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Submission

by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

to

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Inquiry into Bills referred on 22 September 2011

RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is an independent body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing, evaluating and communicating research and statistics about tertiary education and training.

About this submission

This submission provides statistics relevant to overseas students.

NCVER has also recently compiled an overview of the tertiary education and training sector that the committee might find useful as background to its consideration of the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill. Sourcing data from the National VET Provider Collection and the Higher Education Statistics Collection, the publication provides a summary of participation in tertiary education and training in Australia. It covers participation in Australian Qualifications Framework certificate I qualifications through to doctorates by research, as well as enrolments in a single vocational subject. Information is presented on students and on equivalent full-time students.

In 2009:

- There were 1.7 million vocational education and training (VET) students and 1.1 million higher education students
- There were 1.4 million equivalent full-time students in tertiary education and training. This comprised:
 - 609,600 equivalent full-time students reported in the VET sector
 - 813,000 equivalent full-time students reported in the higher education sector.

For more information and to obtain a copy of this publication, please go to:

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2385.html>

Overseas students

Data are provided from three collections in this submission; two of these relate to overseas students studying onshore and the other to offshore students.

Onshore:

- NCVER National VET Provider Collection [also referred to as Students and Courses]
- AEI International student data

Offshore:

- NQC & DEEWR Data Collections on VET Offshore.

NCVER National VET Provider Collection

The National VET Provider Collection provides information on students undertaking courses in the public VET system within Australia. This includes all VET activity (publicly funded and fee-

for-service) delivered by TAFE institutes, other government providers and community providers, as well as publicly funded VET delivered by other registered providers (private providers).

The following types of training activity are not covered:

- Recreation, leisure and personal enrichment
- Fee-for-service VET by private providers
- Delivery undertaken at overseas campuses of Australian VET institutions
- Credit transfer
- VET delivered in schools, where the delivery has been undertaken by schools.

The information is sourced from student enrolment forms and through state and territory training authorities from registered training providers. Results are published in July of each year in the *Students and Courses* publication. The latest results are for 2010 and can be downloaded from the NCVER website at: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2383.html>

Table 20 in *Students and Courses 2010* (reproduced below) provides information on overseas students studying onshore in VET and other education sectors between 2006 and 2010. It combines data from the NCVER National VET Provider Collection and Australian Education International (AEI) to give a total picture of the participation of overseas students in education and training in Australia. In total, 206,600 overseas students were studying onshore in VET (AEI, 2010). The overwhelming majority of these students (168,500 in 2010) were undertaking training courses with a private VET provider.

In 2010, 38,000 overseas students were studying in the public VET system. The most popular fields of education were 'Management and Commerce' (30.5% of students), Society and Culture (18.3%) and 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (12.2%). Almost half of these students (49.2%) were studying at the diploma level or above.

Between 2009 and 2010, there was a decline of 0.7 per cent in the number of overseas students studying onshore in VET-related courses. Over the same period, participation in Higher Education by overseas students within Australia grew by 7.8 per cent.

Table 1: Overseas visa students studying onshore in VET and other education sectors, 2006-10 (Table 20, Students and Courses 2010)

Education or training sector	2006 (‘000)	2007 (‘000)	2008 (‘000)	2009 (‘000)	2010 (‘000)	%	2009-10 % change
Higher education ¹	185.4	192.2	202.3	226.0	243.6	39.3	7.8
Vocational education and training							
Public sector ²	20.5	27.8	31.8	39.7	38.0	6.1	-4.1
Private sector ³	46.5	74.2	122.0	168.3	168.5	27.2	0.1
VET sub-total ¹	67.0	102.0	153.9	208.0	206.6	33.4	-0.7
School education ¹	24.5	26.8	28.3	27.4	24.2	3.9	-11.5
English language intensive courses for overseas students ¹	76.9	102.2	127.2	137.5	113.5	18.3	-17.5
Other ⁴	26.4	27.3	30.1	31.7	31.2	5.0	-1.6
Total¹	380.3	450.5	541.8	630.7	619.1	100.0	-1.8

Sources: Australian Education International (AEI) statistics 2010; NCVER National VET Provider Collection.

Notes: 1. Australian Education International (AEI) statistics represent student course enrolments and may be greater than the actual number of students. AEI statistics reported for previous years were revised in 2010. For further information, refer to <<http://www.aei.gov.au>>.

2. These figures refer to the actual numbers of international full-fee-paying students in the NCVER National VET Provider Collection who undertook training in a major AQF category (certificate 1 and above). For more information on all overseas students, refer to tables 13 and 14 of *Students and Courses 2010*.

3. Students in the private sector were derived by subtracting students from the public sector from the VET sub-total.

4. 'Other' includes foundation, bridging and enabling courses plus other courses that do not lead to a qualification under the AQF.

Table 2: Overseas visa students studying onshore in VET by major field of education, 2010.

Major course field of education	%
01 - Natural and physical sciences	0.5
02 - Information technology	3.5
03 - Engineering and related technologies	12.2
04 - Architecture and building	2.9
05 - Agriculture, environmental and related studies	2.3
06 - Health	5.0
07 - Education	1.4
08 - Management and commerce	30.5
09 - Society and culture	18.3
10 - Creative arts	2.5
11 - Food, hospitality and personal services	7.6
12 - Mixed field programmes	13.3
Subject only - no qualification	0.0
Total	100.0

Source: National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Notes: 1. 'Overseas' based on student highest funding source '30 – International fee-for-service'.

Table 3: Overseas visa students studying onshore in VET by highest qualification level, 2010.

Highest qualification level	%
Diploma or higher	49.2
Certificate IV	14.3
Certificate III	15.9
Certificate II	2.5
Certificate I	1.2
Non AQF qualification	16.8
Subject only - no qualification	0.0
Total	100.0

Source: National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Notes: 1. 'Overseas' based on student highest funding source '30 – International fee-for-service'.

NQC & DEEWR Data Collections on VET Offshore

The NCVER has collected information about overseas-based VET students studying offshore with publically funded and private Australian training providers under contract to the then National Quality Council (NQC) and to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). The latest available data are for 2009. This report can be obtained from the NQC website at:

http://www.nqc.tvetaustralia.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/56380/VET_offshore_by_public_and_private_providers_-_2009.pdf

These data show that in 2009:

- Approximately 2% of all registered Australian private providers and 61% of all Australian TAFE institutes were involved in the delivery of VET offshore
- Australian public and private providers reported training 8,500 and 64,800 offshore VET students respectively
- Diplomas were the most common qualifications
- 94% of all courses were delivered in English or a combination of English and the local language.