

Privacy Policy

1. Purpose

Vocational Training Services is committed to providing quality training and assessment in accordance with the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Outcome Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations) Instrument 2025*. As such, Vocational Training Services is required to comply with Federal law regarding Privacy and confidentiality of employees, clients and contractors.

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Vocational Training Services complies with *Privacy Act 1988* and Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

2. Policy Statement

Vocational Training Services is committed to complying with obligation under *Privacy Act 1988*, and the associated Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), specifically in the way it collects, uses, secures and discloses personal information. Vocational Training Services is committed to safeguarding any confidential information obtained by the RTO.

Vocational Training Services will ensure:

- It maintains and provides a current Privacy Policy;
- Information gathered for the express purpose of training and assessment matters will not be disclosed to a third party unless prior written consent is provided by the individual concerned, except that required by law;
- The secure storage of all records;
- The confidentiality of all information maintained on records.

3. Policy Principles

3.1 Legislation

- a. Vocational Training Services, abides by the *Privacy Act 1988* and associated Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) which sets out standards, rights and obligations for the handling, holding, accessing and correction of personal information (including sensitive information).

3.2 Underpinning Principles

- a. **Personal Information** is defined in the *Privacy Act 1988* to mean “information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:
 - i. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and
 - ii. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
- b. **Sensitive Personal Information** is defined in the *Privacy Act 1988* to mean “information or an opinion about an individual’s” that is also personal information, such as:
 - i. racial or ethnic origin; or
 - ii. political opinions; or
 - iii. membership of a political association; or
 - iv. religious beliefs or affiliations; or
 - v. philosophical beliefs; or
 - vi. membership of a professional or trade association; or

- vii. membership of a trade union; or
- viii. sexual orientation or practices; or
- ix. criminal record.

3.3 PART 1 – Consideration of Personal Information Privacy

a) Open and Transparent Management of Personal Information

Vocational Training Services will:

- i. Ensure that personal information is managed in an open and transparent way.
- ii. **Take reasonable steps to implement practices and procedures** that will facilitate dealing with enquiries or complaints from individuals regarding compliance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).
- iii. Ensure that it maintains an up-to-date policy about the management of personal information.
- iv. **Ensure that** Vocational Training Services Privacy Policy contains the following information:
 - The kind of information that is collected and held;
 - How the information is collected and held;
 - The purposes for which information is collected, held, used and disclosed;
 - **How an individual may access their personal information that is held by** Vocational Training Services and seek correction of such information as necessary;
 - **How the individual may make a complaint about a breach of the APPs and how** Vocational Training Services will deal with such a complaint;
 - Whether Vocational Training Services is likely to disclose personal information to overseas recipients, and if so the countries in which such are likely to be located.
- v. Provide the Privacy Policy free of charge and in such form as appropriate, and as is reasonable.

b) Anonymity and pseudonymity

Vocational Training Services will:

- i. Respect that individuals may not wish to identify themselves when making enquiries on Vocational Training Services products and services;
- ii. However, require full personal details as required by law and for identification purposes from clients.

3.4 PART 2 – Collection of Personal Information

- a) Vocational Training Services will not collect personal information unless that information is necessary for one or more of its functions or activities, or is required by law.
- b) Vocational Training Services is required by law to collect, hold, use and supply personal information, in accordance with the *National VET Provider Collection Data Provision Requirements*.
- c) Vocational Training Services will take reasonable steps at or before the time of collection to ensure that clients are made aware of:
 - i. Who we are and how to contact us;
 - ii. How to gain access to your own information;
 - iii. The purpose for which the information is being collected;
 - iv. Any organisation to which we would normally disclose information of that kind;
 - v. Any law that requires the particular information to be collected;
 - vi. The main consequences for the individual if all or part of the information is not provided.
- d) Vocational Training Services collects information from clients in the following ways:
 - i. When you register your interest online, apply for enrolment, request certain services or products, or otherwise contact or do business with us.

- ii. Information may be collected from enrolment forms, certified documents, telephone calls, faxes, emails, letters sent by you.
- iii. Information may be collected from third parties, such as other training providers, regarding confirmation of training and ongoing professional development that you have attended, as permitted by you.
- e) Should Vocational Training Services collect information about a client from a third party we will take reasonable steps to ensure that the individual is or has been made aware of the matters listed above except to the extent that making the individual aware of the matters would pose a serious threat to the life or health of any individual.

