

2017 2018

ANNUAL REPORT



COVER IMAGE: Laura Pivovaroff, 2017 SA Apprentice of the Year.
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Level 5, 60 Light Square, Adelaide SA 5000

PO Box 8288 Station Arcade, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

Phone +61 8 8230 8400 Email ncver@ncver.edu.au

Web <<https://www.ncver.edu.au>>

Follow us:  <<https://twitter.com/ncver>>  <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncver>>



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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 (VET).

Our vision

Our vision is to maximise the power of data analytics integrated with research to transform national understanding of VET.

Our mission

To deliver products and services that engage, inform and influence all participants in Australia's VET sector.

Our values

The following 10 values underpin NCVER's culture:

- **Responsiveness:** We work collaboratively with our Members to set priorities.
- **Engagement:** We engage proactively, constructively and responsively in all our work relationships.
- **Quality:** We honour quality, respect standards and client service as motivated professionals.
- **Innovation:** We explore new technologies, products and services to better meet clients' needs.
- **Integrity:** Our advice is trusted, and we are fair-minded and accountable in our decisions.
- **Respect:** We show and expect respect from each other, our clients and our stakeholders.
- **Learning:** We share our knowledge, problem solve in teams and listen to all viewpoints.
- **Diversity:** We are inclusive of differences and value our varied cultures, knowledge and skills.
- **Change:** We tackle problems, pursue agile solutions and embrace change of proven merit.
- **Reputation:** We cherish our reputation and undertake our work with integrity and impartiality.

What we do

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is the national professional body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian VET sector.

Our areas of activity:

- undertaking a strategic program of education and training research, including the collection and analysis of national VET statistics and survey data, and the analytical program of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)
- collecting and publishing research findings on VET and directly-related research from across the world through the VOCEDplus research database
- disseminating the results of integrated research and data analytics
- building links with similar international organisations to undertake strategic comparative analyses of mutual interest to benchmark and inform Australian practices
- providing a professional research, analysis and evaluation capability across Australia and internationally.



Our strategic plan 2017–20

NCVER will pursue and implement the following strategic objectives and key actions during 2017–20.

#	Strategic objective	Measure of success
1	Engage widely and collaboratively to anticipate, understand and address national and state and territory VET information needs and priorities.	Members and stakeholders are satisfied with our multi-level engagement across the VET sector, based on evidence derived from both structured and unstructured surveys.
2	Produce integrated statistics, research and analytics that provide comprehensive insights to inform and influence the VET sector.	Members and stakeholders are satisfied with our provision of integrated statistics, research and analytics, evidenced by periodic surveys.
3	Assure the quality, integrity and transparency of our VET-related products and services, instilling confidence in their use.	Members and stakeholders are satisfied with quality, transparency and availability of our products and services and, data submitters with the level of support they receive. Number of quality issues identified needing action.
4	Develop and implement ambitious, intelligent, customised and accessible VET-related products and services that are used and valued by our diverse stakeholders.	Members and stakeholders rate our products and services as highly relevant and informative, evidenced by periodic surveys. Increased usage of our data and research products.
5	Use targeted communication channels to enhance our impact by promoting and explaining our work so that it can inform and influence the VET sector.	Members and stakeholders demonstrate an increased awareness, use and satisfaction of our Portal, its products and services evidenced by quarterly metrics.
6	Further develop our people as a highly skilled, adaptive and professional workforce, who are committed to our values and learning culture.	Improving engagement, satisfaction, recognition and professional development ratings evidenced by annual staff surveys.
7	Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes to underpin success and performance.	Secure the necessary funding and resources and deliver all outcomes in accord with contracts, whilst adapting to NCVER's changing environment. A reduction in our environmental footprint.

This success will be evident in:

- the use, relevance and overall impact of our integrated research and statistics services
- the accessibility of our information, which is customised according to need and made secure as required
- the value of our information to governments in their decision making and policy development
- the use of information by regulators, providers and industry to support quality and delivery of VET.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



These are challenging times for the VET sector. There has never been a greater need for reliable evidence to inform policy, funding and practice.

To serve the changing needs and priorities of the VET sector, NCVET adopted a new [strategic plan](#) for

the period 2017–20. The new plan is the culmination of a 12-month review and consultation process that sought opinions from governments, training providers, employers and other VET sector organisations on how NCVET could serve them most effectively into the future. In the age of 'big data' and the 'internet of everything', the expectations of NCVET's members and stakeholders are changing. Our new strategic plan outlines seven strategic objectives designed to improve NCVET's services. They are intended to ensure that we can better meet the needs of our clients and effectively underpin the evidenced-based public policy that is required to inform and influence Australia's VET sector.

Our digitally published outputs are changing fast. 'Products' that present findings from a synthesis of statistics, analytics and qualitative research are greatly valued. NCVET is switching from our 'traditional' statistics and research publications (that are now more commonly support documents) to shorter, [more targeted products](#).

We are embracing interactive and highly visual products that can be easily accessed and used. For example:

- our quarterly release of the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection has moved to an infographic format without losing access to more detailed data
- the interactive *Timeline of Australian VET policy initiatives 1998–2017* allows users to understand the scale of change and the individual policies, programs or initiatives that have shaped VET at both the national and state and territory level

- *Comparing high-use training package qualifications* is a hybrid interactive report and 'big data' tool, which provides powerful insights into about 700 000 program enrolments in the top 20 training package qualifications in 2016. It includes linked data not available elsewhere and enables users to construct their own comparisons for analysis. This is complemented by explaining the present use of training package qualifications in the infographic [Uptake and utility of VET qualifications](#).

In the age of 'big data' and the 'internet of everything', the expectations of NCVET's members and stakeholders are changing. Our new strategic plan outlines seven strategic objectives designed to improve NCVET's services.

At the request of governments, considerable work has been undertaken this year to revamp our National Finance Collection release to [better describe and explain VET funding](#). The outcomes of this work will be seen in the coming year as a new series of products on VET funding.

At the close of 2017–18, NCVET is on the cusp of publishing the fourth in our series of *Total VET students and courses*. It analyses VET activity across Australia, regardless of funding source. [Further enhancements](#) are anticipated. Data to estimate completion rates at provider level will be available late in 2018. This will build on our data mining of more than 2 million historic enrolments in government-funded VET to enhance the previously published *What factors explain the likelihood of completing a VET qualification*.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Central to our new strategic plan is the need to meet the requirements of governments and VET stakeholders to **further improve the quality of our VET data management systems** (spanning data collection, validation, secure storage, customised access and digital publication). There is a clear sense of urgency in the sector for NCVET to transform the way it currently collects and reports on data to strengthen overall VET data management. We need to reduce complexity and create greater efficiencies for our multifarious clients.

Following a successful launch in May 2017, the **unique student identifier (USI) transcript service** continues to operate smoothly. Educational data is provided by NCVET through the secure transfer of information to the USI student portal. Enhancements to our IT infrastructure have also provided greater benefits to students. All registered training organisations can now submit data quarterly to the National VET Provider Collection with USI transcripts updated more frequently.

We also developed the **National Industry Insights Report website** for the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC). It brings together industry intelligence to assist Industry Reference Committees to prioritise training package development. This dynamic web-based resource provides easy access to information by industry sector on both economic and employment trends and education and training patterns.

For the first time, we released information on the training outcomes and satisfaction levels of **international onshore VET graduates**. Conducted as part of the 2017 National Student Outcomes Survey, over 11 500 international onshore VET graduates responded to questions about their training experience in Australia and their post-training outcomes, including barriers encountered when looking for work. The release of this new report marked the start of the collection period for the **2018 National Student Outcomes Survey**. Already Australia's largest survey of VET students, the survey expanded again in 2018, contacting over 800 000 people who completed training in 2017.

We hosted a **National VET Data Linkage Roundtable** in Canberra, which aimed to encourage further data linkage projects drawing on both VET and other statistical collections that would benefit the VET sector. This was conducted for data custodians, governments and researchers and involved presentations, case studies and discussion around data linkage principles, challenges and opportunities for the VET sector. Data linkage techniques provide us with an enormous opportunity to see far better the 'bigger picture' of how the VET system is operating in Australia. Data linkages can provide enhanced evidence for policy decisions.

