



VET Student Loans Consultation Summary

(February-March 2022)

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment is making a series of improvements to streamline the VSL program and optimise the user experience.

In February 2022 the department commenced consultation on its VSL redesign work, releasing a paper seeking provider input on consultation preferences and a number of program settings.

Key feedback

Submissions were received from public and private providers, and peak sector bodies, spanning multiple jurisdictions. The majority of respondents were public providers. A summary of the feedback is set out below.

- Most respondents expressed an interest in direct and collaborative involvement in developing and implementing program redesign, and supported engagement occurring through written material, structured workshops, and surveying of past and current students.
- Respondents indicated that account managers would make program participation easier, especially in terms of enquiry handling. Some respondents suggested that a specialisation approach according to provider profile might be appropriate (e.g., private v public or industry focussed).
- Most respondents indicated that consideration should be given to the course eligibility requirements and whether it was necessary in all cases for courses to be VSL approved in addition to being on the RTO's scope of approval and on the VET Student Loans (Courses and Loan Caps) Determination 2016.
- There was strong support for review of the annual forecast reporting requirements on the basis that the current process is administratively onerous, due in large part to the evidentiary requirements.
- Regarding possible revised loan cap bands, respondents showed a preference for an increase in the number of loan cap bands, as opposed to setting individual loan caps for each course, to ensure simplicity and continuity with current arrangements. There were also positive responses regarding the potential of revised loan cap bands to increase access for students in some courses.

Next steps

The department appreciates the time and effort put into submissions. This content will be used to inform program improvement work as redesign progresses. Further consultation is expected to be undertaken in the coming months.

Please visit the [VSL Redesign](#) webpage for information and updates about redesign activities.