

2016
2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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About NCVER

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd (NCVER) is a not-for-profit company owned by the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers with responsibility for vocational education and training.

Our vision

Our vision is to inform and influence vocational education and training (VET) in Australia through credible, reliable and responsive research and statistical services.

Our mission

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

Our values

Our 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.

What we do

We collect, manage, analyse, evaluate and communicate research and statistics about vocational education and training, and the links between education and the labour market more generally.

Conducting research and compiling statistical collections is our major role. Actively ensuring that the information is widely disseminated is a particular focus of our work. We also undertake commercial consultancy services.

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

We are the official collection agency for VET statistics. As the trusted data custodian, we collect this information under the authority of the ministers responsible for education and training and through the registration requirements legislated for training providers under national VET regulation. We collect statistics on all accredited training in Australia from all registered training providers under the national 'total VET activity' (TVA) initiative.

Our statistical collections include the national VET provider (students and courses), finance, apprentice and trainee, and VET in Schools collections. The survey data include student outcomes and employers' use and views of the VET system. We also conduct the analytical program of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY).

Our strategic plan

The 2014–16 strategic plan focused on informing and influencing through the provision of timely and robust information and research. The five strategic directions for 2014–16 were to:

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

NCVER's strategic plan for 2017–20 has been developed and is currently under review by the Board.

Measuring our success

NCVER's success is measured by:

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

Chair's message



The last 12 months has seen significant challenges and fundamental changes in the national VET arena. This has resulted in a greater reliance on timely information and analysis for evidence-based decision making. There has never been a greater need for NCVER to provide high-quality data, insightful research and thought leadership.

During 2016–17, NCVER has been carefully considering how best to fulfil its role as an independent and respected source of knowledge on skills acquisition in Australia. NCVER focused on how the organisation can connect more fully with its diverse stakeholders within the VET sector – governments, public services, educational providers, academic researchers and business communities. NCVER fully appreciates that it must continue to grow and adapt its valued services and products. It needs to provide a more holistic user experience. It needs to ensure greater ease of access to information that shapes public policy on vocational education and skills.

NCVER has sought to achieve greater insight and perspectives from government shareholders and the wider VET community during the development of its new strategic plan. In a major enhancement of past practice, NCVER commissioned the NOUS Group to undertake an extensive consultation on the questions of NCVER's future role and to identify the diverse expectations of all stakeholders. It was recognised that in a data rich world, in which there has been significant growth in data literacy and desire for more 'real-time' information, that there are opportunities for NCVER to become more responsive and adaptive in meeting the needs of the market which it serves. This dialogue – based on a confidential survey, interviews and focus groups – will culminate in NCVER adopting a new strategic plan for the period 2017–20.

To prepare for challenges and changes, NCVER has actively repositioned itself and its work across many fronts during the

past year. After some four years work, NCVER's ambitious and complex capital infrastructure program has been completed, on time and on budget. The major strategic drivers of the Capital Investment Program (CIP) stemmed from recent policy initiatives of Australian governments, including the introduction of a measure of total VET activity (TVA) and a Unique Student Identifier (USI).

CIP incorporated major capital investment to rebuild the information technology platforms needed for NCVER to fulfil its obligations in collecting, validating and publishing its statistics, surveys and research reports. A new Portal provides unprecedented access to a wealth of new data in a range of more user-friendly formats. Of course, technology does not stand still. There will be the need for additional systems enhancements and greater capital investments in the future to further benefit data collection, quality and access. NCVER is committed to supporting the sector and its training providers, as never before.

Perhaps the most tangible evidence of change is that NCVER moved premises after 16 years. Its new location is still within the Adelaide CBD, but the more modern facilities offer a productive and collaborative environment for its people. At the time of the move, NCVER transferred much of its self-managed IT infrastructure into a managed services environment. This will provide improved systems performance, security and redundancy at reasonable cost. These transformative events were conducted without any interference to the delivery of NCVER services or outputs. That bears testimony, not only to careful planning, but to the extraordinary efforts of staff to ensure that services to stakeholders were not disrupted.

Across all its data, analytics and research outputs, the company is progressively improving its products and services.

Increased digital products output, data visualisations and infographics are supplementing and, in time, may even replace some traditional products.

The new products have been designed to be interactive and allow individual users to compare and manipulate data for their own needs. These innovations have been well received.

NCVER's aspiration is to satisfy all its multifarious users with widely differing needs, expertise and sophistication in using data and research.

NCVER worked closely with the Commonwealth's USI Register to successfully deliver the USI Transcript Service and update tool. This new student-centric service was made available in May 2017. The initiative expands NCVER's responsibilities and its value to the sector. It builds on the expanded range of relations that the company has with a large number of providers, with a majority that now submit their data directly to the company.

For the first time in 2016, the annual National Student Outcomes Survey was significantly expanded beyond those traditionally surveyed (those training with some government subsidy) to encompass fee-for-service graduates. This increased public understanding of graduate training experience and work outcomes. The 2017 National Student Outcomes Survey, now underway, will represent the largest survey that NCVER has ever conducted. Following the success of including fee-for-service graduates in 2016, the survey has expanded again to include fee-for-service subject completers. It will also provide registered training organisation (RTO) information for RTOs with 260 or more graduates in 2016, and course-level information for all courses with 300 or more graduates nationally in 2016.

NCVER has also focused on finding opportunities to bring together thought leaders from across the industry in order to discuss key challenges and potential solution pathways. This year saw two major forums convened: the Training Products Reform Symposium (August 2016) and the Apprenticeship Stakeholder Forum: The Future of Australian Apprenticeships (October 2016). The forum reports were released in January 2017.

A highlight of the year is always the National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'. In its 25th year, this was co-hosted with CQUniversity. Held in Rockhampton in July 2016, 137 delegates enjoyed high quality presentations themed around 'Equity, Engagement and the Evolution of VET'.

Other matters are more administratively mundane but vital for the financial sustainability of the company. New contracts between NCVER and the Commonwealth were signed for both the provision of statistical services and research services, based on the negotiation of Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs). NCVER also retained and actively pursued work for the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY).

In short, this year has been one of considerable achievement. Yet, as the extensive consultation process revealed, it is a challenge for NCVER to articulate its independence in a manner which equally pleases all stakeholders. The integrity of its data and analysis is taken as a given; however, a robust discussion is taking place around how explicit NCVER should be in participating in the public policy debate on vocational education and training. This much is clear: NCVER's reports often influence public discourse. To the extent that more people access them and find the data easy to use, NCVER's capacity to inform political discussion will grow.

This is the mission that the Board and its management, well led by Craig Fowler, share in common. Our goal is to take further significant strides forward in the year ahead.

Peter Shergold
Chair

2016–17 highlights

Influence policy and practice through research and statistical leadership and partnerships

- Making the most of total VET activity (TVA)

NCVER continued to expand the suite of products using TVA data by releasing a range of interactive data visualisation tools and research reports. This included detailed analysis of VET market structures and use of training products. These outputs will offer greater insight as more years of data become available.

- Research Prospectus progresses towards completion

NCVER developed a snapshot of the research activity undertaken against the four priority areas of the Research Prospectus. Information on the extensive range of projects completed and currently underway is available at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/about/research/national-research-priorities/research-prospectus-snapshot-on-progress>.



- Promoting discussion amongst thought leaders

NCVER brought together VET industry thought leaders to discuss key issues and potential solutions. This year saw forums convened for the Training Products Reform Symposium (August 2016) and the Apprenticeship Stakeholder Forum: The Future of Australian Apprenticeships (October 2016).

- National Student Outcomes Survey expands again

Australia's largest survey of VET students expanded again to almost half a million people who completed training in 2016. The 2017 survey includes more students from private training providers. NCVER is also asking more people why they did not complete a qualification to gain a better understanding of how people use the VET system and potential barriers to completion.

- Helping regulators, students from closed RTOs

NCVER is increasingly engaged with VET regulators, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, Student Identifiers Registrar and the USI Office to support their regulatory functions and ensure that as many students as possible have access to a USI transcript. This includes circumstances of RTO closure.



- Data linkage partnerships

NCVER is working with a range of government partners to enrich our understanding of the VET sector through linkages with other data sets. For example, *VET in Schools: training and labour market outcomes in VET school students* uses a linked dataset created in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to examine the employment and training destinations of VET in Schools students five years on.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes

● Successful upgrade of our capital infrastructure

After four years of work, NCVER's ambitious and complex Capital Investment Program has been completed, successfully meeting the program's objectives on time and within budget. These major improvements have facilitated delivery of important Australian Government initiatives (namely TVA and the Unique Student Identifier [USI]), and improved our wide range of products and services.

● NCVER's new office space and managed services

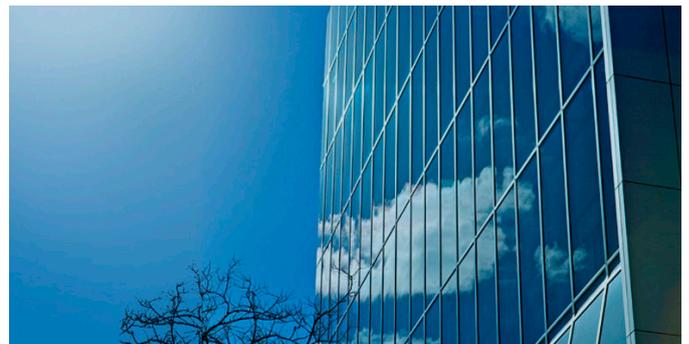
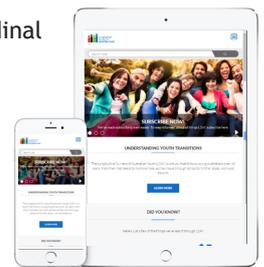
NCVER moved to a new location in Light Square within the Adelaide CBD, with facilities that offer a more productive and innovative working environment. Coinciding with the move, NCVER transferred much of its IT infrastructure to a managed services environment that provides improved system performance, security and redundancy. NCVER achieved these transformative events without disruption to services or outputs, creating operational and resource efficiencies.

● Improved finance systems and processes

NCVER implemented a range of improvements to financial systems and processes to improve the timeliness and quality of reporting, resulting in ongoing cost reductions, streamlined future system upgrades and strengthened financial information security and recoverability.

