



Transforming the Collection of Student Information (TCSI)

Newsletter February 2019
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Welcome to 2019

Welcome back to Transforming Collection of Student Information for 2019.

2018 was a huge year for the project and saw the finalisation our external pre-production environment and the release our first set of API's for testing. This will underpin our work in the year ahead.

2019 will be even more 'exciting' as we work to complete the development of all APIs and the portal and release the new systems for the 2020 academic year.

We have an extensive range of stakeholder engagement activities planned to help you implement and transition to the new system. One of the key changes you will see soon is the roll out of our Service Hub. This team will provide the front door for any questions, support requests, or information you may need regarding TCSI. Naturally we will continue to participate in industry workshops, conduct regular webinars for you and your software development teams, and provide ongoing updates on project progress.

Finally, a big thank you to all of those organisations that have already participated in API testing, as well as working with us to finalise element specifications and review validations and other supporting documentation. Your feedback has been extremely valuable and has provided an insight into what is working well for you, and where we can improve as we continue through the development phases.

We look forward to working with you to build a better system for students, Higher Education and VET Student Loans providers (and their software vendors), and the Australian Government.

Best regards for 2019 from the combined DET and DHS team!

2020 Ministerial & Secretary's Notices

We are seeking your feedback on 2020 Reporting Requirements. Draft requirements for the Higher Education collection are available on the [TCSI Resources](#) page and VSL documents will be online in the coming days.

The draft **Scope and Structure Requirements** and **Timing Requirements** for the 2020 higher education and VSL collections, together with the data element specifications, will define the reporting requirements that will be released under the Ministerial Notice for higher education providers and the Secretary's Notice for VSL providers.

We are working towards finalising the documents to formally issue the notices in April this year. Your feedback is essential to help identify any potential issues and ensure the documents are as user friendly as possible.

What's included in the notices?

The draft **Scope and Structure Requirements** set out what needs to be reported as part of the Collections. It defines the information that is included in each data packet and any specific conditions or prerequisites for reporting. It also details how reported packets can be revised and how they can be added to over time.

The draft **Timing Requirements** sets out when different types of information are due in order to meet reporting obligations. The guidelines define event-based reporting which moves away from sector-wide deadlines and will instead require information a number of days after an event occurs. It also includes the reporting schedule for collections that will remain deadline driven.

The **Data Element Specifications** define the format and allowable values for each data element. They also provide additional information to support reporting requirements. The latest version of these specifications was released in November 2018. A tracked version highlighting the recent updates is available on the [TCSI Resources](#) page.

The **Data Framework** and **element list** are a visualisation of the reporting requirements in the Scope and Structure Requirements and Data Element Specifications. The latest version was released in November 2018. A tracked version highlighting recent updates is available on the [TCSI Resources](#) page.

