NCVER

Strategic plan
2014-16

NCVER's vision is:

To inform and influence vocational education and training in Australia through credible, reliable and responsive research and statistical services.

NCVER's mission is:

To be Australia's authoritative source of high-quality independent information on vocational education and training.

In keeping with the vision and mission of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), this strategic plan sets out the strategic directions of the organisation for 2014-16.

Introduction

NCVER environment

NCVER operates within a multi-layered authorising environment, including the Australian and state and territory governments, together with industry and registered training providers.

NCVER's mandate is to ensure that its outputs add maximum value to the vocational education and training (VET) system, by aligning its research and statistical services to inform and influence decisions of government, industry and providers.

NCVER's corporate values are:

- maintaining honesty, integrity and quality
- being customer-focused and outward looking
- driving innovation and continuous improvement
- building strong and effective relationships
- promoting collaboration and teamwork.

NCVER's success is measured by:

- the use, relevance and overall impact of its research and statistics
- accessibility to its information
- responsiveness to governments, the VET sector, industry and the community.

Who we are

NCVER was established in 1981 as a not-for-profit company owned by the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers with responsibility for vocational education and training.

The company initially conducted research and managed the development of national curriculum and learning resources for the technical and further education (TAFE) sector at a time when Australia had little real research capacity in vocational education and training.

NCVER's role has developed significantly since its creation. Today, NCVER collects, manages, analyses, evaluates and communicates research and statistics about vocational education and training and the links between education and the labour market more generally.

Research and compilation of statistical collections constitute NCVER's major role. Actively ensuring that the information is widely disseminated is a particular focus of NCVER's work. NCVER also undertakes commercial consultancy services where that service fits within NCVER's consulting principles <http://www.ncver.edu.au/consultancy.html>.

NCVER is the official collection agency for VET statistics. As the trusted data custodian, NCVER collects this information under the authority of ministers responsible for education and training and the registration requirements legislated for training providers under national VET regulation. From 2014 onwards, statistics will be collected on all accredited training in Australia from all registered training providers according to registration requirements.

Statistical collections include the VET provider and financial collections, the apprentice and trainee collection, the Student Outcomes Survey, the Survey of Employer Use and Views of the VET System and the analytical program of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY).

Research is undertaken against ministerial-endorsed priorities. The research component encompasses the management of national competitive research grants, the organisation's own research program and the VOCEDplus research database.

Context

NCVER strives to ensure that its body of research and its statistical collections inform and influence policy and practice. The work of the organisation is conducted against a background of national policy settings:

- for the tertiary education and training systems to deliver a productive and highly skilled workforce to support increased workforce participation and productivity
- for greater opportunities for all to participate and develop skills
- for the necessity for an efficient training system to respond effectively to changing economic conditions, structural changes in the labour market, and student, employer and industry's needs
- for a more transparent system with informed consumer choice and better outcomes through relevant quality training
- with long-term challenges relating to the ageing of the population and environmental issues

Strategic directions

During 2014–16 NCVER will:

1. influence policy and practice through research and statistical leadership, and partnerships
2. ensure integrity, quality, relevance and transparency to our research and statistics
3. develop innovative products and services to meet the needs of stakeholders
4. improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes
5. be a highly skilled, adaptive workforce

1. Influence policy and practice through research and statistical leadership, and partnerships

NCVER will influence policy and practice through the provision of timely, relevant and high-quality information. This will be achieved by working with governments, industry and training providers in anticipating and responding to their needs.

NCVER will:

- deepen relationships with governments, industry and training providers and build partnerships with new stakeholders
- engage with stakeholders in framing policy questions for research, analysis and data collection
- capitalise on our expertise and knowledge of the tertiary education and training sectors
- undertake and commission work against agreed strategic national research priorities
- encourage multi-disciplinary approaches to research projects
- develop our information systems to improve data coverage and quality, processes and timeliness of data publications
- expand our range of statistical services to provide a broader view of vocational education and training
- develop commercial opportunities to add value to core services.