● New LSAY website

The newly re-platformed Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) website provides a contemporary, vibrant and strong communication channel for dynamic engagement with survey participants, researchers and policymakers.



● Supporting successful activation of the USI Transcript Service

NCVER provided a wide range of information technology, communication and assistance services to support the USI Transcript Service, which was successfully launched in partnership with the Student Identifiers Registrar and USI Office in May 2017. Education data for the service is supplied by NCVER from data submitted to the national VET collections. The transcripts will be of direct benefit to students.

Develop innovative products and services to meet the needs of stakeholders

● Better informed consumers

For the first time ever, NCVER provided course-level information from the National Student Outcomes Survey to MySkills for all courses with 300 or more graduates. Previously, information was only available for courses with 300 or more government-funded graduates.



● Pod Network completed

Since the initial launch of the VOCEDplus Pod Network in March 2016, NCVER has rolled out the full suite of 20 thematically arranged 'Pod' pages. The Pod Network allows for quick access to information pertinent to current VET research.



● Expanded range of TVA products

NCVER continued to look for opportunities to expand the range of TVA products, with the release of the following new statistical outputs:

- an extensive suite of data visualisation products:
 - VET students by industry
 - Total VET students and courses by provider type
 - Total VET students and courses by equity group
 - Atlas of total VET
 - VET graduate outcomes
- an excel 'data slicer' tool providing customisable state and territory data
- a publication on *Total VET graduate outcomes*.



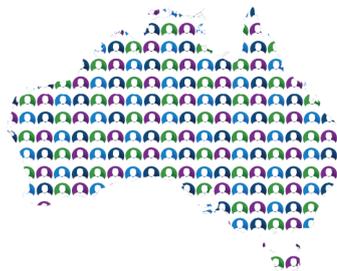
Ensure integrity, quality, relevance and transparency in our research and statistics

● AVETMISS release 8.0 – full steam ahead

Major work and national consultation was undertaken to ensure that the next version of the National VET Provider Standard (AVETMISS release 8.0) will come into operation from 1 January 2018. Enhancements include a reduced requirement for RTOs to provide data that can instead be sourced from the National VET Register (TGA), and improving the capture of blended delivery activity. To support this release, NCVET has made technical changes to systems, provided facts sheets, data bulletins, presentations, explanatory documentation and a revised VET data standard, all of which will support a smooth transition to the new standard.

● Improved national VET data coverage

Coverage of the National VET Provider Collection was further improved, with an increase in the number of data submissions received from RTOs and a reduction in the number of reported exemptions.



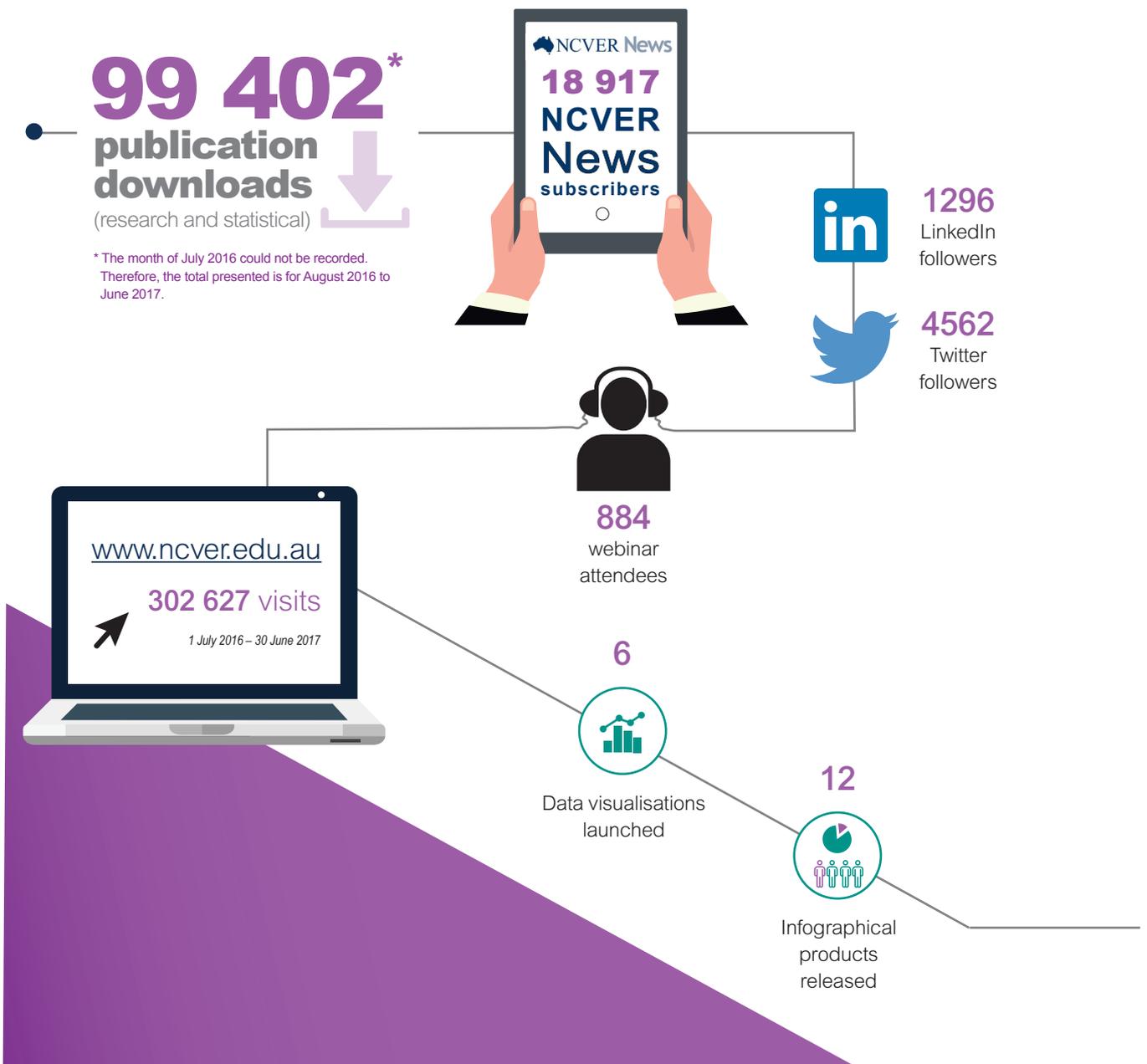
Be a highly skilled, adaptive workforce

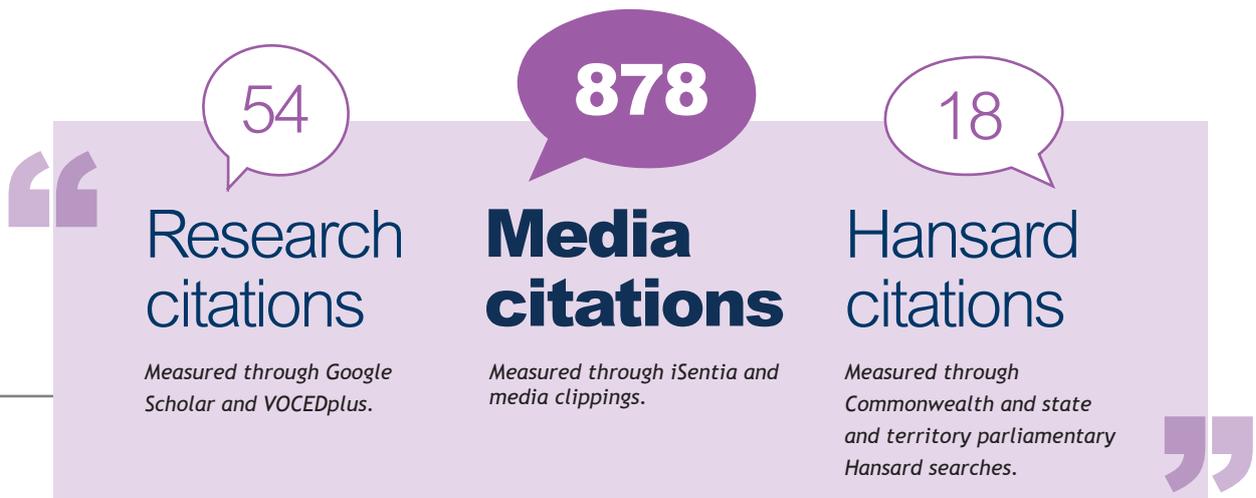
● Build NCVET and individual staff profiles externally

- 43 conference and stakeholder presentations
- 292 stakeholder briefings and meetings
- 100 training courses attended by staff

