



Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
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Dear Committee

RE: Master Builders Australia submission to the Committee inquiry into the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Data Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2023.

Master Builders Australia (Master Builders) supports the passage of this Bill through the parliament. Improving processes for the collection, validation and submission of vocational education and training (VET) data is a positive and necessary reform.

Importantly we note that the amendments will protect the privacy of individuals, while paving the way for data and information at the registered training organisation (RTO) level to be published.

The publishing of information on training quality, student outcomes, and student and employer satisfaction at the RTO level is critical and a long-held advocacy position of Master Builders.

The current regulatory approach to the VET sector maintains minimum standards for RTOs but does not have a mechanism to identify and reward training providers that exceed these standards. Addressing this will drive informed user choice, improve training quality, and aid funding decisions.

Information on RTO quality will provide potential students, their advisers and employers with a clearer understanding of the strengths of particular RTOs and therefore enable them to make more informed decisions about the training provider and courses that best meets their needs and aspirations.

Further, publishing data on the training quality and outcomes of RTOs will acknowledge high performing providers and incentivise RTOs to delivery higher quality training and strive for excellence.

In addition, governments provide significant investment in RTOs to deliver VET training. Achieving value for this investment is critical. Improved information on RTO quality and training outcomes will assist governments to better align funding decisions with the measures of quality that align with their policy priorities and jurisdictional needs.

Information on quality at the RTO level will also provide assurance to industry and governments paving the way for less prescriptive, more flexible, and more responsive training products, that are better able to meet current and emerging training and skills needs.

In the five-year Productivity Inquiry Interim Report, the Productivity Commission noted that “information to guide student choice has improved in higher education, but remains deficient in VET”.

In the higher education sector, the Compared (www.compared.edu.au) website draws on the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) database to provide public information by institution and qualification on student experience, skills development and employment outcomes. This resource also enables comparison between institutions and with the national average.

Similar information for the VET sector is collected by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER). This includes a range of measures covering student satisfaction, skills development, and employment outcomes. However, this information is not published at the RTO level. This can and should change. The proposed Bill, if passed in the parliament, will enable this to happen.

In addition to enabling information at the RTO level to be published, the reforms will improve the timeliness of the data published by the NCVER. This data is widely used by governments and industry, including by Master Builders in advocating for the skills, training and education needs of Australia's building and construction industry.

In conclusion, Master Builders supports the passage of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Data Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2023. Passing this Bill will improve data collection and validation processes, improve the timeliness with which data is released, and if published at the RTO level has the potential to improve government decision making, incentivise RTOs to strive for excellence in training delivery, and enable VET users to make informed decisions about their training pathway and training provider.

Master Builders thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make this submission and can be available should the Committee have any questions or would like further information. In this regard you can contact Jennifer Lawrence, Manager Industry Policy

Yours sincerely

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