As always, a highlight of our year was the annual National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'. Held on 6–7 July 2017 at TasTAFE Drysdale Campus in Hobart, the conference examined the latest research and insights along the themes of exploring, translating and evolving for tomorrow's skills. I thank our co-hosts TasTAFE for their sponsorship of a very successful event.

I would like to thank our **Managing Director** Craig Fowler. For personal reasons, he is moving on. Craig has led NCVET for some three and half years through a period of major reform of the company's activities. He has set a strong foundation for NCVET in his time at the helm. Working closely with staff, governments, public servants and the broader VET stakeholder community, Craig has set a clear strategic direction for significant change in the years ahead. Under his leadership, new statistical collections have been added, new research initiated and new digitally-driven approaches to presenting complex data introduced. He will be missed.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues who served on the NCVET Board, with a special thank you to outgoing Board members, John Hart and Jenny Field for the contribution they made during their term. A warm welcome to our incoming Board members, Lynne Austin and Megan Kirchner, who commenced in January 2018.

Peter Shergold
Chair

2017–18 HIGHLIGHTS

Engage widely and collaboratively to anticipate, understand and address national and state and territory VET information needs and priorities

Promoting the role of VET

We made **11 submissions** to parliamentary and other inquiries to promote the role of VET as a critical pathway to work and an important provider of skills for the digital economy and Australia's economy as it transforms. Other submissions sought to address systemic matters, such as training product reform and efficiencies with data collection and submission, with the aim of enriching the understanding of Australia's VET system. NCVER was invited to participate in the Inquiry into career advice activities in Victorian schools by the Victorian Parliament, and the Senate Select Committee Inquiry into the Future of Work and Workers.

Our research projects

The Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON) Research Working Group (RWG) assisted us in the **scoping and prioritising of 14 research projects** to align with 2017/18 Ministerial priorities. In addition to the RWG members and NCVER, VET peak bodies and VET research organisations were also invited to submit research expressions of interest for consideration in the most recent round. To contribute innovative data knowledge and forward thought leadership, we initiated and developed a further eight research projects that were completed during the year.

Engaging with our stakeholders

We held a National VET Data Linkage **Roundtable** in Canberra with a group of relevant data custodians, governments and researchers to discuss methods and opportunity for the implementation of a set of best practice principles in data linkage. We also hosted a Higher Apprenticeships **Forum** in Melbourne to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss and gain insight into the potential value that higher apprenticeships could provide to the employee and employer, as well as the roles of policymakers and training providers.



Mr Jason Coutts, Student Identifiers Registrar, USI Office, speaks at the National VET Data Linkage Roundtable in Canberra



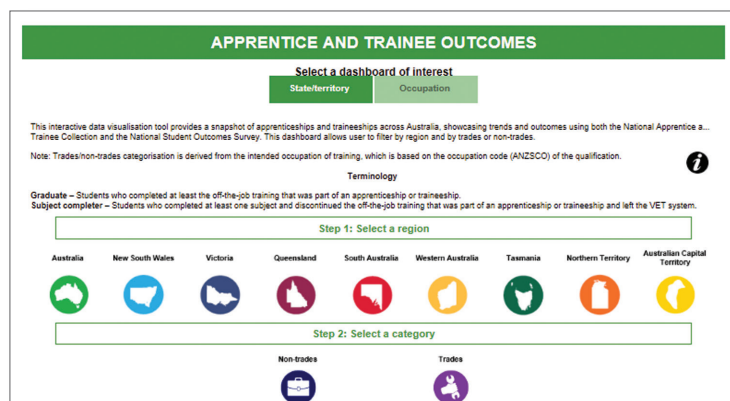
2017–18 HIGHLIGHTS

Produce integrated statistics, research and analytics that provide comprehensive insights to inform and influence the VET sector

Developing innovative publications and products

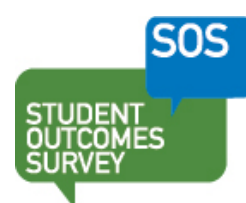
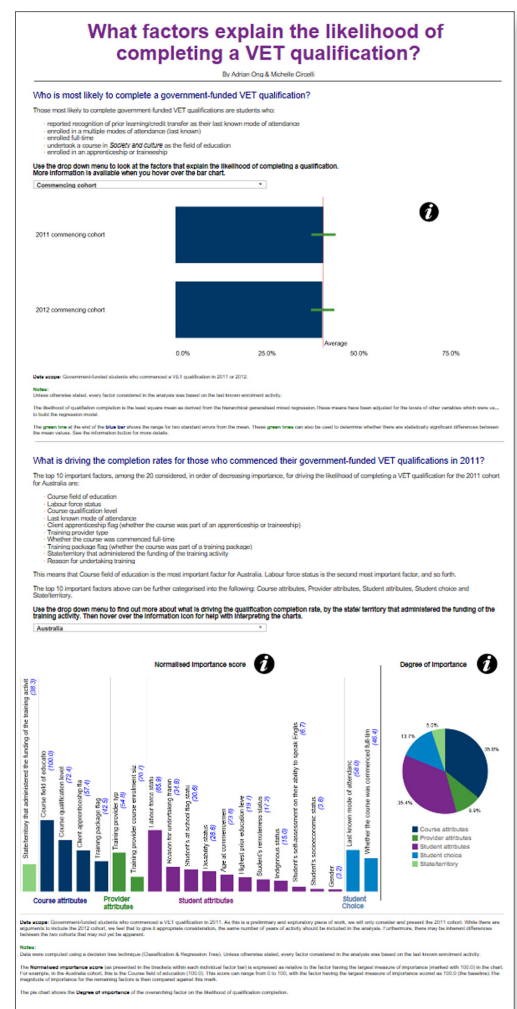
We developed a wide range of innovative publications and products for different stakeholders at varying levels of complexity, including **easy to digest infographics and data visualisations**, through to more comprehensive tools such as data slicers and data cubes. These include interactive products on:

- quarterly apprentice and trainee statistics, including a dashboard that allows users to assess the accuracy of NCVER's published estimates
- apprentice and trainee outcomes
- factors that explain the likelihood of completing a VET qualification
- the uptake and utility of VET qualifications
- outcomes of international onshore VET graduates.



The National Student Outcomes Survey

Following a successful trial in 2016, we expanded the scope of the National Student Outcomes Survey to cover all VET students. In 2018, over 800 000 students who completed training in 2017 were invited to participate.

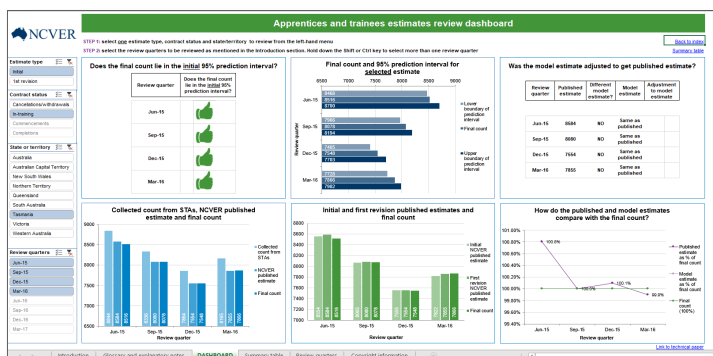


2017–18 HIGHLIGHTS

Assure the quality, integrity and transparency of our VET-related products and services, instilling confidence in their use

Estimating data

With time lags in the data reported for the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, it has been necessary to estimate recent data for commencements, in-training, completions, cancellations and withdrawals. **A new interactive tool and dashboard** has been developed to enable a more efficient and frequent review of the estimation process. This allows the user to quickly compare the published estimates against the eventual final counts.



National VET Funding Collection

The new National VET Funding Collection has commenced, with implementation transitioned progressively over a three-year period. This new collection has a changed reporting regime, moving away from financial-statement reporting to each **jurisdiction reporting** their own VET financial inputs from government and employer and student contributions to subsidised training. The first year of release will be in 2018, reporting on 2017 funding.



Technical papers

We released several technical papers, covering subjects such as total VET program completion rates, counting students in total VET students and courses, and a review of the model used to classify respondents to the National Student Outcomes Survey.

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)

Data from the newest group of Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) participants were released, marking the first time the dataset from the 2015 survey group, known as the 'Y15 cohort', has been made available.