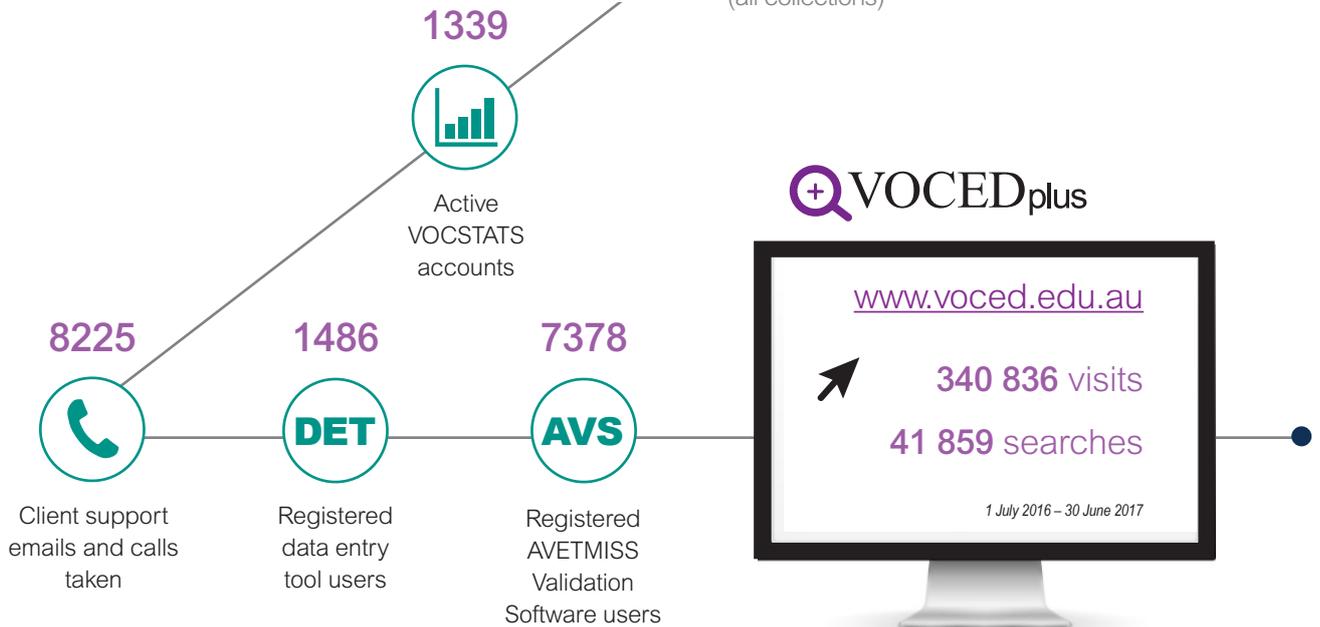


Connecting with us

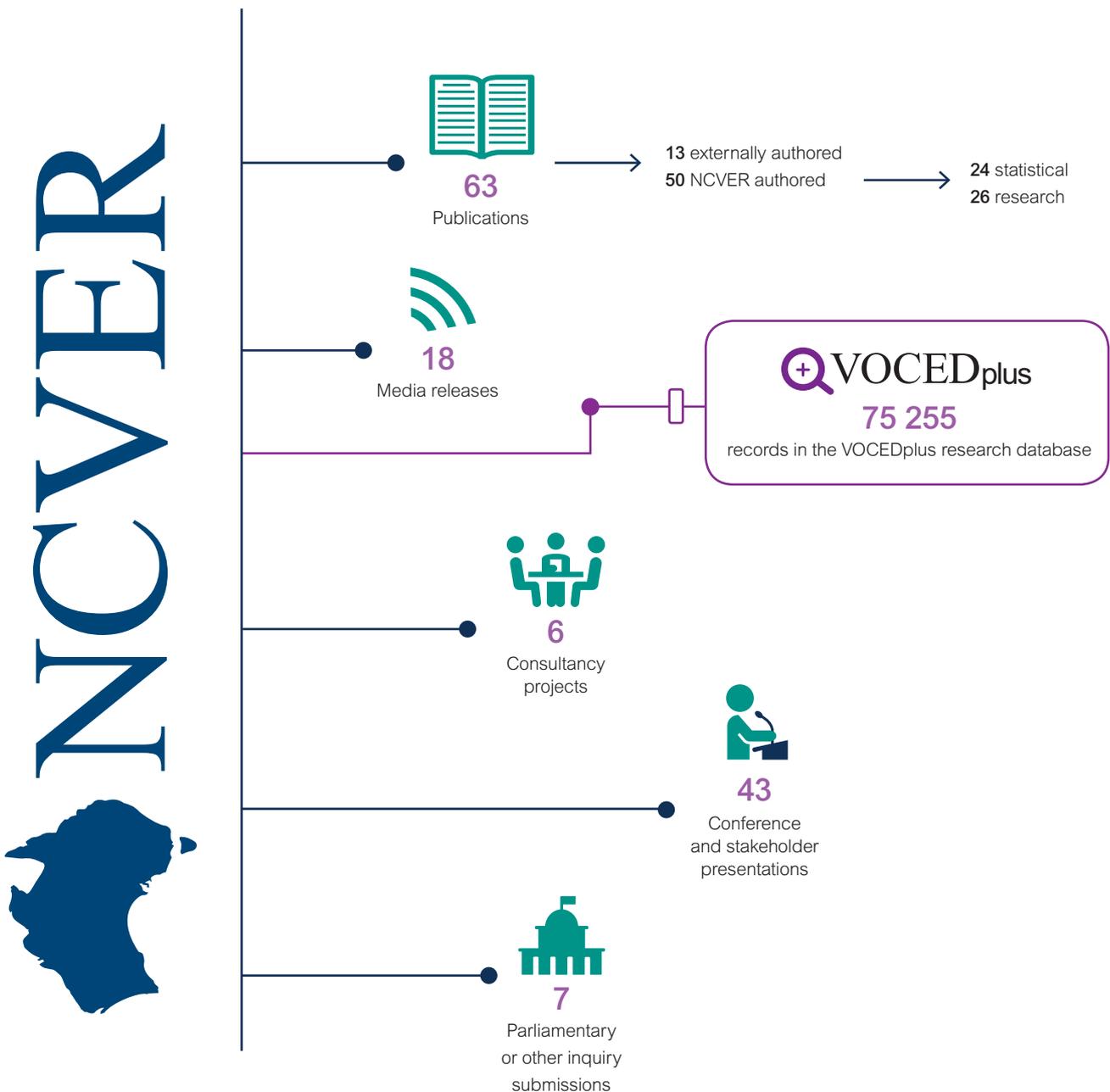




Over **4139 million** data records processed
(all collections)



What we deliver





Webinars

- An introduction to VOCSTATS
- Defining STEM: how an acronym became a shopping list
- How can private RTOs support young learners who have left school early?
- Get ready for AVETMISS release 8.0
- Vulnerable workers and occupational mobility
- What's the secret of organisations with apprentice completion rates around 90%?
- TVA data: a more comprehensive picture
- What makes for effective partnerships between employers and RTOs?
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in VET and employment outcomes: trends, challenges and strategies
- A world of tertiary education information at your fingertips: VOCEDplus and the Pod Network
- NCVET's USI Transcript Update Tool: demo and Q&A session 1 and 2
- Graduate outcomes for VET: the missing piece of the TVA puzzle



Research events

- 25th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'



Workshops

- 25th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills' workshops:
 - VOCEDplus: helping you understand the VET sector
 - Robust questionnaire design: a crash course
 - How to get the most out of your data
 - Practical evaluation: a survival guide.
- NCVET was asked by the Victorian Department of Education and Training to convene a national symposium of thought leaders to articulate their views on future development of training packages. The training products symposium was held in Melbourne on 9 August 2016.
The aim of the symposium was to ensure training products remain relevant in the future and support skills development as technology, jobs and industries change.
- NCVET, in conjunction with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, also hosted The Future of Australian Apprenticeships Stakeholder Forum in Canberra on 25 October 2016.
The aims of the forum were to stimulate thinking and robust discussion on the future of apprenticeships in Australia and to identify the potential future activities and actions that would enable apprenticeships to continue to service industry workforce needs and contribute to national productivity and growth. The invitation-only forum was attended by over 60 key stakeholders from across the VET sector, including representation from the business community, industry peak bodies, unions, training providers, government agencies and VET researchers.

Governance



Item	Number	Comment
Corporate status		A not-for-profit entity
Company members	9	Company members are the federal, state and territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training
Annual General Meeting		30 November 2017
Board members	9	At all times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ five of the Directors are nominated by the members of the company ▪ one of the Directors is nominated by the Australian Council of Trade Unions ▪ one of the Directors is nominated jointly by the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry ▪ one of the Directors is nominated by the Board on the recommendation of the Chair ▪ one of the Directors is the Managing Director of NCVER.
Board meeting dates	4	30 September 2016, Adelaide 14 December 2016, Sydney 17 March 2017, Adelaide 30 June 2017, Melbourne
Audit and Risk Committee members	4	As at 30 June 2017
Audit and Risk Committee meetings dates	4	29 September 2016, Adelaide 13 December 2016, Sydney 16 March 2017, Adelaide 29 June 2017, Melbourne
Net operating deficit	\$466 606	The deficit resulted from the recognition of amortisation expenditure associated with the development of intangible assets with related revenue recognised in prior periods, and relocation costs.
Employees (head count)	112	As at 30 June 2017

Company members

Company members are the federal, state and territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training. Company members as at 30 June 2017 are listed below.



Australian Government

Senator the Hon. Karen Andrews, MP
Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills



Australian Capital Territory

The Hon. Meegan Fitzharris, MLA
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research



New South Wales

The Hon. John Barilaro, MP
Minister for Skills



Northern Territory

The Hon. Michael Gunner, MLA
Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation



Queensland

The Hon. Yvette D'Ath, MP
Minister for Training and Skills



South Australia

The Hon. Susan Close, MP
Minister for Higher Education and Skills



Tasmania

The Hon. Matthew Groom, MP
Minister for Education and Training



Victoria

The Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC
Minister for Training and Skills



Western Australia

The Hon. Suzanne Ellery, MLC
Minister for Education and Training

Directors' report

NCVER Board

A board of nine directors sets the policies and strategic direction of NCVER and oversees the management of the company. The directors submit their report with respect to the company for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Company officers

The directors in office as at 30 June 2017 are:



Peter Shergold AC
Chair, NCVER Board and Member, Audit and Risk Committee
BA (Hons), MA, PhD, HonLittD, FASSA, FAICD, FAIM, FIPAA
Appointed July 2009



Subho Banerjee
Director, NCVER Board
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD
Appointed December 2013



Jenny Field
Director, NCVER Board
BTeach (Ed&Trng Adults), AdvDipBus, DipBusAdmin, CertIV (Trng&Ass), MBA (Executive)
Appointed January 2012



Pat Forward
Director, NCVER Board
BA, DipEd
Appointed January 2011



Helen Garnett PSM
Director, NCVER Board
BSc (Hons), PhD, PSM, FTSE, FAICD
Appointed May 2010



John Hart
Director, NCVER Board and Member, Audit and Risk Committee
BCom (Law), DipBus, FAICD
Appointed July 2008



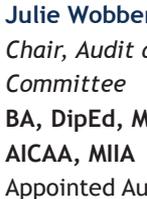
Simon Walker
Director, NCVER Board
Appointed November 2014



Suzanne Wauchope
Director, NCVER Board
BBus, Chartered Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor
Appointed June 2017



Craig Fowler
Managing Director, NCVER Board and Member, Audit and Risk Committee
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MBA
Appointed to Managing Director October 2014



Julie Wobber
Chair, Audit and Risk Committee
BA, DipEd, MBA, MAICD, AICAA, MIA
Appointed August 2013

Steven Peronace
Company Secretary
BA, CPA, GAICD
Appointed November 2012

Detailed profiles on the board directors are available on the NCVER Portal at <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/about/about-ncver/our-people>>.

