



Australian Government
**Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations**

VET Data Provision Exemptions Policy

From 1 October 2026

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The document must be attributed as the VET Data Provision Exemptions Policy.

Version	Amendment details	Author	Approved/Endorsed by	Date
1	Implements VET Data Provision Exemptions Policy	Bronwyn Todd	Skills and Workforce Ministers' Council Meeting	19/06/2026



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1. Purpose Statement

- 1.1. This document is known as the VET Data Provision Exemptions Policy (Exemptions Policy).
- 1.2. The Exemptions Policy is authorised under subsection 6A(1) of the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Data Provision Requirements) Instrument 2020* (the DPRs Instrument) for the purposes of setting out the circumstances under which a VET Regulator may grant an exemption to a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) from providing certain data provision requirements as set out in the DPRs Instrument.
- 1.3. The Exemptions Policy is to be read in conjunction with the DPRs Instrument's sections 6A and 6B.
- 1.4. The relevant VET Regulator (either the National VET Regulator or relevant State VET regulator) must consider matters set out in the Exemptions Policy in deciding whether to grant an exemption.
- 1.5. RTOs who have been granted an exemption must comply with any applicable requirements relating to the exemption as set out in this policy.
- 1.6. RTOs granted an exemption must still comply with all of their other obligations under the DPRs.
- 1.7. This Exemptions Policy applies to exemption decisions made from the date the DPRs as amended by the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Data Provision Requirements) Amendment Data Streamlining Instrument 2026* come into effect.
- 1.8. As set out in the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* (NVETR Act), decisions made under the DPRs Instrument in reliance on subsection 187(1A) are considered administrative and will not be subject to merits review.
- 1.9. As such, a decision made under the Exemptions Policy will only be reviewed internally and in accordance with processes set out in the policy (see section 9.4 of the Exemptions Policy).

2. Applying for an exemption

- 2.1. RTOs must make an application to their relevant VET Regulator for an exemption from submitting data compliant with the VET Information Standard.
- 2.2. RTOs should contact their relevant VET Regulator using the contact details provided on the VET Regulator's website to enquire about making an exemption application.
- 2.3. RTOs will need to provide evidence to support their claim for an exemption, against the programs in their Scope of Registration.

3. Exemption categories

- 3.1. The relevant VET Regulator may grant an exemption to an RTO from providing the full suite of VET Information Standard compliant data if it is considered that the RTO delivers training relates to:
 - A. national security, border protection or policing matters; or



B. emergency or safety community services.

3.2. The exemptions under section 3.1 of the Exemptions Policy only apply to specific courses or students undertaking training related to the relevant exemption category. The exemption does not apply to the training the RTO provides as a whole.

3.3. Where an RTO also delivers training that is not related to the exemption categories, it must collect and submit data compliant with the VET Information Standard on the training and any students that are not exempt.

4. Exemption A: Training for national security, border protection or policing matters

4.1. An RTO can apply for an exemption from submitting VET Information Standard compliant data where it provides training to students for national security, border protection or policing matters **and**:

- there would be a conflict with defence or national security legislation; or
- the reporting of that data may jeopardise the security of defence, border protection, customs, national security, or police personnel.

5. Exemption B: Training for emergency or safety community services

5.1. An RTO can apply for an exemption from submitting VET Information Standard compliant data where the RTO meets **all** of the following criteria:

- The RTO is providing emergency or safety related services to the Australian community;
- The RTO is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission;
- The RTO provides nationally recognised training to volunteers, employees, contractors, or other students;
- The RTO does not receive any payment from students for undertaking the exempt training (that is, training is free or no-cost to students); and
- The ability of the RTO to provide services to the community may be adversely impacted if it was required to submit full VET Information Standard compliant data on exempt activity.

6. Requirement to advise students that exempted training will not appear on transcripts

6.1. Prior to a student's commencement of training that has been exempted from submitting VET Information Standard compliant data, an RTO must inform students undertaking the training



that their training activity will not be included in the National VET Provider Collection and that the training activity will not appear on their Authenticated VET Transcript.

- 6.2. Where a student, whose training would ordinarily be subject to an exemption under section 5.1 of the Exemptions Policy, provides their USI or otherwise indicates that they would like the training they undertake to appear on their Authenticated VET Transcript, the exemption does not apply for that student. In this case a community service RTO is required to submit full VET Information Standard compliant data for that student's training in accordance with section 6C or 6D (as applicable) of the DPRs Instrument.

7. Reporting requirements for RTOs with an exemption

- 7.1. Where an exemption under section 4 or 5 of the Exemptions Policy has been granted, the RTO must collect and report the following aggregate data on a quarterly basis in the format below:

- RTO name and ID (where relevant);
- Quarter in the year in which the study was undertaken;
- Number of students commenced in each VET course;¹ and
- Number of students completed in each VET course.

- 7.2. The above aggregate data must be reported for all activity covered by the exemption undertaken within each quarter that starts during the exemption period and is available² to the organisation on the last day of that quarter³.

- 7.3. The aggregate data in respect of a quarter must be reported to the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) no later than one month after the start of the next quarter.

- 7.4. Where an exemption is in place at the time an RTO's registration ceases, the RTO must submit aggregate data covering the period since its last data submission up to the date its registration as an RTO ceases.

¹ 'VET course' is as defined in section 3 of the NVETR Act.

² The definition of 'available' is outlined in the DPRs Instrument at section 4.

³ The definition of a 'quarter' is outlined in the DPRs Instrument at section 4.



8. Periods and conditions of exemption

- 8.1. A VET regulator may place conditions on or limit the extent of an RTO's exemption.
- 8.2. An exemption does not apply until the relevant VET regulator has advised the RTO in writing that the exemption has been granted.
- 8.3. The relevant VET regulator will also advise NCVER of the RTO and the scope of exemption which has been granted.
- 8.4. An exemption will remain in place until the:
- the exemption is revoked by the RTO's VET regulator; or
 - the RTO's registration ceases; or
 - VET course (or replacement VET course) for which the exemption applies is removed from the RTO's scope of registration; or
 - the RTO voluntarily advises that they no longer require, or wish to withdraw their entitlement for, the granted exemption.

9. Exemption revocation or refusal

- 9.1. A VET Regulator may decide not to grant an exemption.
- 9.2. A VET regulator may revoke an exemption previously granted for reasons including, but not limited to:
- enforcement action taken by a VET regulator; and
 - significant change to an RTO's business operations or governance.
- 9.3. If an exemption is not granted or an exemption is revoked, the RTO will be advised of the reason by the VET regulator in writing.
- 9.4. If an RTO's claim for an exemption is not granted or an exemption is revoked, the RTO may lodge an application for internal review of the decision with the relevant VET regulator's most senior officeholder.

10. Management and review of this policy

- 10.1. Version 1 of this Exemption Policy takes effect from 1 October 2026.
- 10.2. The Exemption Policy may be updated from time to time and RTOs must comply with any updates as directed by their VET Regulator.