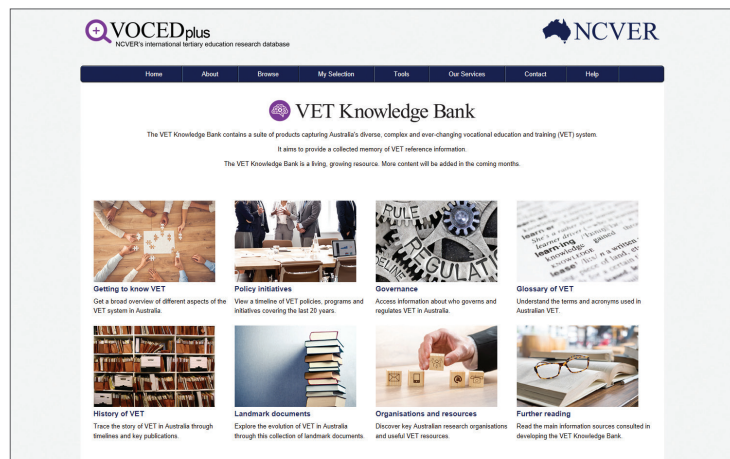
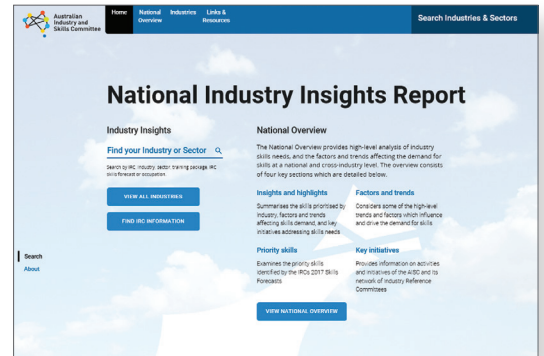
2017–18 HIGHLIGHTS



Develop and implement ambitious, intelligent, customised and accessible VET-related resource products and services that are used and valued by our diverse stakeholders

National Industry Insights Report website

We partnered with the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC) and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to develop an industry-facing website, which provides a first-stop-shop for **contemporary data on economic and employment trends**, and education and training patterns in Australia. The National Industry Insights Report website also contains a national industry overview, which provides analyses of industry skills needs and trends affecting the future demand for skills at a national and cross-industry level.



VET Knowledge Bank

We launched the VET Knowledge Bank, **a suite of products capturing Australia's diverse VET system**. Resources include the graphical *Getting to know VET* overview, a timeline covering policy initiatives and programs that have shaped VET at both the national and jurisdictional levels, other timelines and resources that cover VET governance, regulations and research, and a collection of landmark documents that have influenced the development of the Australian VET system.

2017–18 HIGHLIGHTS

Use targeted communication channels to enhance our impact by promoting and explaining our work so that it can inform and influence the VET sector

NCVER Portal

We are developing an **improved user experience** in navigating the NCVER Portal. Key updates will include the integration of our research and statistics information and a dedicated RTO Hub, with all relevant information accessible from one page. In addition, templates will be designed to best display a range of new digital products for ease of reading.

Social media

We have increased our engagement of social media via LinkedIn and Twitter through initiatives such as animated graphics, highlighting topics that can be easily searched through hash tags, as well as taking advantage of the most recent updates to technology. Over the past year our Twitter followers increased by 29% to 5875 and our LinkedIn followers increased by 43% to 1854.

Webinars

Extending webinar technology for use in meetings, adding new interactive functions and introducing instant polling are some of the new initiatives we have introduced for webinars and events. Our events average an 88% satisfaction rating.

VOCEDplus Pod Network

The VOCEDplus Pod Network continues to be a valuable resource of quality information for the VET sector. It allows rapid access to research and a multitude of resources in a convenient and efficient platform, which helps researchers, practitioners and policymakers keep pace with **the latest research developments**. The Pod Network totals 20 Pods on a range of key topics, including apprenticeships, foundation skills, pathways and quality. The Network also includes over 70 Podlets that cover narrower subjects. The Pod Network provides relevant information through pre-prepared searches and direct links to new publications, statistics and related media.



Further develop our people as a highly skilled, adaptive and professional workforce, who are committed to our values and learning culture

NCVER staff were involved in:

50 conference and stakeholder presentations

215 stakeholder briefings and meetings

82 training courses.

In-house seminars

We held a productive and engaging in-house series of **18 seminars**. These seminars enhanced VET knowledge across the company and helped forge collaborative learning and partnership. Many external stakeholders also attended or presented, contributing to lively and stimulating debate.

Our graduates

We welcomed three talented and enthusiastic graduates who brought with them new eyes, **fresh ideas** and experiences with emerging technologies. They have contributed to a range of projects and new products, and transferred learnings and skills as they moved around the company.

Staff survey

A staff survey was conducted in July 2017. The final response rate was positive, with 82% of the company taking part from across all branches. The results show **positive progress on engagement** and other key measures, while further work is required in some areas. The new strategic plan aims to address those areas where improvement is sought.



Michelle Circelli, Acting Manager, National Research, NCVER, with Professor Eva Kyndt, University of Leuven, Belgium, at a recent in-house seminar.

2017–18

HIGHLIGHTS

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes to underpin success and performance

Software enhancements

We have continued to invest in national VET data management infrastructure and services in the deployment of new AVETMISS versions, multiple software enhancements, and successful implementation across all major systems.

Privacy legislation

We ramped up our focus on remaining compliant with privacy legislation by developing a broad range of privacy processes, and in response to the Notifiable Data Breaches Scheme that came into effect on 22 February 2018. These processes significantly assist to mitigate against the risk of a privacy incident, as well as increase privacy awareness.

Project management tool

We developed an improved project management tool, which will greatly assist with the timely delivery of key projects, through improved tracking, monitoring and reporting of projects, as well as the development of associated budgets, forecasts and financial reporting of expenditure. The integrated solution will significantly improve the financial management and reporting of projects, as well as assist with the allocation of optimum resources to deliver projects within timeframes.

Accounting and payroll system

New accounting and payroll systems have been introduced and now fully function from 'cloud-services'.

CONNECTING WITH US



395 980

NCVER Portal visits



19 718

LSAY website visits



107 155

product downloads



312 509

VOCEDplus website visits



30 164

VOCEDplus web searches



45

research citations



17 741

NCVER News subscribers



5875

Twitter followers



12 455

Client support emails and calls taken



60

Hansard citations



2982

VOCEDplus News subscribers



1854

LinkedIn followers



274

Data Entry Tool users



961

media citations



10 941

Data Support Bulletin subscribers



7999

Portal visits via social media



over **4202** million

data records processed



1789

registered AVETMISS Validation Software users



44

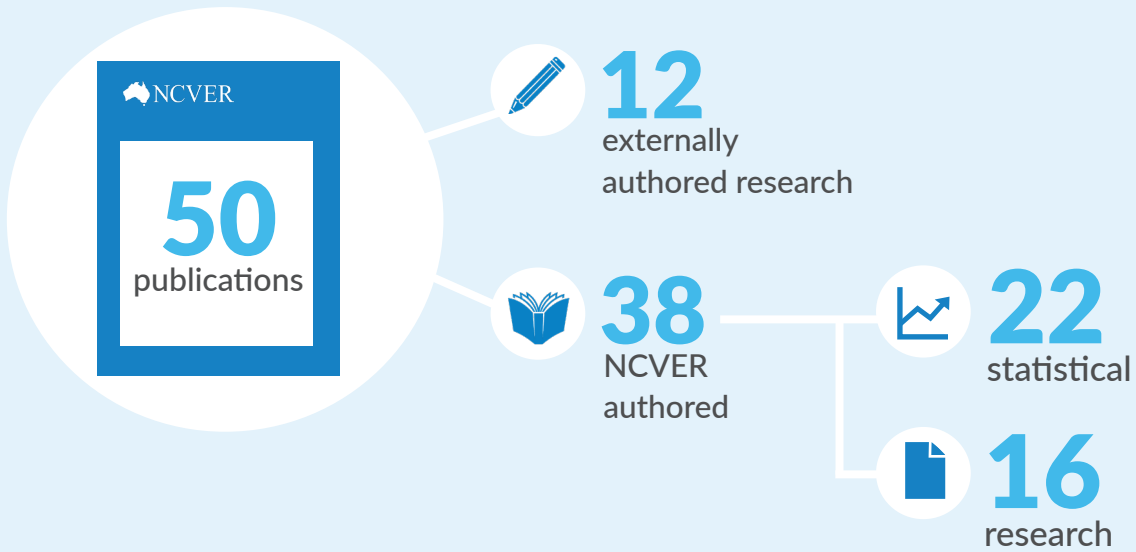
AVETMISS-registered student management systems