Principal activities

The principal activities in which the company was engaged during the year were: undertaking and managing research in vocational education and training; collecting VET statistics; and, disseminating information relating to these activities.

Operating results

The company is a not-for-profit company and is exempt from lodging income tax returns. Any monies remaining at the end of a financial year are added to the accumulated funds. The net operating deficit was \$466 606.

Shares, issues and dividends

The company does not issue any shares or debentures and does not and will not pay dividends.

After balance-date events and likely developments

No matters and circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in financial years subsequent to the financial year ending 30 June 2017.

Environmental regulation

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to assist the Board of Directors to fulfil its corporate governance responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structures, privacy controls, risk management systems and audit processes. The committee has an independent chair.

During the 2016–17 financial year, the Audit and Risk Committee focused on its obligations regarding privacy compliance, including embracing a customer centric and beyond compliance approach, as well as reviewing privacy impact assessments.

Furthermore, the committee reviewed a number of internal audits, including a review of internal controls associated with contract management, as well as a review of financial management system improvements. Recommendations arising from these audits were adopted and strengthen the company's legal and financial reporting functions.

The committee also considered a range of financial matters including the company's funds management and accounting policies, particularly with respect to accounting for revenue recognition and leases. The committee has also maintained its strong focus on reviewing and monitoring major risks, including privacy, IT and contract management risks, as well as risks associated with short term but successful projects associated with the company's relocation into new premises and transition to IT managed services. The committee also continues to review the company's staffing profile.

The recommendations to the Board resulting from these reviews have assisted the company to meet its statutory and prudential obligations as well as fulfil its corporate governance responsibilities.

Directors' benefits

The Board hereby states that during the 12 months to 30 June 2016:

- a) No Director of the company, no firm of which the Director is a member or no body corporate in which a Director has a substantial financial interest, other than specified in part (b), has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the Director, firm or body corporate and the company;
- b) No Director of the company has received directly or indirectly from the company any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value other than as shown in the accounts as received in aggregate by Directors and other than the Managing Director receiving remuneration for services provided to the company under the normal terms and conditions of his employment.

Directors' report

Meetings of Directors

During the year, four Board meetings and four Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held. Attendances were:

	Board meetings (number)		Audit and Risk committee meetings (number)	
	<i>Eligible to attend</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Eligible to attend</i>	<i>Attended</i>
Peter Shergold	4	4	4	4
Subho Banerjee	4	4	1	1
Craig Fowler	4	4	4	4
Jenny Field	4	4		
Pat Forward	4	3		
Helen Garnett	4	4		
John Hart	4	4	4	4
Craig Robertson ¹	2	2	2	2
Simon Walker	4	4		
Suzanne Wauchope ²	1	1		
Julie Wobber ³			4	4

- Note:
- 1 Appointment ceased 24 February 2017.
 - 2 Appointment 30 June 2017.
 - 3 External member and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee only.
 - 4 An observer from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training is invited to attend the Audit and risk Committee.

Indemnifying officer or auditor

The company has not, during or since the financial year, in respect of any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company or of a related body corporate:

- indemnified or made any relevant agreement for indemnifying against a liability incurred as an officer or auditor, including costs and expenses in successfully defending legal proceedings; or
- paid or agreed to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring against a liability incurred as an officer or auditor for the costs or expenses to defend legal proceedings.

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under Section 60–40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 is set out on page 21.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors at Adelaide, on behalf of the Directors.



Peter Shergold
Chair



Craig Fowler
Managing Director

Dated at Adelaide this 29th day of September 2017.

Auditor's independence declaration



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

In accordance with section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the board members of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2017, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in respect of the audit.

Nexia Edwards Marshall

Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants

BDMorkunas

Brett Morkunas
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

29 September 2017

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Financial reports

Statement of profit and loss

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
REVENUE			
Conferences and workshops		42 739	63 501
Contributions from members		1 453 836	1 443 087
Contract revenue	3	21 489 267	21 702 874
Interest		303 691	446 217
Publications		2 161	6 726
Sundries	4	165 324	175 628
Total revenue		23 457 018	23 838 033
EXPENSES			
Equipment lease interest		3 807	9 558
Premise lease interest	13.1	101 605	-
Operating expenses	2.1	12 723 911	13 437 355
Salaries and related payments	2.2	11 094 301	11 424 313
Total expenses		23 923 624	24 871 226
NET OPERATING DEFICIT	6	(466 606)	(1 033 193)
NET DECREASE IN EQUITY		(466 606)	(1 033 193)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
NET OPERATING DEFICIT	6	(466 606)	(1 033 193)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(466 606)	(1 033 193)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		(466 606)	(1 033 193)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets		3 142 769	2 519 184
Receivables	7	6 492 560	728 557
Investments		8 496 465	12 050 000
Prepayments		346 645	511 859
Total current assets		18 478 439	15 809 600
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, furniture and equipment	8	8 004 294	336 291
Intangible assets	9	7 057 602	8 053 981
Total non-current assets		15 061 896	8 390 272
TOTAL ASSETS		33 540 335	24 199 872
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	872 746	709 471
Provisions	12	2 011 020	1 748 056
Lease liability	13.1	254 410	81 261
Other liabilities	13.2	12 298 214	10 082 077
Total current liabilities		15 436 390	12 620 865
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	12	258 594	178 396
Lease liability	13.1	6 919 356	8 009
Total non-current liabilities		7 177 950	186 405
TOTAL LIABILITIES		22 614 340	12 807 270
NET ASSETS		10 925 996	11 392 602
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	6	10 925 996	11 392 602
TOTAL EQUITY		10 925 996	11 392 602

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 Inflows (outflows) \$	2016 Inflows (outflows) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from members, customers etc.	21 480 307	25 814 123
Payments to suppliers and employees	(21 910 202)	(23 147 531)
Interest paid	(105 412)	(9 558)
Interest received	264 309	378 704
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(270 998)	3 035 738
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for furniture, equipment and leased premises	(814 104)	(115 533)
Payments for computer software	(1 704 074)	(3 347 700)
(Payments for) receipts from investments	3 553 535	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	1 035 357	(3 463 233)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments to reduce equipment lease liability	(81 582)	(71 021)
Payments to reduce premise lease liability	(59 192)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(140 774)	(71 021)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	623 585	(498 516)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	2 519 184	3 017 700
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	3 142 769	2 519 184

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	\$
Retained earnings at 1 July 2015	6	12 425 795
Net operating deficit for 2015—16		(1 033 193)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2016	6	11 392 602
Net operating deficit for 2016—17		(466 606)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2017		10 925 996
Total equity at reporting date		10 925 996

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1 Statement of accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd applies Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements as set out in AASB 1053: Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 29 September 2017 by the directors of the Company.

1.2 New and amended accounting policies

During the current year the Company early-adopted AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15), AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-profit Entities (AASB 1058) and AASB 16 Leases (AASB 16).

The accounting policies in relation to these early-adopted accounting standards are described in Note 1.4, Note 1.10 and Note 1.12 respectively.

For the current period, the material effects of the adoption of AASB 16 are as follows:

	Previous accounting policy	Adjustment	New accounting policy
	\$	\$	\$
Property, furniture and equipment	757 521	7 246 773	8 004 294
Lease liability			
– current	(7,688)	(246,722)	(254 410)
– non-current	-	(6 919 356)	(6 919 356)
Depreciation expense	253 526	154 187	407 713
Interest expense	3 807	101 605	105 412
Short-term lease expense	672 494	(160 797)	511 697

There were no material effects from the adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 for the current period.

Although the accounting policies have been applied retrospectively, there has been no material impact on the relevant comparative figures and as such no adjustments have been made to the comparative figures.

1.3 Income tax

The Company is an educational research institution and as such is exempt from income tax under section 23 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

1.4 Revenue and economic dependence

The Company is dependent upon the Australian Government Department of Education and Training for the majority of its revenue, with revenue from the Department constituting approximately 93% of NCVER's total revenue in the 2016–17 financial year. Most of that sum relates to two major contracts for the Management of the National Vocational Education and Training Research Program and the Management of the

Statistical Services Program for the Australian Vocational Education and Training System.

The Company recognises revenue in relation to contracts with customers on a basis that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve this, the Company applies all of the following steps:

- a) Identify the contract with a customer
- b) Identify the separate performance obligations in the contract
- c) Determine the transaction price
- d) Allocate the transaction price to the separate performance obligations in the contract; and
- e) Recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation.

Contract revenue comprises revenue from externally funded commercial research projects and the above-mentioned Australian Government Department of Education and Training programs managed by the Company.

Contract revenue received in advance represents the excess of monies received over the revenue recognised upon the satisfaction of the separate performance obligations in the contract.

Contributions from members are recognised as revenue upon receipt.

Revenue from sale of publications is recognised when the publications have been dispatched.

Revenue from interest is recognised on a proportional basis, taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from conferences and workshops is recognised upon the delivery of service to attendees.

1.5 Significant items affecting the financial statements

During the year ended 30 June 2017, the Statement of Comprehensive Income reported a net operating deficit of \$466 606.

The deficit has primarily arisen as a consequence of the Company recognising depreciation associated with intangible assets. The recognition of the depreciation reverses the recognition of prior year surpluses in accordance with AASB 1004: Contributions, where the contract income associated with the contract for Management of the Statistical Services Program for the Australian Vocational Education and Training System and the contract for work to extend the scope of the data in the provider collection to inform Council of Australian Governments targets, was partly used for the creation/replacement of intangible assets. The intangible assets include an expanded statistical database, the development of a Unique Student Identifier transcript, and related software applications.

Income is recognised as the fair value of the consideration received at the time when the recognition criteria associated with these contracts have been met. Contract income of \$2 665 305 has been recognised in regard to the development of the above-mentioned intangible assets in the Statement of Comprehensive Income during the financial year. Capital expenditure of \$1 653 599 in relation to the development of the statistical database, the development of a Unique Student Identifier transcript, and related software applications has been recognised as intangible assets in accordance with AASB 138: Intangible Assets and will be amortised in future periods as used, along with \$499 625 for the acquisition of hardware and software to support this development.