3.5 PART 3 – Dealing with Personal Information

- a) Vocational Training Services will not use or disclose personal or sensitive information for any purpose other than what it was collected for, unless the relevant person has provided written consent to use or disclose that information in circumstances that are different to those for which it was collected. The circumstances where an exception may occur are:
 - i. Where the use or disclosure of this information is required or authorised by or under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order;
 - ii. The individual would reasonable expect Vocational Training Services to use or disclose the information for the secondary purpose;
 - iii. A permitted health situation exists in relation to the use or disclosure of the information by Vocational Training Services;
 - iv. A permitted general situation exists in relation to the use or disclosure of the information by Vocational Training Services;
 - v. Vocational Training Services reasonably believes that the use or disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary for one or more enforcement related activities conducted by, or on behalf of, an enforcement body.
- b) Vocational Training Services collects your personal information so as to:
 - i. Process applications;
 - ii. Manage your enrolment;
 - iii. Record and maintain your details;
 - iv. Administering training programs;
 - v. Record and maintain details of your ongoing training and assessment;
 - vi. Provide you with details regarding client services, benefits, and training opportunities;
 - vii. Notify you about upcoming events and opportunities;
 - viii. Gain feedback from you;
 - ix. Communicate with you;
 - x. Report to relevant authorities as required by law.
- c) **Direct Marketing**
Vocational Training Services:
 - i. May use personal information (specifically your name and relevant address details) and information about your preferences for direct marketing (ie the communication channels which you prefer for receiving direct marketing from us and the types of products and services in which you are interested in) so as to let you know about our services and benefits, where we have your consent.
 - ii. Provides an opt-out and/or unsubscribe method that is easily accessible for individuals to request not to receive direct marketing communications.

d) Cross Border Disclosure

Vocational Training Services:

- iii. Does not disclose personal information to overseas recipients unless prior written approval is received by the individual who the personal information relates.

e) Adoption, use or disclosure of Government Related identifiers

Vocational Training Services:

- i. Is required by law (*Student Identifier Act*) to collect, maintain and report to relevant Government agencies the individual's Unique Student Identifier (USI) number in accordance with the National VET Provider Collection Data Provision Requirements.
- ii. Will not disclose the Unique Student Identifier (USI) number for any other purpose, including on any Certification documents you receive.
- iii. Must not adopt the Unique Student Identifier (USI) number as its own identifier of the individual.

3.6 PART 4 – Integrity of Personal Information

a) Quality of personal information

Vocational Training Services will take steps, as are reasonable, to ensure that the personal information it:

- i. Collects is accurate, up to date and complete;
- ii. Uses or discloses, is, having regard to the purpose of the use or disclosure, accurate, up to date, complete and relevant.

b) Security of personal information

Vocational Training Services will take steps, as are reasonable in the circumstances to:

- i. Protect the information from misuse, interference and loss as well as unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.
- ii. Destroy the information or to ensure that the information is de-identified.
- iii. Notify the relevant government bodies in accordance with the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme.

3.7 PART 5 – Access to, and correction of, Personal Information

- a) Vocational Training Services provides all clients with electronic access to their own personal records, where the individual can update and maintain their own personal information.
- b) In some circumstances, Vocational Training Services may not permit access to individuals for their personal information. If this is ever the case, Vocational Training Services will provide full details for the legal reasons for this decision. These may include that Vocational Training Services believes:
 - i. That giving access to the information would pose a serious threat to the life, health or safety of the individual, or to public health or public safety; or
 - ii. Giving access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals; or
 - iii. The request for access is frivolous or vexatious; or
 - iv. The information relates to existing or anticipated legal proceedings between Vocational Training Services and the individual, and would not be accessible by the process of discovery in those proceedings; or
 - v. Giving access would reveal the intentions of Vocational Training Services in relation to negotiations with the individual in such a way as to prejudice those negotiations; or
 - vi. Giving access would be unlawful; or
 - vii. Denying access is required or authorised by or under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order; or
 - viii. Both of the following apply:

- Vocational Training Services has reason to suspect that unlawful activity, or misconduct of a serious nature, that relates to Vocational Training Services functions or activities has been, is being or may be engaged in;
- Giving access would be likely to prejudice the taking of appropriate action in relation to the matters; or
- ix. Giving access would be likely to prejudice one or more enforcement related activities conducted by, or on behalf of, an enforcement body; or
- x. Giving access would reveal evaluative information generated within Vocational Training Services in connection with a commercially sensitive decision-making process.
- c) When dealing with requests for access to personal information, Vocational Training Services will:
 - i. Respond to request for access within 30 days of the request, if from an individual, and within a reasonable time, if the request is from an organisation; and
 - ii. Provide access to the information in the manner requested, if it is reasonable and practicable to do so.
- d) Vocational Training Services does not charge a fee for access to personal information. The exception is re-prints of certification documentation previously supplied.
- e) With regard to the correction of personal information held:
 - i. should Vocational Training Services be satisfied that information is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading, Vocational Training Services will take such steps as reasonable to correct the information to ensure that, having regard to the purpose for which it is held, the information is accurate, up-to-date, complete, relevant and not misleading.
 - ii. Should Vocational Training Services refuse to correct information, Vocational Training Services will give written notice to the individual that sets out:
 - The reason for refusal
 - The mechanisms available to complain about the refusal; and
 - Any other matter prescribed by the regulations.

4. Vocational Training Services Responsibilities

The Management Team of Vocational Training Services ensures that all employees are made aware of this policy and its underpinning legislative requirements and comply with this policy at all times.

The Management Team of Vocational Training Services ensures that all clients have access to and awareness of this policy.

5. Records Management

All personal information and records are maintained in accordance with Records Management Policy.

6. Monitoring and Improvement

All practices for Privacy are monitored by the Managing Director Vocational Training Services and areas for improvement identified and acted upon as per the Continuous Improvement Policy.