



**SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES'
ASSOCIATION**

Submission to the
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace
Relations Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the *Student Identifiers Bill 2013*

30th April 2013

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Submission by the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee: Inquiry into
Student Identifiers Bill 2013

The Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) is Australia's largest single trade union with over 210,000 members. Its principal membership coverage is the Retail Industry. It also has members in warehousing and distribution, fast food, petrol stations, pharmacy, hairdressing, beauty and the modeling industries.

With approximately 40% of its membership aged 25 and under, the SDA represents and advocates for the training and development needs of those members undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships, of whom there are significant numbers within the retail and hair and beauty industries in particular. Interwoven with its youth membership, approximately 60% of SDA members are women. The SDA also represents and advocates the needs of working women to increase and promote their participation in both the labour force and the VET sector, recognising the mutually productive benefits that flexible work and training arrangements provide.

We welcome this opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee's Inquiry into the *Student Identifiers Bill 2013* and state the SDA's support for the passage of the Bill.

The SDA also notes and endorses the ACTU submission to the Inquiry.

As the SDA has previously noted in submissions to other key reforms underway in the VET sector, one of the most critical and longstanding issues in ensuring the quality, transparency and efficacy of VET programs is the collection of data across all providers.

In the context of increasingly market-driven policies of contestability and the ongoing shift towards student entitlement funding models, the SDA advocates more than ever for accurate data collection. The development of a unique student identifier (USI) scheme to measure and monitor students undertaking and completing nationally accredited training will not only support the delivery of quality training and assessment, but will also provide employees and employers alike with more accurate information to make informed choices about training.