During the year \$4 289 574 was transferred from work in progress to software, as the build of these assets were finalised. Amortisation and depreciation of \$2 807 141 was recorded against these capital items.

The impact of the recognition of the income and the capitalisation of the associated expenditure has significantly contributed to the net operating surpluses in previous years, with this trend beginning to reverse in 2014-15 as the amortisation of the intangible assets occur.

1.6 Employee benefits

Provision is made for employee entitlement benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up

to the reporting date. These benefits include annual leave and long service leave. Related oncosts consequential to the employment of employees have been included in 'Payables'.

Liabilities arising in respect of annual leave and any other employee entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts. All other employee entitlement liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. In determining the present value of future cash outflows, the interest rates attaching to government guaranteed securities, which have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related liability, are used.

Payments are made by the Company to externally managed employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred. The Company has no legal obligation to cover any shortfall in the funds' obligation to provide benefits to employees on retirement.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Investment

Investment represents bank bills and term deposits that are recognised at their purchase price. Interest is brought to account as earned at the agreed interest rate for the relevant period.

1.9 Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated on a straight-line basis so as to write off the net cost of each item of property, furniture and equipment over its expected useful life.

Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

Depreciation rates applied to asset categories are as follows:

- Furniture - 15%
- Computer equipment - 33%
- Computer software - 25%

Other equipment - 20%

Leased premises - 8%

1.10 Property, furniture, equipment and intangible assets

Each class of property, furniture, equipment and intangible assets is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The minimum threshold for capitalisation of individual assets is \$300.

Leased premises

Right-of-use assets are initially measured at cost. The cost comprises the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability (refer to Note 1.12), any lease payments made before the commencement date less any lease incentives received, any initial direct costs incurred by the lessee and an estimate of the costs to be incurred by the lessee for obligations arising under the lease. Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the term of the lease.

Improvements made to leased premises (that is office fitout) are measured on the cost basis and amortised over the term of the current lease.

Furniture and equipment

Furniture and equipment are measured on the cost basis or, in the case of any impaired assets, on the basis of recoverable value. Assessment of Company assets and accumulated depreciation has revealed no impaired assets at this time, with no assets estimated to be carried at values exceeding their recoverable amounts.

Intangible assets - software

Software is recorded at cost. Software has a finite life and is carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. It has an estimated useful life of between one and four years.

1.11 Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of

the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared with the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the Company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is debited against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

1.12 Leases

The Company recognises assets (refer Note 1.10) and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. The lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the lease term.

1.13 Creditors

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not billed to the Company. Payments are normally settled within 30 days.

1.14 Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except:

- Where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.
- For receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of tax assets or tax liabilities.

1.15 Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (that is, trade date accounting is adopted). Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transactions costs.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method or cost. Fair value represents the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as:

- i. the amount at which the financial asset or liability is measured at initial recognition
- ii. less principal repayments
- iii. plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference, if any, between the amount initially recognised and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method
- iv. less any reduction for impairment.

The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying value with a consequential recognition of an income or expense in profit or loss.

i. Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Receivables are included in current assets, except for those which are not expected to mature within 12 months after the end of the reporting period, which will be classified as non-current assets.

ii. Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Held-to-maturity investments are included in non-current assets, except for those which are expected to mature within 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

iii. Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

1.16 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

1.17 Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

1.18 Key estimates and judgments

Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company.

Key estimates

i. Impairment

At 30 June 2017 the directors reviewed the recoverability of non-current assets, being property, furniture and equipment and intangible assets. Based on this review the directors are satisfied that the carrying value does not exceed the recoverable amount at 30 June 2017.

ii. Key judgments - provision for impairment of receivables

The directors have reviewed the carrying value of receivables and believe that the full amount of the receivables is recoverable, and therefore no provision for impairment has been made.

Key judgments

i. Employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: Employee Benefits (September 2011) defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. As the Company expects that most employees will use all of their annual leave entitlements in the same year in which they are earned or during the 12-month period that follows, the directors believe that obligations for annual leave entitlements do not satisfy the definition of other long-term employee benefits.

2 Expenses breakdown

2.1 Operating expenses

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Contractors - surveys		2 155 823	2 417 048
Depreciation and amortisation	8.2, 9.2	3 108 166	4 888 220
Short-term lease expense	15	511 697	770 840
Other office accommodation expenses		316 306	258 407
Managed fund grant payments		833 345	485 548
Computer software support		1 292 390	1 091 352
Contractors - research and other		3 381 460	1 795 876
Telephone and postage		105 933	144 576
Computer hardware support		112 660	218 995
Travel and accommodation		256 632	255 854
Conference and seminar costs		35 799	100 723
Staff training		135 950	366 116
Office supplies and expenses		94 449	116 289
Loss on disposal		13 660	-
Printing of publications		18 084	107 856
Purchase of publications		74 145	72 968
Directors' fees		71 596	41 042
Other expenses		74 846	81 634
Advertising and recruitment costs		14 716	129 200
Insurance premiums		43 172	36 546
Audit fees		29 240	19 655
Equipment and software (non-capital)		43 842	38 610
		12 723 911	13 437 355

Managed fund grant payments' relate to research funds managed under contract to the Department of Education and Training for the management of the National Vocational Education and Training Research Program. 'Contractors - surveys' costs relate to surveys conducted under the contract with the Department of Education and Training for the management of the Statistical Services Program for the Australian Vocational Education and Training System.

2.2 Salaries and related payments

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Staff salaries	9 021 503	8 812 117
Termination benefits	16 618	124 262
Related payments	2 056 180	2 487 934
	11 094 301	11 424 313

3 Contract revenue

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Management of Statistical Services Program	11 370 532	9 444 651
Management of National VET Research Program	4 278 350	2 763 447
Other contracts	5 840 385	9 494 776
	21 489 267	21 702 874

4 Sundries

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Surveys mailout fees	137 418	94 408
Data requests and other	27 906	81 220
	165 324	175 628

5 Remuneration of directors and executives

5.1 Directors' fees

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income received or due and receivable by the directors of NCVET Ltd from the Company	71 596	41 042

Number of Company directors whose income from the Company (including superannuation contributions) was within the following bands:

	No.	No.
\$0 --- \$9 999	8	8
\$30 000 --- \$39 999	-	1
\$50 000 --- \$59 999	1	-

The 2016-17 director's fees are higher when compared to 2015-16, due to a Board meeting held on 1 July 2016, but which was treated as a 2015-16 governance meeting.

The names of Company directors who have held office during the financial year are:

Peter Shergold	John Hart
Jennifer Field	Subho Banerjee
Patricia Forward	Simon Walker
Craig Fowler	Craig Robertson (resigned 24/02/2017)
Helen Garnett	Suzanne Wauchope (appointed 30/06/2017)

Amounts paid to or on behalf of directors are disclosed in aggregate as the directors believe that the provision of full particulars would be unreasonable. The Managing Director has not been included in the Directors' fees.

5.2 Executives' remuneration

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income received or due and receivable by the executive officers of NCVER Ltd from the Company	770 630	818 012

Number of Company Executive officers whose income from the Company (including superannuation contributions) was within the following bands:

	No.	No.
\$0 --- \$9 999	-	-
\$10 000 --- \$19 999	-	-
\$20 000 --- \$29 999	-	1
\$120 000 --- \$129 999	-	-
\$180 000 --- \$189 999	-	-
\$200 000 --- \$209 999	1	1
\$210 000 --- \$219 999	1	1
\$220 000 --- \$229 999	-	-
\$370 000 --- \$379 999	1	1

See note 17 for key management personnel included in the Executive remuneration.

The Managing Director, as an Executive Director of the Company, has been included in the Executives' remuneration note.

6 Reconciliation of net operating deficit to retained earnings

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Net operating deficit	(466 606)	(1 033 193)
Add		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	11 392 602	12 425 795
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	10 925 996	11 392 602

7 Receivables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Trade and other receivables	6 492 560	728 557
Balance as at 30 June 2017	6 492 560	728 557

8 Property, furniture and equipment

8.1 Composition

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Leased property improvements		
Leased property improvements	-	925 380
Less accumulated amortisation	-	(893 427)
Total leased property improvements	-	31 953
Leased equipment		
Leased equipment	44 418	380 221
Less accumulated depreciation	(38 930)	(370 340)
Total leased equipment	5 488	9 881
Furniture and equipment		
Furniture and equipment at cost	1 499 582	2 101 441
Less accumulated depreciation	(747 549)	(1 806 984)
Total furniture and equipment	752 033	294 457
Leased premises		
Leased premises	7 400 960	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(154 187)	-
Total leased premises	7 246 773	-
Total property, furniture and equipment	8 004 294	336 291

The leased premises represent the Company's right-to-use the property at 60 Light Square, Adelaide. Refer to note 13.1 for the corresponding leased premises liability.

8.2 Movements

	Leasehold improvement	Leased equipment	Furniture and equipment	Leased premises	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gross carrying amount					
Balance at 30 June 2016	925 380	380 221	2 101 441	-	3 407 042
Additions	-	-	688 414	7 400 960	8 089 374
Disposals - assets written down to nil	(918 180)	(335 803)	(1 283 813)	-	(2 537 796)
Disposals - assets written off	(7 200)	-	(6 460)	-	(13 660)
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	44 418	1 499 582	7 400 960	8 944 960
Accumulated depreciation					
Balance at 30 June 2016	(893 427)	(370 340)	(1 806 984)	-	(3 070 751)
Disposals	918 139	335 803	1 283 856	-	2 537 798
Depreciation expense	(24 712)	(4 393)	(224 421)	(154 187)	(407 713)
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	(38 930)	(747 549)	(154 187)	(940 666)
Net book value					
Balance at 30 June 2016	31 953	9 881	294 457	-	336 291
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	5 488	752 033	7 246 773	8 004 294

9 Intangible assets

9.1 Composition

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Computer software		
Computer software at cost	17 973 576	15 282 463
Computer software - work in progress	-	2 635 975
Less accumulated depreciation	(10 915 974)	(9 864 457)
Total computer software	7 057 602	8 053 981

9.2 Movements

	Computer software	Work in progress	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Gross carrying amount			
Balance at 30 June 2016	15 282 463	2 635 975	17 918 438
Additions	50 475	1 653 599	1 704 074
Disposals - assets written down to nil	(1 648 936)	-	(1 648 936)
Capitalisation - internally generated software	4 289 574	(4 289 574)	-
Balance at 30 June 2017	17 973 576	-	17 973 576
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation			
Balance at 30 June 2016	(9 864 457)	-	(9 864 457)
Disposals	1 648 936	-	1 648 936
Depreciation expense	(2 700 453)	-	(2 700 453)
Balance at 30 June 2017	(10 915 974)	-	(10 915 974)
Net book value			
Balance at 30 June 2016	5 418 006	2 635 975	8 053 981
Balance at 30 June 2017	7 057 602	-	7 057 602

10 Intellectual property

Following consideration by the Board of Directors, it has been resolved to place no value on intellectual property in the Company financial statements at this time due to the lack of probable and measurable future economic benefits deriving from identified intellectual property.