2. Ensure integrity, quality, relevance and transparency to our research and statistics

NCVER is committed to making quality information and data available and accessible, including support, while protecting confidentiality and individual student's privacy.

NCVER will:

- produce evidence to inform major policy decisions in the VET sector
- comply with privacy legislation while making data as accessible as possible under ministerial-agreed data access protocols **<http://www.ncver.edu.au/support/dataaccess.html>**
- minimise the burden on training providers who supply data, underpinned by a client services model where new data providers are supported through information on our website and expanded helpdesk facilities
- follow our principles of practice to ensure methodology is transparent and peer reviewed, with results accessible to all.

3. Develop innovative products and services

NCVER is committed to open and transparent access to its research and statistics. Our aim is to maximise the dissemination of research and statistics. With an increasing stakeholder base and broadening expectations (through additional training organisations providing data and industries being able to access a complete picture of training for the first time), the ability to present data and research findings in new and useful ways in a timely manner is required.

NCVER will:

- use online innovative technology to increase the range and scope of information available
- customise formats to meet different audience requirements
- communicate NCVER's research and statistics via a variety of methods that engage governments, industry and training providers, including social media, face-to-face meetings, events, media and other communication channels
- actively engage with governments, industry, training providers, researchers and community organisations utilising a stakeholder management strategy.

4. Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes

NCVER's ability to adapt to the changing environment while focusing on the delivery of products and services to our stakeholders will depend on effective, easy-to-use and scalable systems and processes.

NCVER will:

- introduce new technologies to address the growing needs of the sector
- exploit technology to improve service and productivity
- maintain infrastructure ready to meet the demands of the sector
- continuously improve systems and processes
- develop client service standards for critical processes
- use financial disciplines and acumen to manage a broad portfolio of work.

5. Be a highly skilled, adaptive workforce

NCVER aims to provide a stimulating and challenging work environment developing the capabilities of our staff.

NCVER will:

- build capacity of staff and invest in people through intellectual and people leadership, coaching, recruitment and personal development
- ensure a work culture of good practice, quality assurance and professionalism
- maintain a workplace that respects, values and supports diversity
- support staff through change brought about by new systems and processes
- establish mechanisms to involve the staff in decision making.

NCVER's areas of activity

- Undertaking a strategic program of education and training research, including the management of national competitive grants programs and the analytical program of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, and collect and analyse national VET statistics and survey data.
- Collecting and publishing research findings on VET and higher education from across the world through the VOCEDplus research database.
- Disseminating the results of research and data analysis.
- Building links with similar international organisations to foster comparative analysis and collaborate on issues of mutual interest.
- Undertaking commercial consultancies.

NCVER's stakeholders

- Ministers
- Commonwealth and state and territory education and training authorities
- Registered training organisations
- VET practitioners and providers
- Educational institutions
- Australian businesses
- Researchers
- International agencies
- Industry skills councils
- Employer- and employee-based associations/organisations
- Community organisations

NCVER's principles of practice

- Analysis will be transparent and replicable.
- Methodology will follow sound statistical practice and be open to scrutiny.
- Statistical and research results (excluding commercial consultancies) will be published provided that quality standards are met.
- Release dates of publications will be available and any embargo conditions will be clear.
- Statistical and research results will be descriptive or test research questions and will avoid advocating a particular position.
- NCVER data and library resources will be available to all groups and individuals equally, under the conditions spelled out in NCVER's policy for the provision of VET information, available at **<http://www.ncver.edu.au/support/dataaccess.html>**
- Research and statistical data will be archived to ensure their availability for future researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.
- NCVER data will be secure and protected by current leading practice, with multiple layers of protection and encryption where necessary.

NCVER's international sister organisations

- Bonn-based UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre, Bundesinsitut für Berufsbildung in Germany
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Greece
- Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education in the Philippines
- Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training
- Chinese Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education
- SEAMEO Voctech International Centre in Brunei
- Singapore Institute for Adult Learning
- Overseas Vocational Training Association of Japan
- National Council of Education Research and Training, Central Staff Training and Research Institute in India