DATA SUPPORT BULLETIN

JUNE 2016

NCVER

AVETMISS 2015 data submissions – thank you!

Thank you to all RTOs who submitted their 2015 nationally accredited training activity (AVETMISS data) to NCVER either directly or via a state training authority.

The collection window for reporting 2015 AVETMISS data is now closed. If you trained students in 2015 and did not report your 2015 AVETMISS data, please contact your VET registering body.

Common AVETMISS queries

This year, most calls or emails to our Client Support team concerned:

- not having sufficient privileges (all user roles) to finalise an RTO's submission
- being unable to finalise a submission as government-funded activity was included (because it was either reported to a state or territory training authority and not removed, or was incorrectly coded)
- unique student identifier (USI) errors — RTOs must verify the USI on the USI website before validating in the AVETMISS Validation Software (AVS)
- RTOs wrongly believing their student management system automatically sent the data to NCVER or not realising that validated error-free data also needed to be 'finalised' in AVS.

For more details on these issues and how to resolve them, please refer to our range of fact sheets and other materials available at AVETMISS support.

Preparing for your 2016 data submission

We recommend that RTOs validate their data using the AVETMISS Validation Software (AVS) throughout the year. By regularly validating data, you can fix errors as you go. We found that many RTOs were caught out as they left their reporting to the last minute and underestimated how long it would take to identify and fix errors.

Validating data and fixing errors regularly enables our small Client Support team to provide you with more in-depth assistance. As the reporting deadline approaches (end of February 2017), the team is assisting more RTOs and may have less time to spend with you. Student management system vendors are equally busy at the end of the reporting period and may be unable to provide immediate assistance.

IN THIS EDITION

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→ **Preparing for your 2016 data submission**

→ **Spread the word…**

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AVETMISS support

Our client support team is available to help you between 8.45am and 5pm (ACDT). The team can be contacted in a number of ways:

submit: contact form
email: support@ncver.edu.au
phone: 08 8230 8400
toll free: 1800 649 452

www.ncver.edu.au

twitter.com/ncver

linkedin.com/company/ncver

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IMPORTANT - AVETMISS updates

Classification updates

The AVETMISS classifications were updated on 15 June 2016. For more details, please refer to the 'Updates to classifications and validation rules' section once logged in to the AVETMISS Validation Software (AVS). A history of past AVS updates can be found here.

AVS validation rule update

AVETMISS validation rules will be updated on 30 June 2016. For a detailed list of all the changes, please refer to the 'Updates to classifications and validation rules' section once logged in to AVS. Notable changes are:

- *ANZSCO identifier*, *Program field of education identifier* and *Subject field of education identifier* can now be left blank if the value for the program/subject is also blank on Training.gov.au.
- Subject *Nominal hours* can now also be left blank if the subject appears in NCVER's Nationally agreed nominal hours system file, as AVS will auto-populate the data on your behalf.

AVETMIS Standard update

As per previous advice, NCVER is undertaking a review of the AVETMIS Standard for VET Providers. Some of the already agreed changes will result in updates to the current Standard (Release 7.0). The bulk of the changes will form a new release of the Standard (Release 8.0), which will come into effect from 1 January 2018.

Changes for Release 7.0

NCVER has released a minor update to the *AVETMISS VET Provider Collection specifications 7.0* and the *AVETMISS Data element definitions: edition 2.2*.

These updates consist of:

- identification of fields which will appear on USI transcripts
- validation changes to some program and subject fields. These changes have been detailed in the AVS update information document
- clarification that the Unique student identifier (USI) can be left blank in line with the Student Identifiers Act, as per the Australian Government's USI website
- the continuing outcome codes (90—not yet available at interim collection and 70—continuing enrolment) will be collapsed into a single code (70—continuing enrolment). This will take effect from 1 January 2017 and remove the need to change continuing outcome codes across years
- a new code available for the *Unique student identifier* to indicate where a client does not require a USI as an international offshore exemption applies

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Release 8.0 – in effect from 1 January 2018

More significant changes will form part of Release 8.0 of the AVETMIS Standard for VET Providers, which will come into effect from 1 January 2018.

At this stage, we can advise that the changes will include:

- deletion of fields that can be sourced from Training.gov.au
- a new sample enrolment form, designed to make questions easier for clients to answer, and to reflect other changes which have been made in Release 8.0
- a new *Outcome identifier—national* code to allow RTOs to include in their reporting clients who have enrolled but not yet started their activity
- deletion of fields that are no longer necessary for collection
- expansion of *Delivery mode identifier,* increasing the field length and changing the classification scheme to allow more accurate reporting
- *Year program completed* will change to an 8-character *Date program completed* field, allowing the option to provide a full date of program completion
- some additional fields that may be required for RTOs submitting to their state training authority
- some renamed files and data elements
- other minor text and validation edits

Another Data Support Bulletin will be released in August when documents detailing these changes are available.

NCVER – more than just AVETMISS!

Data products

In May 2016, NCVER sent out a survey to a wide range of stakeholders seeking feedback on our data products. Thank you to all those RTOs who took the time to complete this. Your feedback is very much appreciated and will help us to shape our future data products.

In case you weren't already aware, NCVER offers numerous resources which report back the national data you contribute to as part of your yearly submissions. You can explore this wealth of information — ranging from publications and infographics for basic users of data, to VOCSTATS and Confidentialised Unit Record Files for sophisticated users — on the NCVER Portal.

NCVER's Portal

We have recently updated our Portal and you may have noticed a number of changes and enhancements to the site, including an improved search function and social sharing options.

We have also updated our AVETMISS support pages for RTOs, state training authorities/Boards of Studies and student management system vendors. We hope you like these changes!

National Student Outcomes Survey

Managed by NCVER, the Student Outcomes Survey is Australia's major annual survey of students. It provides information on employment outcomes, training satisfaction, and the benefits and relevance of vocational education and training. For the first time ever, this year's survey will include students who pay their own way with private training providers.

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Over the coming weeks around 220 000 students will be asked about their recent training experience. If your students contact you about the survey, we would appreciate your support in encouraging them to complete it.

Results from this survey will be available on the NCVER Portal in late 2016. More information is available in the recently issued media release and in the frequently asked questions. Results from the previous years' survey can be accessed from *Government-funded student outcomes 2015* publication.

RTO Survey - Victoria University

A national survey of RTOs is being conducted by the Centre for International Research on Education Systems (CIRES) at Victoria University as part of a research project commissioned by NCVER. The project aims to identify VET RTO policies and practices that are most effective in improving student progress and outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged groups. We would encourage all RTOs to complete this confidential survey – no RTO or individual will be identified in any report or publication arising from the survey. To complete the survey please go to: https://vuau.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_b7Q36WFeDkbvgy1. The survey ends on Friday 5 August.

Quality indicator reporting

Learner Engagement and Employer Satisfaction Surveys

The Learner Engagement and Employer Satisfaction quality indicator survey reports need to be submitted in full to your VET registering body by close of business on 30 June 2016. Check with your VET registering body for further details.