11 Payables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Current		
Creditors	42 235	106 225
Accrued expenses	830 511	603 246
	872 746	709 471

12 Provisions and related oncosts

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Current		
<i>Annual leave</i>		
Provision for annual leave - current	725 183	643 450
Oncosts included in payables	129 663	115 025
	854 846	758 475
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Provision for long service leave - current	980 806	837 839
Oncosts included in payables	175 368	151 742
	1 156 174	989 581
Total current	2 011 020	1 748 056
Non-current		
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Provision for long service leave - non-current	177 414	151 041
Oncosts included in payables	31 180	27 355
	208 594	178 396
<i>Leased premises</i>		
Provision for make good	50 000	-
Total non-current	258 594	178 396

Provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave and long service leave.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience the Company expects the full amount of annual leave to be settled within the next 12 months but does not expect long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

13 Other liabilities

13.1 Lease liability

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current			
Equipment lease liability		7 688	81 261
Leased premises liability		246 722	-
Total current	18.1	254 410	81 261
Non-current			
Equipment lease liability		-	8 009
Leased premises liability		6 919 356	-
Total non-current	18.1	6 919 356	8 009

The leased premises represent the Company's right-to-use the property at 60 Light Square, Adelaide. The lease commenced on 1 April 2017 and expires on 31 March 2024, with a right of renewal of 5 years. Lease payments will be indexed by 3.25% each year. Total cash outflow for the year is presented in the Statement of Cash Flows.

13.2 Other liabilities

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current		
Contract revenue received in advance	11 791 383	10 081 504
GST liability	506 831	-
Unearned revenue	-	573
	12 298 214	10 082 077

14 Members' guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the articles of association state that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2017 the number of members was nine (2016: 9).

15 Expenditure commitments

The total value of expenditure commitments not provided for and payable as at the end of the reporting period is nil (2016: \$593,897).

Expenditure commitments at 30 June 2016 related to the the lease of:

Property at 33 King William Street, Adelaide (expired March 2017)	\$ 504 627
Computer hardware (expired July 2017)	\$ 84 134
Photocopiers (to expire October 2017)	\$ 5 136
Total	\$ 593 897

As a result of the Company early adopting AASB 16 Leases, the lease payments for the property at 33 King William Street, Adelaide are considered short-term lease payments (refer note 2.1) and the lease of the new property at 60 Light Square, Adelaide is measured and recognised in accordance with the accounting policy at Note 1.12.

As the computer hardware and photocopier leases (the equipment leases per note 13.1) expire in July 2017 and October 2017 and the value of these lease liabilities and lease payments is insignificant, these leases have not been measured and recognised as short-term or low value leases at 30 June 2017 or 30 June 2016.

16 Contingent liabilities

There are no material contingent liabilities at year end.

17 Related party disclosures

Directors of the Company and details of their remuneration are disclosed in note 5. There were no other related party transactions during the year.

The names and titles of other key management personnel who have held office during the financial year are:

Jodieann Dawe	National Manager, Research and Engagement
Mette Creaser	National Manager, Statistics and Analytics

18 Financial risk management

The Company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, investments in term deposits and accounts receivable and payable.

18.1 Interest rate risk

The Company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out as follows:

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Financial assets			
Cash		3 142 769	2 519 184
Receivables	7	6 492 560	728 557
Investment		8 496 465	12 050 000
Total financial assets		18 131 794	15 297 741
Financial liabilities			
Creditors	11	42 235	106 225
Accrued expenses	11	830 511	603 246
Lease liability	13	7 173 766	89 270
Total financial liabilities		8 046 512	798 741

Cash and investments are held with major Australian authorised deposit-taking institutions. The investment and equipment lease liabilities have a fixed rate of interest. Changes to interest rates have been reviewed and determined to not be material.

18.2 Net fair values

The net fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities (as presented in the table in note 18.1) of the Company approximates their carrying value.

19 Events after reporting date

The directors are not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

Directors' declaration

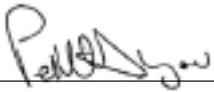
The Directors declare that the financial statements and notes preceding this declaration:

- (a) comply with the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance, represented by the results of its operations and cash flows, for the financial period ended on that date.

In the Directors' opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Peter Shergold
Chair



Craig Fowler
Managing Director

Dated at Adelaide this 29th day of September 2017.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH LTD

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd, is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Independent audit report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH LTD (CONT)

Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH LTD (CONT)

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report (cont)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Nexia Edwards Marshall

Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants

B Morkunas

Brett Morkunas
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

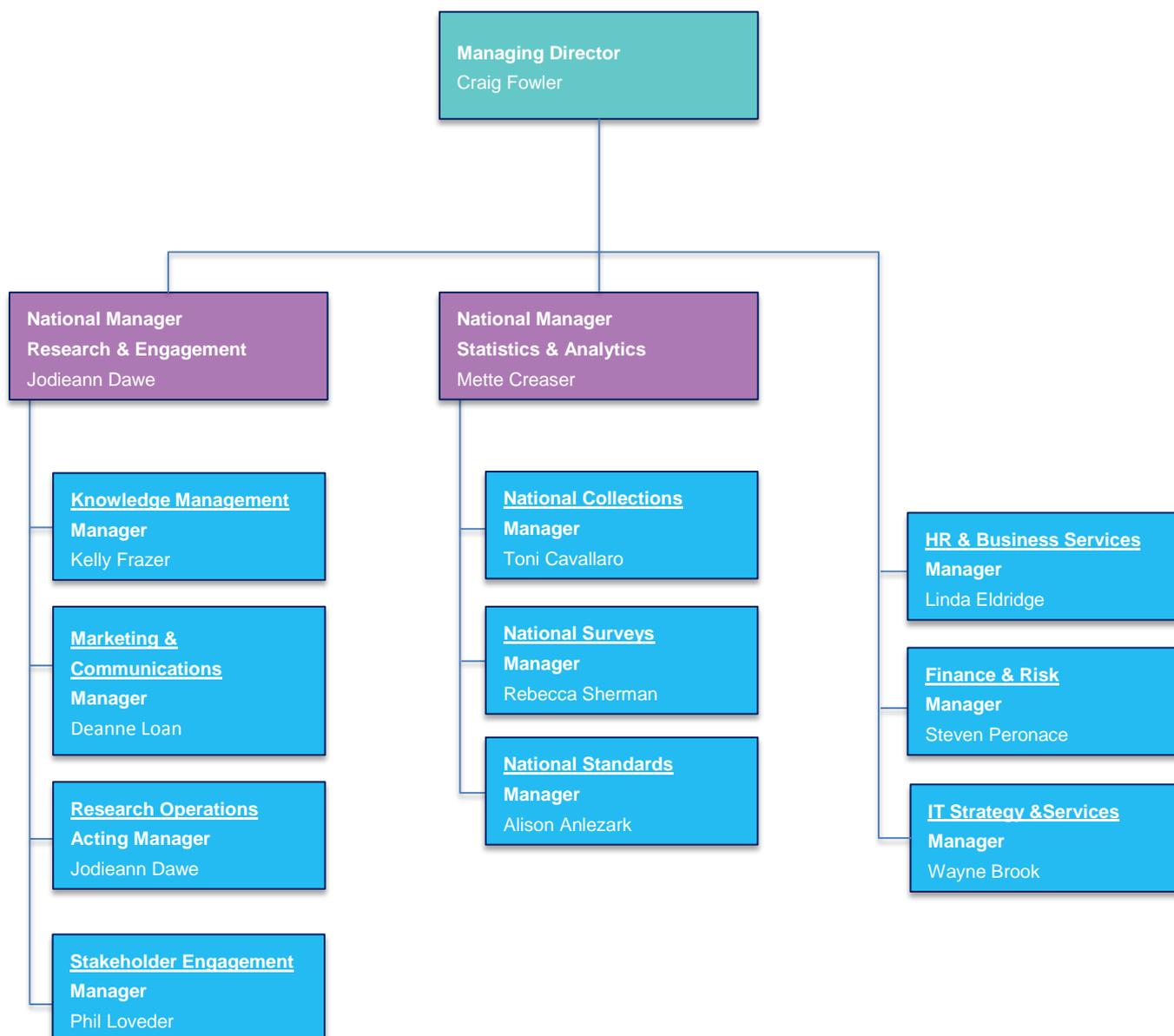
29 September 2017

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Appendices

Company structure



Executive

Craig Fowler, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MBA
Managing Director

Mette Creaser, BAgSc (Hons), PCMgt, PhD
National Manager, Statistics and Analytics

Jodieann Dawe, MApp Sc, MBA, GradDipFinSecCorpLaw
National Manager, Research and Engagement

Membership of external committees

As at 30 June 2017, NCVET staff (as listed) were members of the following external committees:

- Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated: Rebecca Sherman
- Australian Government Statistical Forum: Craig Fowler
- Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association: organisational membership
- Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association Executive Committee (Co-opted): Josie Misko
- International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship: Jo Hargreaves
- Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management — Editorial Board: Craig Fowler
- National Skills Research Agency (South Africa), Editorial Board, *Skills at Work Journal: Theory and Practice*: Phil Loveder
- Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services, VET Working Group: Toni Cavallaro
- South Australian Council of Adult Literacy Executive (Co-opted): Josie Misko
- Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education (Negara Brunei Darussalam), Editorial Board, *Voctech International Journal*: Phil Loveder
- TVA Working Group: Mette Creaser, Toni Cavallaro
- Unique Student Identifier, Combined Working Group: Mette Creaser, Alison Anlezark, Katherine McGregor
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNEVOC Pacific Network: Phil Loveder
- Vocational Education and Training Practitioner Research Network (VPRN): Phil Loveder

Published work

The following work was published during 2016–17. Superseded publications without links can be found in the VOCEDplus database <www.voced.edu.au>.

