

Student Identifier Bill 2013 Inquiry

SSA Response
April 2013

Response to the Student Identifier Bill 2013 Inquiry

Service Skills Australia (SSA) is the Industry Skills Council for the service industries, which encompasses retail and wholesale, sport, fitness, recreation, tourism, events, hospitality, hairdressing, beauty, floristry, community pharmacy and funeral services. Skills councils are the recognised national bodies providing advice on industry training and skills development needs to government and industry. Skills Councils also actively support the development, implementation and continuous improvement of high quality training and workforce development products and services, including training packages.

SSA would like to thank the Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for offering the opportunity to provide feedback and comments to the Student Identifiers Bill 2013 Inquiry. SSA appreciates the opportunity that this inquiry brings to communicate industry's perspective.

Submission details

Name of organisation: Service Skills Australia
Category of stakeholder: Industry Skills Council

Service Skills Australia (SSA) supports the introduction of a student identifier for individuals undertaking nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET).

A unique student identifier will enable a full picture of an individual's pathway through learning to be provided. As well as offering rewarding career pathways themselves, the service industries provide a starting point for many Australians to develop careers in a wide range of industries. The full pathway information will further reinforce the service industries' position as the provider of crucial skills to the Australian economy.

A single electronic record for each individual learner will facilitate better record-keeping across jurisdictions, meaning that individuals will be less likely to encounter problems proving prior learning to prospective employers. This should lead to a shortening of recruitment processes, allowing businesses to have appropriately-skilled employees in the workplace more quickly.

The ability to be able to request full information on employees' training history from one central point will help to facilitate better workforce planning in many areas.

A single repository of records of VET student enrolments and achievements will enable more accurate records of qualification completion rates. More accurate completion rates will give a more accurate picture of the training that is being carried out in the service industries.

By giving a more accurate picture of the activity in the VET system, funding decisions at state, territory and federal levels should better reflect the requirements of industry.

SSA strongly supports a unique student identifier for VET and suggests that consideration be given to extending this to include schools and higher education. A unique student identifier that captures all the formal education an individual undertakes throughout their life would significantly increase all the benefits that the proposed VET student identifier promises to deliver.