

Higher Education Data Committee

Terms of Reference

The Higher Education Data Committee will provide advice to the department on the development of improved higher education data collections and other matters pertaining to the collection and dissemination of higher education data, including:

- identifying the purposes and uses of data and the scope of the collection (data items and providers)
- establishing preferred methods and location of collection and storage of data, that is, data collection and repository arrangements
- overseeing the 2014-15 Budget measure 'Enhancements to the Higher Education Information Management System' which provides funding of \$3.8 million over four years to create a single point of access to higher education data.
- data governance and access issues, including privacy, and preferred mechanisms for access and dissemination by different stakeholders
- resourcing and costs associated with the collection and dissemination of data
- coordination and interaction of existing data and information related initiatives.

In formulating this advice, the Higher Education Data Committee will have reference to the following principles for the collection and dissemination of data:

- fit for purpose – data is used to suit the purposes for which it is designed to be used
- privacy – data collected will comply with laws relating to privacy
- consistency – data is consistently collected and applied across uses and time
- auditability – data can be readily scrutinised and verified back to source
- transparency – data has clear meaning
- timeliness – data is sufficiently timely to enable key stakeholders to analyse performance, risk and outcomes and take responsive action where appropriate
- validity and reliability – data should be robust and measure what it is intended to measure
- efficiency and cost-effectiveness – data collection should be justified by the value it yields for the various purposes for which it is collected and should not be excessively burdensome on either data suppliers or data users.

The department will provide secretariat support to the Higher Education Data Committee.

Membership of the Higher Education Data Committee

Position	Organisation
<u>Chair</u>	
Branch Manager, Economic and Market Analysis	Department of Education and Training
<u>Members</u>	
Branch Manager, Research Funding and Policy	Department of Education and Training
Branch Manager, Policy and Systems	Department of Education and Training
Branch Manager, Business Solutions	Department of Education and Training
Nominated representative	TEQSA
Nominated representative	Universities Australia
Nominated representative	Australian Research Council
Nominated representative	Australian Council for Private Education and Training
Nominated representative	Council of Private Higher Education
Nominated representative	Australian Network of University Practitioners
Nominated representative	Australian Bureau of Statistics