- Ackehurst, M, Polvere, R & Windley, G 2017, [Indigenous participation in VET: understanding the research](#)
- Atkinson, G & Stanwick, J 2016, [Trends in VET: policy and participation](#)
- Atkinson, G 2016, [Work-based learning and work-integrated learning: fostering engagement with employers](#)
- Beddie, F, Hargreaves, J & Atkinson, G 2017, [Evolution not revolution: views on training products reform](#)
- Buchanan, J, Raffaele, C, Glozier, N & Kanagaratnam, A 2016, [Beyond mentoring: social support structures for young Australian carpentry apprentices](#)
- Burke, G 2016, [Data on total investment in VET: what should be collected](#)
- Cameron, L 2016, [The salience of diversity in foundation skills contexts, pedagogies and research](#)
- Couldrey, M & Loveder, P 2017, [The future of Australian apprenticeships: report of the stakeholder forum](#)
- Foley, P 2016, [Quarterly reporting of government-funded activity to the 2015 National VET Provider Collection](#)
- Fowler, C 2017, [The boundaries and connections between the VET and higher education sectors: 'confused, contested and collaborative'](#)
- Griffin, T 2016, [Costs and benefits of education and training for the economy, business and individuals](#)
- Guenther, J, Bat, Melodie, Stephens, A, Skewes, J, Boughton, B, Williamson, F, Woollorton, S, Marshall, M & Dwyer, A 2017, [Enhancing training advantage for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners](#)
- Hargreaves, J, Stanwick, J & Skujins, P 2017, [The changing nature of apprenticeships: 1996–2016](#)
- Hodge, H, Smith, R, Field, J & Flynn, M 2017, [The contribution of VET student placement to innovation in host organisations](#)
- Korbelt, P & Misko, J 2016, [Uptake and utility of VET qualifications](#)
- Korbelt, P & Misko, J 2016, [VET provider market structures: history, growth and change](#)
- Korbelt, P & Misko, J 2016, [VET provider market structures: infographic](#)
- Korbelt, P & Misko, J 2017, [VET provider market structures: registered training organisations – infographic](#)
- Korbelt, P & Misko, J 2017, [VET provider market structures: students and enrolments – infographic](#)
- Korbelt, P 2016, [Measuring STEM in vocational education and training](#)
- Mayer, D 2016, [Exploring perspectives on adult language, literacy and numeracy](#)
- Medlin, J 2016, [The Australian literacy and numeracy workforce: a literature review](#)
- Myconos, G, Clarke, K & Te Riele, K 2016, [Shedding light: private 'for profit' training providers and young early school leavers](#)
- NCVET 2016, [2015–16 Annual report](#)
- NCVET 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2015 – annual](#)
- NCVET 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2016 – June quarter](#)
- NCVET 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2016 – March quarter](#)
- NCVET 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2015](#)
- NCVET 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: financial information 2015](#)

- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses 2015](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded student outcomes 2016](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses: January to June 2016](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses: January to March 2016](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: the likelihood of completing a government-funded VET program 2010–14](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: total VET graduate outcomes 2016](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: total VET students and courses 2015](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: VET in schools 2015](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: young people in education and training 2015](#)
- NCVER 2016, [AVETMISS 8.0 for VET providers: what's changing from release 7.0](#)
- NCVER 2016, [AVETMISS data element definitions: edition 2.3](#)
- NCVER 2016, [AVETMISS VET Provider Collection specifications: release 8.0](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Providing social support for apprentices: good practice guide](#)
- NCVER 2016, [VET program completion rates: an evaluation of the current method](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2016 – September quarter](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2016 – December quarter](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses, January to September 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Developing and sustaining successful partnerships between employers and training providers](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Research messages 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [VET retention in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities](#)
- Newton, J 2017, [Foundation skills policy contexts and measures of impact](#)
- Payton, A 2017, [Skilling for tomorrow](#)
- Pfeifer, H 2016, [Firms' motivation for training apprentices: an Australian-German comparison](#)
- Polidano, C, van de Ven, J & Voitchovsky, S 2017, [Making 'good' choices: the impact of entitlement models on up-skilling later in life](#)
- Siekmann, G 2016, [What is STEM? The need for unpacking its definitions and applications](#)
- Smith, E, Smith, A, Tuck, J & Callan, V 2017, [Continuity and change: employers' training practices and partnerships with training providers](#)
- Tyler, M & Dymock, D 2017, [Continuing professional development for a diverse VET practitioner workforce](#)
- Windley, G 2017, [Indigenous VET participation, completion and employment outcomes: infographic](#)
- Windley, G 2017, [Indigenous VET participation, completion and outcomes: change over the past decade](#)
- Windley, G 2017, [Policy snapshot: Indigenous training and employment](#)

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

- NCVER 2016, [Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth \(LSAY\) 2006 cohort: wave 10 \(2015\) – questionnaire and frequency tables](#)
- NCVER 2016, [Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth \(LSAY\) 2009 cohort: wave 7 \(2015\) – questionnaire and frequency tables](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth \(LSAY\) 2006 cohort: wave 11 \(2016\) – questionnaire and frequency tables](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth \(LSAY\) 2009 cohort: wave 8 \(2016\) – questionnaire and frequency tables](#)

Consultancy projects

During 2016–17, income from commissioned consultancy activities was \$221 124* and new commercial work contracted for the financial year was \$577 190. Details of individual commissioned projects follow:

Consultancy projects 2016–17

Project	Client	Outcome
Research and Statistical Capacity Building 'immersion' Program for India's National Skills Development Agency (NSDA) and the Advanced Training Institute	Australian Government Department of Education and Training (Commonwealth)	Fellowship program
Development of a methodology for a National Industry Insights Report	Australian Government Department of Education and Training (Commonwealth)	Report
Return on Investment from TVET	UNESCO—UNEVOC International Centre	Report
Qualified Teacher Project	Federation University	Analysis
Public Provision of VET — An Analysis	TAFE Directors Australia	Analysis and report
Developing Quality Reading Lists for Units of Competency within a Graduate Certificate in Management	Open Colleges Australia	Reading lists

* Note that this total does not include management of contracts with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Presentations

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
4-6 July 2016	Ackehurst, M & Polvere, R	'VOCEDplus – helping you understand the VET sector'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Andrews, C	'Robust questionnaire design – a crash course'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Reyes, O & Ruediger, M	'How to get the most out of your data'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Harrison, A	'Practical evaluation: a survival guide'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Ackehurst, M & Polvere, R	'Evolving the VET researcher's information space'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Atkinson, G	'Trends in VET: policy and participation'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-6 July 2016	Siekmann, G	'STEM – more than the sum of it parts'	25th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Rockhampton, Queensland
4-7 July 2016	Anlezark, A	'Let's revisit a tertiary sector'	Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) Conference, 'The Shape of Higher Education'	Fremantle, Perth
15-16 July 2016	Loveder, P	'Why measure return on investment from VET: what are the issues?'	UNESCO United Nations World Youth Skills Day conference'	Bonn, Germany
19-22 July 2016	Semo, R	'Innovations in sample engagement for the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth'	5th Biennial ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference	Sydney, New South Wales
27-28 July 2016	Misko, J	'Quality assessments: lessons from the field'	Driving Quality in VET Conference	Melbourne, Victoria
25-26 August 2016	Fowler, C	'Trends in measuring and assuring quality in VET: local and international lessons to be gleaned'	Australian Council for Private Education and Training (AVETRA) National Conference	Hobart, Tasmania
25-26 August 2016	Korbel, P	'Revealing VET in STEM'	Australian Council for Private Education and Training (AVETRA) National Conference	Hobart, Tasmania
15-16 September 2016	Mlotkowski, P	'Reporting and connecting with TVA data'	VELG Training National VET Conference 2016	Gold Coast, Queensland
15-16 September 2016	Librandi, R & Saint, C	'How to prepare for AVETMISS reporting'	VELG Training National VET Conference 2016	Gold Coast, Queensland
4-6 October 2016	Fowler, C	'Getting big insights from big data'	TAFE Directors Australia Convention 2016 – Skills Resurgence	Melbourne, Victoria
5-7 October 2016	Siekmann, G	'Unpacking STEM skills for vocational education'	STEM Education Conference	Geelong, Victoria
7 October 2016	Korbel, P	'The new VET market'	AVETRA OctoberVET	Adelaide, South Australia
13-15 October 2016	Dawe, J	'Panel Discussion: the use of evidence based research in TVET – regional good practices'	BiBB Regional Partners Meeting	Nanjing, China
13-15 October 2016	Dawe, J	'Current activities of TVET partner institutions and trends in TVET in Asia-Pacific and beyond'	BiBB Regional Partners Meeting	Nanjing, China
14 October 2016	Hargreaves, J	'Assessing impact: an imperfect science'	AUSTAFE National Conference 2016	Adelaide, South Australia
18-19 October 2016	Windley, G	'Work integrated learning in STEM: employer's perspective'	New Zealand Vocational Education and Training Research Forum	Wellington, New Zealand

