill	Description
Reading skills to:	• access and interpret a range of textual information relevant to managing asthma risks
Writing skills to:	• complete required documentation using relevant structure, tone and vocabulary appropriate to audience, context and purpose

Unit mapping

Current version	Previous version	Comments
VU24022 Manage asthma risks	VU22927 Manage asthma risks and emergencies in the workplace	Not Equivalent

Assessment Requirements

Title	Assessment Requirements for <i>VU24022 Manage asthma risks</i>
Performance Evidence	The candidate must demonstrate evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of their role, including evidence of the ability to: - Develop, review, and update risk assessment and emergency management strategies for asthma episodes within the context of a different activity or location for each of the following: - At least one (1) individual identified with asthma AND - At least one (1) individual presenting with asthma like signs and symptoms
Knowledge Evidence	The candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge required to effectively complete the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of: - Processes for identifying and maintaining knowledge of individuals at risk of Asthma - Guidelines of asthma peak bodies - Relevant State or Territory regulatory requirements for asthma management - Risk assessment and minimisation strategies for asthma - Environmental hazard identification and minimisation - Relevant organisational policies, procedures or plans related to asthma - Privacy and confidentiality considerations related to developing and implementing a communications plan - The required timing/intervals for review and the events that initiate the need to undertake a review of the strategies developed for individuals, including: - following a severe or life-threatening asthma episode - following recurrent asthma episodes - planned review dates - updates to the individual's Asthma Action Plan
Assessment Conditions	Skills must be demonstrated in a workplace or in a simulated environment where the conditions are typical of those in a working environment in this industry. The simulated environment must provide realistic in-depth, scenarios and simulations to assess candidates' skills and knowledge. Assessment must ensure access to: Case studies and scenarios

- Asthma Action Plans (*completed with simulated/sample information*)
- Relevant workplace documentation

Assessor requirements

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable Vocational Educational and Training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

In addition, assessment must be undertaken by trainers and assessors who hold:

- A current advanced first aid certificate,

OR

- Hold current registration with the relevant National Board/ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a Nurse, Medical Practitioner, Pharmacist or Paramedic,

OR

- A qualification or course that addresses higher-level skills and knowledge in asthma first aid.