2210

active VOCSTATS accounts

WHAT WE DELIVERED



10 data visualisations

11 infographics

215 stakeholder briefings and meetings

50 conferences and stakeholder presentations

NEWS

29

media releases



11

submissions



9

consultancy projects



78 246

VOCEDplus records

220

'No Frills' attendees

26th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'

Workshops:

- NCVET 'at your fingertips'
- Working with CURFs from the National Student Outcomes Survey
- Jump aboard the NCVET data train... and explore the training market!
- Exploring data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)
- Want to influence policy? Use plain English! Some practical tips on how to get your message across



72

educational workshop attendees



47

roundtable attendees

National VET Data Linkage Roundtable

NCVER hosted a National VET Data Linkage Roundtable in Canberra on 17 May 2018. The aim of the roundtable was to discuss methods and opportunity for the implementation of a set of best practice principles in data linkage; and encourage the consideration of further data linkage projects drawing on both VET and other datasets that would be of benefit to the VET sector. The invitation-only roundtable was attended by over 47 key stakeholders, including relevant data custodians, government agencies and VET researchers.

26

forum attendees

Higher Apprenticeships Forum: Opportunities and Barriers

NCVER held an invitation-only research forum in Melbourne on 31 August 2017 with 26 representatives from a range of Industry Reference Committees and Service Skills Organisations, in order to obtain industry insights on international approaches to higher apprenticeships (those at the diploma and above level). This forum was part of a wider research project, supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, with outcomes expected to aid policy decision making.



1071

webinar attendees

Public webinars

- Ask NCVET: Release 8.0 Q&A for RTOs – session 1–6
- VET applied research: driving VET's role in the innovation agenda
- Choosing VET: aspirations, intentions and choice
- Apprentices and trainees: how well do we estimate our data?
- Exploring the benefits of social media in VET programs
- Comparing high-use training package qualifications
- Data linkage: unlocking the benefits for the VET sector
- Skilling for digital disruption and the future of work
- Student transitions: from school to VET

Invite only webinars

- Ask NCVET: release 8.0 Q&A session for SMS vendors
- What factors explain VET qualification completions
- NCVET's occupational skill information project – findings and further consultations
- What factors explain the likelihood of completing a VET qualification – session 2
- Developing appropriate workforce skills for Australia's emerging digital economy
- Internet job postings: preliminary skills analysis

Externally hosted webinars

- Coming to terms with AVETMISS
- AVETMISS and more
- An introduction to VOCSTATS
- AVETMISS release 8.0: are you prepared?

GOVERNANCE

	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 2018
Board members	9	As at 30 June 2018 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 NCVET
Board meeting dates	4	29 September 2017 8 December 2017 23 March 2018 22 June 2018
Audit and Risk Committee members	5	As at 30 June 2018
Audit and Risk Committee meetings dates	4	22 March 2018 21 June 2018 20 September 2018 6 December 2018
Net operating deficit	\$3 024 961	The deficit resulted from the recognition of amortisation expenditure associated with the development of intangible assets, with related revenue recognised in prior periods.
Employees (headcount)	110	As at 30 June 2018

COMPANY MEMBERS

Company members are the federal, state and territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training. Company members as at 30 June 2018 are listed below.



Australian Government

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. Selena Uibo, MLA, Minister for Workforce Training



Queensland

The Hon. Shannon Fentiman, MP, Minister for Training and Skills Development



South Australia

The Hon. David Pisoni, MP, Minister for Industry and Skills



Tasmania

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Minister for Education and Training



Victoria

The Hon. Gayle Tierney, MP, 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 2018.

Company officers

The names of the members in office as at 30 June 2018 are:



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



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



Lynne Austin
Director, NCVER Board
MAICD, AFIML
Appointed January 2018



Megan Kirchner
Director, NCVER Board and Member, Audit and Risk Committee
BA, EMPA
Appointed: January 2018



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



Simon Walker
Director, NCVER Board
Appointed: November 2014



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



Suzanne Wauchope
Director, NCVER Board and Member, Audit and Risk Committee
B. Business, Chartered Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor
Appointed: June 2017



Julie Wobber
Chair, Audit and Risk Committee
BA, DipEd, MBA, MAICD
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: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/about-ncver/our-people>



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Principal activities

The principal activities in which the company was engaged during the year were: collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian vocational education and training (VET) sector.

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 \$3 024 961.

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 2018.

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 2017–18 financial year, the Audit and Risk Committee focused on its obligations regarding privacy

compliance, including responding to the Notifiable Data Breaches Scheme, which came into force on 22 February 2018.

Furthermore, the Committee reviewed a number of internal audits, including a review of information system management security, staff alignment and engagement, and job evaluation and remuneration. These reviews have significantly strengthened the company's IT and HR systems and processes.

The Committee considered a range of financial matters, including the company's funds management and accounting policies. The Committee has maintained its strong focus on reviewing and monitoring major risks, including privacy, IT and contract management risks. The Committee also continues to review trademark matters, insurance and 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 2018:

- 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 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)	
	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended
Peter Shergold	4	4	4	4
Lynne Austin ²	2	2		
Subho Banerjee ⁴	3	3		
Craig Fowler	4	4	4	4
Jenny Field ¹	2	2		
Pat Forward	4	4		
Helen Garnett	4	3		
John Hart ¹	2	2	2	2
Megan Kirchner ²	2	1	2	1
Simon Walker	4	4		
Suzanne Wauchope	4	4	4	4
Julie Wobber ³			4	3

Notes: 1 Appointment ceased 31 December 2017

2 Appointment 1 January 2018

3 External member and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee only.

4 Appointment ceased 30 April 2018.

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 23.

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



Peter Shergold
Chair



Mette Creaser
Interim Managing Director

Dated at Adelaide this 21st day of September 2018.

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 2018, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nexia Edwards Marshall'.

Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Dreckow'.

Jamie Dreckow
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

21 September 2018

L3
153 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2163
Adelaide SA 5001
p +61 8 8139 1111
w nexiaem.com.au

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of profit and loss

For the year ending 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
REVENUE			
Conferences and workshops		45 365	42 739
Contributions from members		1 463 822	1 453 836
Contract revenue	3	19 443 025	21 489 267
Interest		263 201	303 691
Publications		2 353	2 161
Sundries	4	130 221	165 324
Total revenue		21 347 987	23 457 018
EXPENSES			
Equipment lease interest		43	3 807
Premise lease interest	13.1	403 092	101 605
Operating expenses	2.1	11 716 734	12 723 911
Salaries and related payments	2.2	12 253 079	11 094 301
Total expenses		24 372 948	23 923 624
NET OPERATING DEFICIT	6	(3 024 961)	(466 606)
NET DECREASE IN EQUITY		(3 024 961)	(466 606)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ending 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
NET OPERATING DEFICIT	6	(3 024 961)	(466 606)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(3 024 961)	(466 606)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		(3 024 961)	(466 606)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets		897 487	3 142 769
Receivables	7	4 086 977	6 492 560
Investments		6 496 465	8 496 465
Prepayments		405 306	346 645
Total current assets		11 886 235	18 478 439
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, furniture and equipment	8	7 430 524	8 004 294
Intangible assets	9	4 300 106	7 057 602
Total non-current assets		11 730 630	15 061 896
TOTAL ASSETS		23 616 865	33 540 335
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	1 271 761	872 746
Provisions	12	2 171 368	2 011 020
Lease liability	13.1	287 315	254 410
Other liabilities	13.2	5 036 385	12 298 214
Total current liabilities		8 766 829	15 436 390
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	12	316 960	258 594
Lease liability	13.1	6 632 041	6 919 356
Total non-current liabilities		6 949 001	7 177 950
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15 715 830	22 614 340
NET ASSETS		7 901 035	10 925 996
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	6	7 901 035	10 925 996
TOTAL EQUITY		7 901 035	10 925 996