18-19 October 2016	Dawe, J	'Overview of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research'	New Zealand Vocational Education and Training Research Forum	Wellington, New Zealand
18-20 October 2016	Anlezark, K	'Making ACE count: community educations contribution to total VET activity'	Community Colleges Australia Annual conference	Sydney, New South Wales
20-21 October 2016	Fowler, C	'UNEVOC activities in the Asia Pacific – some activities and priorities'	UNESCO/Cedafof Global Skills Conference	Paris, France
25-27 October 2016	Semo, R	'Adventures in data linkage and the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth'	National Longitudinal Data Conference	Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
25-27 October 2016	Farrell, R	'Innovations in sample maintenance from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth'	National Longitudinal Data Conference	Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
21-25 November 2016	Korbel, P, & Misko, J	'VET provider market structures: history, growth and change'	VET Policy, Compliance and Funding Summit	Sydney, New South Wales
1-2 December 2016	Skujins, P	'The characteristics and outcomes of disengaged young people in LSAY'	Australian Long Term Unemployment Conference	Brisbane, Queensland
8-9 December 2016	Circelli, M	'Building research capabilities of foundation skills practitioners'	Australian Council of Deans of Education Vocational Education Group Conference	Sydney, New South Wales
14-16 February 2017	Gamlin, T	'VOCEDplus Pod Network'	Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) National Conference	Sydney, New South Wales
14 March 2017	Loveder, P	'Future VET: training trends in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry'	Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) Conference	Sydney, New South Wales
18-20 April 2017	Misko, J, & Korbel, P	'Uptake and utility of VET qualifications'	Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) 20 th Annual Conference	Melbourne, Victoria
30 April - 2 May 2017	Stanwick, J	'Measuring the return on investment from TVET: an analytical framework'	CiCan Celebration Conference 2017	Ottawa, Canada
19-20 June 2017	Korbel, P & Misko, J	'VET in Schools: student uptake, employment and further study destinations'	VET International Conference 2017	Sydney, New South Wales

Stakeholder presentations

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
6 July 2016	Cavallaro, T	'The national role of NCVER in statistics and research'	Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)	Melbourne, Victoria
5 August 2016	Fowler, C	'NCVER research'	Skills Senior Officials Network (SSON)	Melbourne, Victoria
1 September 2016	Fowler, C	'VET: securing skills for growth'	Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) Luncheon	Adelaide, South Australia
28 October 2016	Frazer, K & Polvere, R	'A world of tertiary education at your fingertips; VOCEDplus and knowledge discovery'	Department of Education and Training	Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
2 March 2017	Loveder, P	'Training trends in apprenticeships'	The Australian Apprenticeship Network Providers Managers Meeting	Adelaide, South Australia
20 March 2017	NCVER	'NCVER: an overview'	National Skills Development Agency of India (NSDA)	Adelaide, South Australia
3 May 2017	Korbel, P & Misko, J	'VET in Schools: what are the prospects?'	Queensland Catholic Education Commission Conference	Brisbane, Queensland
8 May 2017	Loveder, P	'Research into Information and Communications Technology'	The National Information Technology Continuous Improvement Network	Adelaide, South Australia

Submissions

Submissions to parliamentary and other inquiries

- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Review of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Data Policy. Submitted September 2016.
- Productivity Commission: Inquiry into the National Education Evidence Base. Submitted October 2016.
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Review of VET Accredited Courses Discussion Paper. Submitted October 2016.
- Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment: Inquiry into VET Student Loans Bills 2016 & associated Bills. Submitted October 2016.
- Productivity Commission: Data availability and use. Submitted October 2016.
- Senate Standing Committees on Finance and Public Administration: Gender segregation in the workplace and its impact on women's economic equality. Submitted February 2017.
- The Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) review on the innovation, science and research system - 2030 Strategic Plan for the Australian Innovation, Science and Research System. Submitted May 2017.

International

NCVER maintains a limited engagement in the international arena, the emphasis of which is on information and networking to better understand international training models and their potential relevance to Australian practice. It has links with a variety of organisations in Asia and with international VET bodies. Activities undertaken by NCVER in 2016–17 include:

- NCVER continued its role as the joint UNESCO–UNEVOC coordinating body for the Pacific Island cluster of countries consisting of 15 member nations including Australia. The role mainly related to information exchange and regional intelligence gathering in 2016–17 and was shared with TAFE Directors' Australia.
- Phil Loveder and Toni Cavallaro presented to the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) at the offices of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) on collecting and reporting data for quality assurance.
- Craig Fowler participated in a by-invitation, high-level joint UNESCO–CEDEFOP Global Skills Conference in Paris, France on 20–21 October 2016. Dr Fowler presented on 'Making TVET responsive: strengthening skills governance for better education and training provision'. In addition, Dr Fowler held high-level meetings with UNESCO officials (including Dr Borhene Chakroun, Section Chief and Dr David Atchoarena, Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems). The meeting confirmed the importance of research in VET for policy and practice and explored opportunities for work in digital skills and VET–higher education linkages.
- Dr Fowler met with officials at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), an NCVER MoU partner, including Dr Pascaline Descy, Head of Research and Policy Analysis, and committed to exploring areas of mutual research interest that aid broader understanding of important skill supply and demand factors.
- Jodieann Dawe attended the BiBB Asia-Pacific partners' Meeting in Nanjing, China on 13–14 October 2016. The meeting focused on strengthening existing collaboration between agencies and fostering greater development of TVET in the region. In addition, Ms Dawe presented at Education+ forum, held in Nanjing, on the 'Benefits of research in providing evidence for decision making'.
- Jodieann Dawe and Georgina Atkinson¹ attended the New Zealand Education and Training Research Conference in Wellington, New Zealand on 19–21 October 2016. Ms Dawe presented a keynote address titled 'The national role of NCVER in research: supporting the Australian VET system', while Ms Atkinson presented a parallel session on 'Work-integrated learning in STEM disciplines: employer perspectives'. Ms Dawe met with key New Zealand VET and industry agencies such as Ako Aotearoa, the New Zealand Productivity Commission, the New Zealand Industry Training Federation (NZITF) and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

¹ Georgina Atkinson has changed her name to Georgina Windley. Both names have been used throughout this report, using the name that was correct at the time of each presentation/publication.

- Jodieann Dawe commenced discussions with the New Zealand Industry Training Federation and Ako Aotearoa about hosting a joint 'No Frills' conference to potentially be held in Sydney in 2018.
- Phil Loveder attended the Asian Development Bank (ADB) 6th Annual Skills Conference in Manila on 19–21 September 2016. In addition to the conference, Mr Loveder held a separate discussion with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Trade Commissioner for the Philippines and Micronesia, Ms Natasha Monks, about NCVER's role in research and statistics, overseas consulting and expert services, and held meetings with partner agencies including the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Training and the Technical Education and Skills Development Agency of the Philippines.
- A strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between NCVER and RAND Corporation Australia in late November, 2016 to collaborate on research around important national training and employment issues. Presently, the two organisations are developing a funding proposal for a project to explore models for attracting women into STEM-related occupations in the ship-building and defence industries – a country comparison with the United States of America. Jodieann Dawe and Phil Loveder met with Jennifer Moroney and Krishna Kumar from RAND Australia to further discussions and the development of the joint proposal.

NCVER hosted two international fellowship groups:

- NCVER delivered a very successful three-week Australian 'immersion program' for representatives of the Indian Government's National Skills Development Agency (NSDA) and the Advanced Training Institute (Hyderabad) during March and April, 2017. Co-funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, the program enhanced their research and statistical capability in the area of vocational education and also exposed the participants to key aspects of the Australian VET sector, including quality assurance and governance arrangements and the training provider community.
- NCVER hosted a key manager (Dr Hanbyul Lee) from the Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) who was a guest of the South Australian Office of the Department of Education and Training to study Australia's approach to Apprenticeships training, including their transition to the labour market and ways to encourage companies' participation and investment in apprenticeships.

Working Groups and Committees

NCVER Editorial Board

The NCVER Editorial Board reviews work commissioned or undertaken by NCVER as required, and conducts research quality assessments for NCVER's impact studies. The Board was responsible for reviewing research for publication in the NCVER Monograph Series, which ran from 2007 to 2012.

Research Working Group

The role of the Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON) Research Working Group is to scope and prioritise research topics and projects to ensure that they are relevant to the skills policy agenda and align with Ministerial priorities.

This may include:

- proposing relevant research projects
- prioritising research projects for endorsement by Senior Skills Officials
- providing advice to improve project proposals
- canvassing relevant stakeholders to understand current research priorities
- providing support in the role of Research Sponsor of a project.

Technical Reference Advisory Committees

As at 30 June 2017, the Technical Reference Advisory Committees which advise NCVER on data-related issues are:

- Finance Officers Advisory Committee (Pat Owen)
- Survey Network Advisory Committee (Davinia Blomberg)
- Technical Reference Advisory Committee: Apprenticeships (Katherine McGregor)
- Technical Reference Advisory Committee: VET Provider (Katherine McGregor).

VET Data Access Committee

The VET Data Access Committee (VDAC) provides advice to the Managing Director of NCVER and the Student Identifiers Registrar on requests for unpublished and sensitive data from NCVER data holdings (national VET administrative collections and surveys). The committee is chaired and run by NCVER.

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

On behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, NCVER provides analytical, reporting and publishing services for the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), along with the management and preparation of the LSAY datasets for provision to the Australian Data Archive for publishing.

The original LSAY funding period was from June 2007 until June 2010. Multiple contract extensions were agreed to between 2010 and 2015. In June 2015, the contract was extended further to cover the four year period from July 2015 to June 2019.

In July 2015, NCVER was commissioned to undertake technical work relating to the development of the 2015 LSAY cohort, including development of a new LSAY questionnaire for Y15. In April 2016, NCVER was selected as the preferred tenderer in relation to management of fieldwork and data processing services for the new LSAY 2015 cohort for a three year period until June 2019.

Memoranda of understanding

NCVER has established memoranda of understanding with Australian vocational and education research centres and a number of international organisations. These arrangements relate to the exchange of materials and information and the development of cooperative research links to facilitate a broader understanding of trends and practices.

- Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd, Melbourne
- The Federal Institute for Vocational Training (BiBB), Germany
- Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education, People's Republic of China
- Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education, Philippines
- Education Services Australia Ltd (formerly Education.au and Curriculum Corporation), Melbourne
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, European Union, Greece
- Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore
- Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Republic of Korea
- National Council for Education Research and Training, India
- Overseas Vocational Training Association, Japan
- RAND Corporation (Australia), Canberra
- Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education, Brunei, Darussalam
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, France



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