

Our Ref: #135796

30 April 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Student Identifier Bill 2013

I am writing in response to the inquiry regarding the Senate Committee's Student Identifier Bill 2013.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) supports the introduction of a national Student Identifier scheme as a mechanism to record all accredited VET undertaken, and qualifications achieved for each individual over his or her lifetime. The Student Identifier will be an essential foundation for the VET reform agenda, providing benefits not only to the student, but also establishing a solid framework of information for a more flexible and demand driven VET system. The Student Identifier is essential if governments wish to focus on student centred funding models.

NCVER, as the custodian of the national VET database (the National VET Provider Collection), will work with the Commonwealth to link the VET training activity held in the National VET Provider Collection with the Student Identifier to produce an authenticated VET transcript. Suitable funding allocation will of course need to be provided to develop and build such a transcript system. NCVER sees no real difficulty in embedding the Student Identifier in the National VET data standard, and it is already included in the newly released AVETMISS R7.0.

In due course, there will be benefits for research and policy analysis (particularly pathways analysis), noting this is a by-product and not a primary aim of the Student Identifier scheme.

Exemptions for the Student Identifier should be kept to a minimum so as not to defeat the purpose of the scheme. Treating student identifier and Total VET Activity (TVA) exemptions together is a sensible approach.

NCVER is happy with the proposed approach to the privacy/confidentiality aspects of the scheme.

Yours sincerely

Tom Karmel
Managing Director