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of cash flows

For the year ending 30 June 2018

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
	Inflows (outflows)	Inflows (outflows)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from members, customers etc.	17 318 459	21 480 307
Payments to suppliers and employees	(20 394 557)	(21 910 202)
Interest paid	(403 135)	(105 412)
Interest received	243 309	264 309
Net cash used in operating activities	(3 235 924)	(270 998)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for furniture, equipment and leased premises	(381 858)	(814 104)
Payments for computer software	(373 090)	(1 704 074)
(Payments for) receipts from investments	2 000 000	3 553 535
Net cash provided by investing activities	1 245 052	1 035 357
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments to reduce equipment lease liability	(7 688)	(81 582)
Payments to reduce premise lease liability	(246 722)	(59 192)
Net cash used in financing activities	(254 410)	(140 774)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(2 245 282)	623 585
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	3 142 769	2 519 184
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	897 487	3 142 769

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ending 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 (\$)
Retained earnings at 1 July 2016	6	11 392 602
Net operating deficit for 2016–17		(466 606)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2017	6	10 925 996
Net operating deficit for 2017–18		(3 024 961)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2018		7 901 035
Total equity at reporting date		7 901 035

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 21 September 2018 by the Directors of the Company.

1.2 New and amended accounting policies

During the current year the Company adopted all new or revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to the Company's operations which became mandatory.

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 2017–18 financial year. Most of that sum relates to two major contracts for the Management of the National Vocational Education and Training Research Services Program and the Management of the National Vocational Education and Training Statistical Services Program.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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 2018, the Statement of Comprehensive Income reported a net operating deficit of \$3 024 961.

The deficit has primarily arisen as a consequence of the Company recognising depreciation of \$3 130 585 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 National Vocational Education and Training Statistical Services Program 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, which were recognised in prior years, include an expanded statistical database, the development of a unique student identifier transcript, and related software applications.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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 2018 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 2018.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2 Expenses breakdown

2.1 Operating expenses

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Contractors - surveys		2 281 687	2 155 823
Depreciation and amortisation	8.2, 9.2	4 086 214	3 108 166
Short-term lease expense		-	511 697
Other office accommodation expenses		145 776	316 306
Managed fund grant payments		99 091	833 345
Computer software support		1 566 444	1 292 390
Contractors - research and other		2 537 686	3 381 460
Telephone and postage		82 401	105 933
Computer hardware support		45 138	112 660
Travel and accommodation		159 022	256 632
Conference and seminar costs		53 813	35 799
Staff training		90 994	135 950
Office supplies and expenses		73 579	94 449
Loss on disposal		-	13 660
Printing of publications		9 901	18 084
Purchase of publications		90 094	74 145
Directors' fees		57 847	71 596
Other expenses		184 495	74 846
Advertising and recruitment costs		56 889	14 716
Insurance premiums		38 996	43 172
Audit fees		25 190	29 240
Equipment and software (non-capital)		31 477	43 842
		11 716 734	12 723 911

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 Services 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

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Staff salaries	9 934 118	9 021 503
Termination benefits	64 725	16 618
Related payments	2 254 236	2 056 180
	12 253 079	11 094 301

FINANCIAL REPORTS

3 Contract revenue

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Management of Statistical Services Program	13 647 504	11 370 532
Management of Research Services Program	3 195 938	4 278 350
Other contracts	2 599 583	5 840 385
	19 443 025	21 489 267

4 Sundries

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Surveys mailout fees	77 300	137 418
Data requests and other	52 921	27 906
	130 221	165 324

5 Remuneration of directors and executives

5.1 Directors' fees

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Income received or due and receivable by the Directors of NCVER Ltd from the Company	57 847	71 596

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

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

The 2017–18 director's fees are lower when compared to 2016–17, due to an additional 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	Pamela Austin (appointed 1/1/2018)
Simon Walker	Megan Kirchner (appointed 1/1/2018)
Patricia Forward	Subho Banerjee (resigned 30/4/2018)
Craig Fowler	Jennifer Field (resigned 31/12/2017)
Helen Garnett	John Hart (resigned 31/12/2017)
Suzanne Wauchope	

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

5.2 Executives' remuneration

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Income received or due and receivable by the executive officers of NCVER Ltd from the Company	673 975	770 630

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

	No.	No.
\$30 000 --- \$39 999	1	-
\$60 000 --- \$69 999	1	-
\$200 000 --- \$209 999	-	1
\$210 000 --- \$219 999	1	1
\$370 000 --- \$379 999	1	1

See note 16 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

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Net operating deficit	(3 024 961)	(466 606)
Add		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	10 925 996	11 392 602
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	7 901 035	10 925 996

7 Receivables

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Trade and other receivables	3 986 030	6 492 560
GST receivable	100 947	-
Balance as at 30 June	4 086 977	6 492 560

8 Property, furniture and equipment

8.1 Composition

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Leasehold improvement		
Leased property improvements	59 828	-
Less accumulated amortisation	(820)	-
Total leased property improvements	59 008	-
Leased equipment		
Leased equipment	44 418	44 418
Less accumulated depreciation	(43 274)	(38 930)
Total leased equipment	1 144	5 488
Furniture and equipment		
Furniture and equipment at cost	1 821 612	1 499 582
Less accumulated depreciation	(1 081 267)	(747 549)
Total furniture and equipment	740 345	752 033
Leased premises		
Leased premises	7 400 960	7 400 960
Less accumulated depreciation	(770 933)	(154 187)
Total leased premises	6 630 027	7 246 773
Total property, furniture and equipment	7 430 524	8 004 294

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 2017	-	44 418	1 499 582	7 400 960	8 944 960
Additions	59 828	-	322 030	-	381 858
Balance at 30 June 2018	59 828	44 418	1 821 612	7 400 960	9 326 818
Accumulated depreciation					
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	(38 930)	(747 549)	(154 187)	(940 666)
Depreciation expense	(820)	(4 344)	(333 718)	(616 746)	(955 628)
Balance at 30 June 2018	(820)	(43 274)	(1 081 267)	(770 933)	(1 896 294)
Net book value					
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	5 488	752 033	7 246 773	8 004 294
Balance at 30 June 2018	59 008	1 144	740 345	6 630 027	7 430 524

FINANCIAL REPORTS

9 Intangible assets

9.1 Composition

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Computer software		
Computer software at cost	18 346 666	17 973 576
Less accumulated depreciation	(14 046 560)	(10 915 974)
Total computer software	4 300 106	7 057 602

9.2 Movements

	Computer software
Gross carrying amount	
Balance at 30 June 2017	17 973 576
Additions	373 090
Balance at 30 June 2018	18 346 666
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	
Balance at 30 June 2017	(10 915 974)
Depreciation expense	(3 130 586)
Balance at 30 June 2018	(14 046 560)
Net book value	
Balance at 30 June 2017	7 057 602
Balance at 30 June 2018	4 300 106

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

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Current		
Creditors	617 435	42 235
Accrued expenses	654 326	830 511
	1 271 761	872 746

12 Provisions and related oncosts

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Current		
<i>Annual leave</i>		
Provision for annual leave - current	746 843	725 183
Oncosts	133 535	129 663
	880 378	854 846
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Provision for long service leave - current	1 095 173	980 806
Oncosts	195 817	175 368
	1 290 990	1 156 174
Total current	2 171 368	2 011 020
Non-current		
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Provision for long service leave - non-current	227 252	177 414
Oncosts	39 708	31 180
	266 960	208 594
<i>Leased premises</i>		
Provision for make good	50 000	50 000
Total non-current	316 960	258 594

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

13 Other liabilities

13.1 Lease liability

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Current			
Equipment lease liability		-	7 688
Leased premises liability		287 315	246 722
Total current	17.1	287 315	254 410
Non-current			
Leased premises liability		6 632 041	6 919 356
Total non-current	17.1	6 632 041	6 919 356

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

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Current		
Contract revenue received in advance	5 036 385	11 791 383
GST liability	-	506 831
	5 036 385	12 298 214

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 2018 the number of members was nine (2017: 9).

15 Contingent liabilities

There are no material contingent liabilities at year end.

16 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 (resigned 23/8/2017)
Genevieve Knight	Acting National Manager, Research, Knowledge Management and Communication (appointed 30/1/2018)
Mette Creaser	National Manager, Statistics and Analytics

17 Financial risk management

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

17.1 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	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Financial assets			
Cash		897 487	3 142 769
Receivables	7	4 086 977	6 492 560
Investment		6 496 465	8 496 465
Total financial assets		11 480 929	18 131 794
Financial liabilities			
Creditors	11	617 435	42 235
Accrued expenses	11	654 326	830 511
Lease liability	13	6 919 356	7 173 766
Total financial liabilities		8 191 117	8 046 512

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

17.2 Net fair values

The net fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities (as presented in the table in note 17.1) of the Company approximates their carrying value.

18 Events after reporting date

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

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

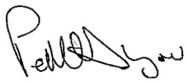
The Directors declare that the financial statements and notes preceding this declaration:

- (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 2018 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



Mette Creaser
Interim Managing Director

Dated at Adelaide this 21st day of September 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



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

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 2018, 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 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2018, 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.

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 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 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nexia Edwards Marshall'.

Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Dreckow'.

Jamie Dreckow
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

21 September 2018

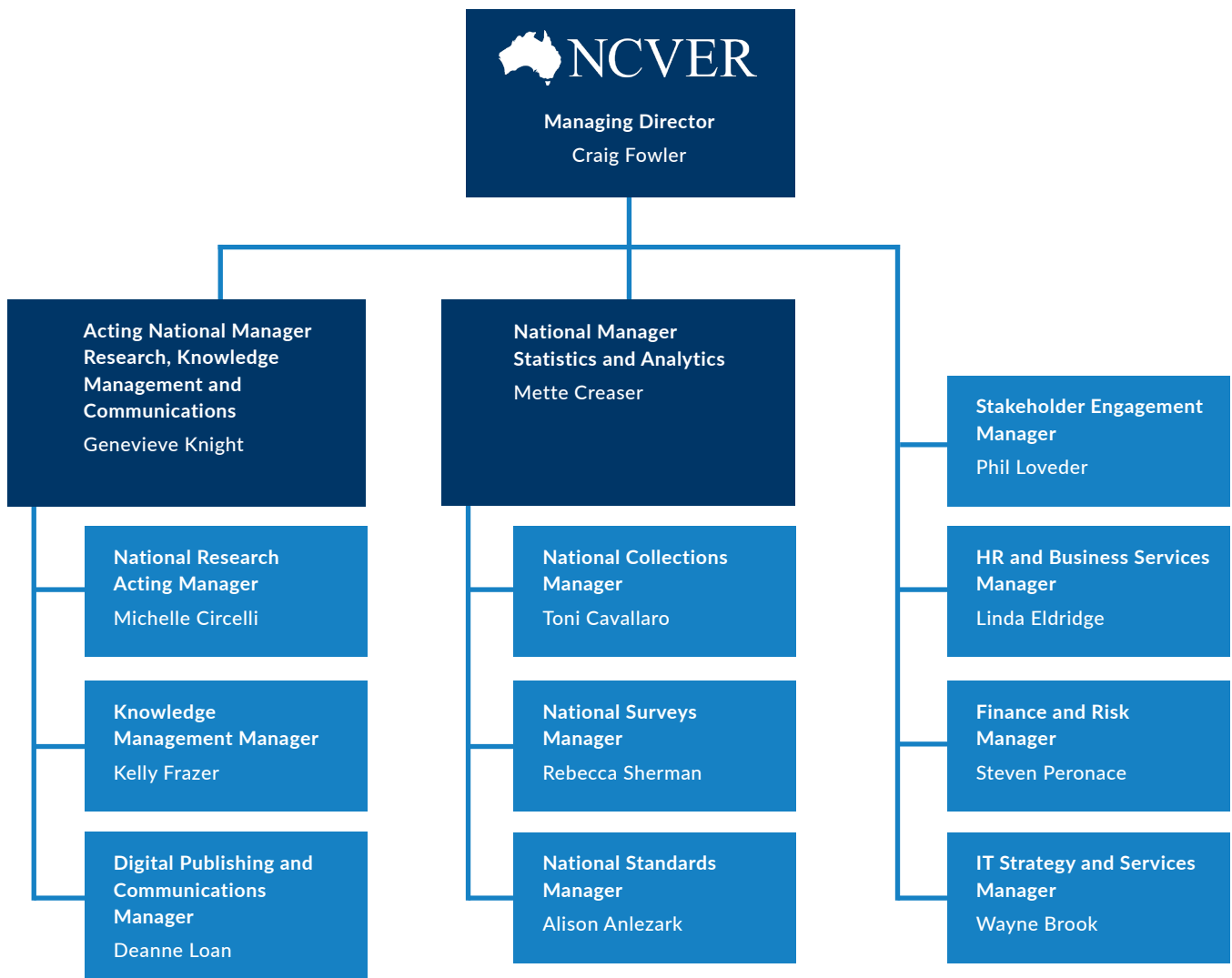
L3
153 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2163
Adelaide SA 5001
p +61 8 8139 1111
w nexiaem.com.au

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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

Genevieve Knight, BEc (Hons), MEc, PhD (Ec)
Acting National Manager, Research, Knowledge Management and Communications

MEMBERSHIP OF EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

As at 30 June 2018, 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
- Centre for Applied Youth Research Incorporated: organisational membership
- Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management, Editorial Board: Craig Fowler
- Australian Research Council External Reference Group, ARC HiVE Project: Craig Fowler
- National Skills Research Agency (South Africa), Editorial Board, *Skills at Work Journal: Theory and Practice*: Phil Loveder
- National Training Contract Working Group: Toni Cavallaro, Tracy Davey
- 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
- VET Data Strategy Working Group: Mette Creaser
- 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 2017–18. Superseded publications without links can be found in the VOCEDplus database <<http://www.voced.edu.au>>.

- Beddie, F & Simon, L 2017, [Developing VET applied research: steps towards enhancing VET's role in the innovation system](#)
- Beddie, F & Simon, L 2017, [VET applied research: driving VET's role in the innovation system](#)
- Brown, J 2017, [In their words: student choice in training markets - Victorian examples](#)
- Dommers, E, Myconos, G, Swain, L, Yung, S & Clarke, K 2017, [Engaging young early school leavers in vocational training](#)
- Gekara, V, Molla, A, Snell, D, Karanasios, S & Thomas, A 2017, [Developing appropriate workforce skills for Australia's emerging digital economy: working paper](#)
- Gore, J, Ellis, H, Fray, L, Smith, M, Lloyd, A, Berrigan, C, Lyell, A, Weaver, N & Holmes, K 2017, [Choosing VET: investigating the VET aspirations of school students](#)
- Griffin, T 2017, [Are we all speaking the same language? Understanding 'quality' in the VET sector](#)
- Hargreaves, J & Osborne, K 2017, [Choosing VET: aspirations, intentions and choice](#)
- Johnston, M & Callan, V 2017, [Social media and student outcomes: teacher, student and employer views](#)
- Korbel, P 2018, [Comparing high-use training package qualifications](#)
- Korbel, P 2018, [High-use training package qualifications: childcare](#)
- Korbel, P 2018, [High-use training package qualifications: specialised providers](#)
- Lamb, S, Maire, Q, Walstab, A, Newman, G, Doecke, E & Davies, M 2018, [Improving participation and success in VET for disadvantaged learners](#)
- Loveder, P 2017, [Australian apprenticeships: trends, challenges and future opportunities for dealing with Industry 4.0](#)
- McDonald, B 2018, [Total VET program completion rates](#)
- Misko, J, Korbel, P & Blomberg, D 2017, [VET in Schools students: characteristics and post-school employment and training experiences](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Historical time series of apprenticeships and traineeships in Australia: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Apprentices and trainees 2016: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: financial information 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: VET student outcomes 2017](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: employers' use and views of the VET system 2017](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: VET in Schools 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: VET program completion rates 2011–15](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: total VET students and courses 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2016 – annual](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2017 - March quarter](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2017 - June quarter](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2016](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses - January to June 2017](#)

PUBLISHED WORK

- NCVER 2017, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses - January to March 2017](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Employers' use and views of the VET system in 2017: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [NCVER 2016–17 annual report](#)
- NCVER 2017, [NCVER's strategic plan: 2017–20](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Social media in VET courses: good practice guide](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Total VET students and courses 2016: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [VET financial information 2016: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [VET graduate outcomes 2017: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [VET in Schools: a pathway to post-school employment and training: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [VET subject completer outcomes 2017: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2017, [Workplace training: employer and employee perspectives](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Apprentice and trainee outcomes: data visualisation](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2017 – December quarter Australia](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2017 – September quarter Australia](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: government-funded students and courses - January to September 2017](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Australian vocational education and training statistics: young people in education and training 2016](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Historical time series of government-funded vocational education and training from 1981 to 2017](#)
- NCVER 2018, [International onshore VET graduate outcomes 2017](#)
- NCVER 2018, [International onshore VET graduate outcomes 2017: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Research messages 2017](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Uptake and utility of VET qualifications: 2015 and 2016: infographic](#)
- NCVER 2018, [What factors explain the likelihood of completing a VET qualification?](#)
- NCVER 2018, [Young people in education and training 2016: infographic](#)
- Osborne, K & Circelli, M 2018, [From school to VET: choices, experiences and outcomes](#)
- Osborne, K, Fowler, C & Circelli, M 2018, [Data linkage in VET research: opportunities, challenges and principles](#)
- Sanders, B 2018, [Student Outcomes Survey: self-reported graduate model review](#)
- Schueler, J, Stanwick, J & Loveder, P 2017, [A framework to better measure the return on investment from TVET](#)
- Schuil, N 2018, [A guide to the Apprentices and trainees estimates review dashboard](#)
- Scott-Kemmis, D 2017, [The role of VET in the entrepreneurial ecosystem](#)
- Scott-Kemmis, D, Griffin, T & Fowler, C 2017, [VET and entrepreneurship: research overview](#)
- Shah, C & Dixon, J 2018, [Future job openings for new entrants by industry and occupation](#)
- Shah, C 2017, [Employers' perspectives on training: three industries](#)
- Siekmann, G & Fowler, C 2017, [Identifying work skills: international approaches](#)
- Simon, L & Beddie, F 2017, [Explaining the VET applied research developmental framework](#)
- Stanwick, J, Forrest, C & Skujins, P 2017, [Who are the persistently NEET young people?](#)

CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

During 2017–18, income from commissioned consultancy activities was \$613 045* and new commercial work contracted for the financial year was \$637 286 Details of individual commissioned projects follow:

Consultancy projects 2017–18

Project	Client	Outcome
Development of the National Industry Insights Report and website interface	AISC (Commonwealth of Australia)	National Insights Report and Industry Portal maintenance
Return on Investment mapping exercise	UNESCO	Practical guide to measuring ROI
AVETMISS reporting advisory project	Rural Fire Services (NSW)	Client advisory service
Private provision of VET: an analysis/profile of private provider role and performance	ACPET	Statistical report and infographics
Best practice structural adjustment	Jobs Queensland	Client report
Attendance and write-up of VET professional workforce consultation	Federation University	Client report
Non-financial audit	Canberra Institute of Technology	Audit report
Private return on investment for Certificate III and above	Department of Education and Training	Client report
Development of an industry survey tool to supplement data sources to inform training package development	AISC (Commonwealth of Australia)	Survey report
Essential Skills in Transport & Logistics	Australian Federation of Freight Forwarders	Client report

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

PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
5–7 July 2017	Windley G	Indigenous VET participation, completion & outcomes: change over the past decade	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Skurray P	Graduate outcomes for VET: the missing piece of the 'total VET activity' puzzle	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Forrest C, Parvazian S	Exploring data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Forrest C	Contemporising the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY): New opportunities for research and policy	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Dawe J, Windley G, Gamlin T	NCVER 'at your fingertips'	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Gamlin T	The VOCEDplus Pod Network: harvesting tertiary education research	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
5–7 July 2017	Lumsden M, Lees M	Jump aboard the NCVER data train... and explore the training market!	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
5–7 July 2017	Forrest C	Causes and consequences of being persistently not in education, employment or training (NEET) amount Australian youth: new longitudinal evidence	26th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'	Hobart, Tasmania
26–27 July 2017	Cavallaro T	Atlas of total VET: who's training in any region?	Community Colleges Australia Annual Conference 2017	Melbourne, Victoria
4 August 2017	Anlezark A	Unique student identifier (USI) TS update tool	2017 Qld Schools VET Conference	Brisbane, Queensland
18 August 2017	Misko J	The domino effect in adult education: learning together working together	South Australian Conference of Adult Literacy	Adelaide, South Australia
23–25 August 2017	McGregor K, Lumsden M	Understanding data: AVETMISS release 8.0 and NCVER data visualisation tools	ACPET National Conference 2017	Brisbane, Queensland
7–8 September 2017	Fowler C	The boundaries and connections between the VET and higher education sectors: 'confused, contested and collaborative'	TDA Convention 2017: Networked TAFE	Adelaide, South Australia
12–15 September 2017	Korbel P	Causes and consequences of being persistently not in education, employment or training (NEET) among Australian Youth	World TVET Conference	Queenstown, New Zealand
13–14 September 2017	Circelli M	Points of contact for research and teaching: exploring NCVER pods to improve practice	Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL) 40th National Conference	Darwin, Northern Territory
14–15 September 2017	Anlezark A	AVETMISS and more	VELG Training National VET Conference 2017	Sydney, New South Wales

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
20–21 September 2017	Payton A, Loveder P	Preparing today's learners for tomorrow's workplaces	2017 Eportfolio Forum	Melbourne, Victoria
28 September 2017	Loveder P	Recent trends in Australian apprenticeships and strategies for Industry 4.0	The 4th KRIVET International Conference on Apprenticeships	Seoul, Korea
18–20 October 2017	Knight G	Themes the LSAY youths say affect youth and the future, their future	Youth Affairs Council Victoria Conference	Melbourne, Victoria
19 October 2017	Senarath H, Lumsden M	NCVER data visualisation tools	Skills Canberra (ACT RTO Forum)	Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
20 October 2017	Blomberg D	Tracking the post-course outcomes of VET graduates	OctoberVET 2017	Adelaide, South Australia
20 October 2017	Semo R, Forrest C	Tracking student post-school employment, education and training destinations	OctoberVET 2017	Adelaide, South Australia
20 October 2017	Korbel P	Tracking the employment and training experiences of VET in Schools students using a new linked data set (linking VET in Schools Collection and Census of Population and Housing)	OctoberVET 2017	Adelaide, South Australia
25–26 October 2017	Fowler C	From measuring to interpreting: progress in visualisation, analytics and research to inform the Australian VET System	New Zealand Vocational Education and Training Research Forum 2017	Wellington, New Zealand

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
27–29 October 2017	Stanwick J	Who are the persistently NEET young people? Evidence from the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth	The Inclusive Education Summit 2017	Adelaide, South Australia
31 October 2017	Cavallaro T, Misko J	Trends in apprenticeships data: what do the numbers tell us?	Apprenticeships Beyond 2020 Forum Series Forum 1	Sydney, New South Wales
22 November 2017	Cavallaro T	Vocational education and training data: collections and outputs	Department of Employment Annual Conference 2017	Melbourne, Victoria
22–23 November 2017	Owen P, Misko J	Funding and financing in VET	VET Policy, Compliance and Funding Summit 2017	Sydney, New South Wales
14 December 2017	Loveder P, Misko J	Exploring different educational models for apprenticeships	Apprenticeships Beyond 2020 Forum Series Forum 2	Melbourne, Victoria
6–12 February 2018	Loveder P	Return on investment from technical and vocational education and training	ACTVET Innovation Week - Innovative TVET: Our Readiness to Lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
26–27 April 2018	Knight G, Anlezark A, Frazer K	National VET research and data products	AVETRA VET Practitioner Research Conference 2017	Melbourne, Victoria
23–24 May 2018	Loveder P	Parallel session speech and workshop on measuring return on investment in TVET: a practical guide	UNESCO–UNEVOC International TVET Forum	Bonn, Germany

STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
27 July 2017	Chappel R	USI transcript update tool	Department of State Development, USI Registrar	Adelaide, South Australia
31 August 2017	Creaser M	NCVER data products and services	Senior Skills Officials Network Meeting	Melbourne, Victoria
31 August 2017	Korbel P	Matching training jobs and skills	Senior Skills Officials Network Meeting	Melbourne, Victoria
13 September 2017	Anlezark A	AVETMISS and more	TAFE NSW	Sydney, New South Wales
25 September 2017	Anlezark A, Jackson L, Knight G, Loveder P, McGregor K	The role of NCVER in research and statistics in the Australian VET Sector	Central Institute of Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE)	Adelaide, South Australia
12 October 2017	Various	Overview of current NCVER priorities	Department of Education and Training	Adelaide, South Australia
12–13 October 2017	Various	Understanding NCVER's approach as an example of international best practice	Establishing a TVET related Clearinghouse an Research Centre for the Middle East. Understanding NCVER's approach as an example of International best practice	Adelaide, South Australia
13 October 2017	Fischer D, Librandi R	Unique student identifier update: ALT Presentation	TAFE SA – Regency Campus	Adelaide, South Australia
16 October 2017	Fowler C, Loveder P	The role of NCVER in research and statistics in the Australian VET sector	Quebec Institute of Mines	Adelaide, South Australia
16 October 2017	Loveder P	Measuring the return on investment from TVET: an analytical framework	Department of State Development (SA)	Adelaide, South Australia
7 December 2017	Fowler C, Creaser M	Overview of current NCVER priorities	Training Skills Commission	Adelaide, South Australia
20 December 2017	Ascensio J, Fischer D, Lumsden M	Trends in Apprenticeships Data – what do the numbers tell us?	Australian Quality Skills Authority (AQSA)	Adelaide, South Australia

STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

Date	Presenter	Title	Event	Location
24 January 2018	Loveder P	Funding and financing VET in Australia	Local Government Association (LGA)	Adelaide, South Australia
8 February 2018	Blomberg D, De Silva N, Forrest C, Korbel P, Misko J	National Student Outcomes Survey, LSAY data and overview of the VET in Schools research project	Department of State Development (SA)	Adelaide, South Australia
24 March 2018	Harvey B, Loveder P	Apprenticeship Trends	Department of Education and Training and State Development	Adelaide, South Australia
26 March 2018	Brook W, McGregor K, Doidge B	Introduction of AVETMISS and validation	NSW Rural Fire Service	Sydney, New South Wales
29 March 2018	Brook W, Lumsden M	VocExplore presentation	VocExplore Demonstration – My Skills	Adelaide, South Australia
11 April 2018	Brook W, Lumsden M	VocExplore presentation	VocExplore Demonstration – ASQA	Adelaide, South Australia

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to parliamentary and other inquiries

- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment: Inquiry into school to work transition. Submitted July 2017.
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Review of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011. Submitted August 2017.
- Department of Industry, Innovation and Science: Digital Economy Consultation Paper. Submitted November 2017.
- Parliament of Victoria Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee: Inquiry into career advice activities in Victorian schools. Submitted December 2017.
- The Business Council of Australia: Public consultation on Australia's tertiary education in the future. Submitted January 2018.
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Redevelopment and Audit of the Higher Education Data Collection. Submitted February 2018.
- Australian Government the Treasury: The Statistics Determination 1983. Submitted February 2018.
- Australian Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers: Inquiry into the future of work and workers. Submitted February 2018.
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Public consultation to Training Product Reform. Submitted March 2018.
- International Education Association of Australia (IEAA): Online survey of existing international education data, identifying data gaps and areas of improvement. Submitted March 2018.
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training: Redevelopment and Audit of the VET Student Loans Data Collection. Submitted May 2018.

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 2017–18 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 is mainly related to information exchange and regional intelligence gathering in 2016–17 and was shared with TAFE Directors' Australia.
- NCVER prepared an update to the Australia Country profile page for the UNESCO–UNEVOC International TVET database. This work was undertaken by Phil Loveder and Kristen Osborne and showcases Australia's approach to VET.
- Phil Loveder presented a keynote address on Australia's approach to high-level apprenticeships to the KRIVET International Symposium on 'How do we change our apprenticeships for dealing with Industry 4.0?' in Seoul, Korea 26–28 September, 2017. The resulting occasional paper was published by NCVER.
- Dr Craig Fowler presented a keynote address to the New Zealand VET Conference in Wellington, New Zealand on 25 October, 2017 titled: 'From measuring to interpreting: progress in visualisation, analytics and research to inform the Australian VET System'. At the conference it was announced that NCVER and the two New Zealand organisations would co-host next year's 'No Frills' conference in Sydney as a trans-Tasman international event.
- Phil Loveder presented a keynote address to the TVET Innovation Leaders' Forum in Abu Dhabi 6–7 February, 2018 titled 'Understanding the return on investment from TVET: an analytic framework'. In addition, he participated in a research panel discussion with representatives from the European Training Foundation (ETF), ETISALAT (primary UAE Telecommunications Company), local and regional education leaders and a separate roundtable event with key UAE training providers, including Australian representatives, held at the Abu Dhabi Polytechnic.
- Dr Mette Creaser attended the second joint Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE), China and the Federal Institute for Vocational Training (BIBB), Germany partners' meeting in Nanjing, China, which focused on sharing country experience across a range of topics including teaching and learning, industry 4.0 and skills for sustainability (green skills).
- Craig Fowler, Mette Creaser and Genevieve Knight met Ms Katherine Mullock and Dr Fabio Manca from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), about their Getting Skills Right project, which Australia is participating in as a case study focused on assessing skills supply and demand balance. This is an OECD–Australian country review funded jointly by the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business, and Department of Education and Training.
- Phil Loveder held a follow-up international video conference with officials of the Indian National Skills Development Agency (NSDA) on potential next steps in our bilateral relationship following the successful fellowship visit to Australia in mid-2017.
- Phil Loveder presented a session speech and workshop on 'Measuring return on investment in TVET: a practical guide' at the UNESCO–UNEVOC International TVET Forum, Bonn Germany 23–25 May, 2018. He was also the special convenor for the diversifying funding and investment in TVET stream at the conference. The guide prepared by NCVER will be published by UNESCO and NCVER in late 2018.
- Several members of NCVER's executive and management team participated in discussions with senior staff of Connexis, a New Zealand industry training organisation with a focus on civil infrastructure, telecommunications and power utilities.



INTERNATIONAL

- Phil Loveder participated in a consultation with the Institute of Adult Learning (Singapore), on their efforts to establish a research governance structure to evaluate research proposals under a new Workforce Development Research Fund (WARDF).

NCVER hosted four international fellowship groups:

- A delegation from the Research Centre for Local Public Resources and Policy Development (LORC) Ryukoku University Japan visited NCVER to understand Australia's approach to qualifications and recognising generic skills.
- Phil Loveder and other managers and staff presented to the Vice Director Liu Baomin of the Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education, China and delegation on aspects of NCVER's work and broader VET sector quality and regulatory arrangements.
- Craig Fowler and Phil Loveder presented on the role of NCVER in research and statistics in the Australian VET sector to Mr Robert Marquis, Executive Director Quebec Institute of Mines and a delegation of industry leaders.
- Several managers met with David Fullerton, the Chair of Applied Research and Innovation College of the North Atlantic, Doha, around establishing a research clearinghouse and statistical capability in the Middle East.

WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Research Working Group

The role of the Senior Skills Officials Network (SSON) Research Working Group (RWG) 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 topics for research
- canvassing relevant stakeholders to understand current research priorities
- prioritising research topics for endorsement by Senior Skills Officials
- providing advice to facilitate project proposal development
- providing support in the role of Research Sponsor of a project.

Technical Reference Advisory Committees

As at 30 June 2018, the Technical Reference Advisory Committees which advise NCVET on data-related issues are:

- Finance Officers Advisory Committee (Pat Owen)
- National VET Funding Collection Working Party (Pat Owen)
- Survey Network Advisory Committee (Rebecca Sherman)
- 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 non-binding advice on requests for access to unpublished identifiable data held by NCVET and the Student Identifiers Registrar. This may include requests for disclosure of data containing USIs and/or personal information. The committee is chaired and run by NCVET.

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 (Y15), 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



National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd

Level 5, 60 Light Square, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia
PO Box 8288 Station Arcade, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

Phone +61 8 8230 8400 **Email** ncver@ncver.edu.au **Web** <<https://www.ncver.edu.au>>

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