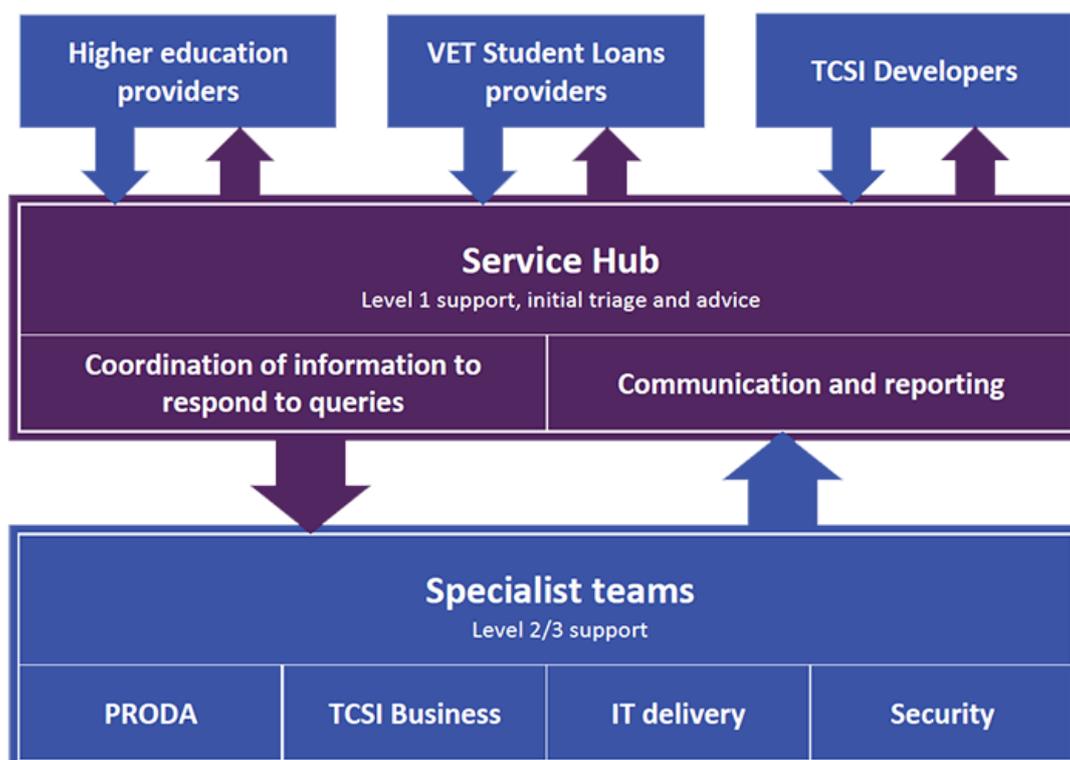
Please send your comments and any questions on the documents by **Wednesday 6 March 2019** to HEIMS.DataCollections@education.gov.au.

Service Hub

We are in the process of establishing a dedicated Service Hub to work with you through the development and implementation of TCSI.

The purpose of the Hub is to bring together support from across the TCSI project to manage critical risks and provide ongoing support and timely advice to you and your software developers.

Conceptually, we are looking to implement the following model:



The Service Hub is expected to be operational before the next testing cycle. We will keep you updated on our progress as we implement these new arrangements.

In the meantime, please continue to use the TCSI Developer support mailbox for technical queries and the HEIMS Data collections mailbox for general project and reporting questions.

TCSI Test environment

The TCSI testing environment was open to developers for the first API test cycle from 10 December 2018.

This first testing support window enabled higher education developers to test five API endpoints:

- Course of Study
- Course
- Campus
- Courses on Campus
- Unit of Study

The test window formally closed on 7 January 2019. However developers are able to continue using this test environment during January to March 2019 for the above APIs. While there will be reduced technical support during this period as the technical teams focus on the new API development, we are finalising arrangements to introduce the Service Hub which will provide dedicated support to help you meet your development needs.

Test cycle 2 opens 18 – 31 March 2019

We are on schedule with the development and testing of the Student APIs which are set to be completed by mid-March 2019. This will support development testing for the following API sets:

- Higher education Students
- VET Students
- VET Courses
- VET Campus
- VET Unit of Study.

The testing environment will also provide the opportunity to test against the five higher education APIs from test cycle 1.

A technical webinar is scheduled for mid-March, to discuss test cycle 2 with developers.

The TCSI Portal

Please join us for our [webinar](#) on Thursday 7 February which will provide a high level demonstration of the TCSI portal.

The [webinar](#) will focus on key functionality such as:

- file uploads and outcomes
- direct entry of individual records and revisions
- the display of data you have submitted

We will also provide an update on the recent testing window with software developers and an outline of the reporting documents on which we are seeking your feedback.

We will look forward to catching up with you on Thursday.

PRODA registration

We heard your developers! Reflecting back on the December testing period, we learnt a number of lessons about how we can continue to improve the test experience.

One area that came to light was PRODA registration. We have taken onboard their feedback and are working to improve the user experience by more clearly mapping out the registration process and improving communications to support this. We will be working with the co-design contributors to ensure we are able to enrich the user experience during the PRODA registration for the production environment.

We will have more information available shortly on how and when your organisations can commence registering so please watch this space!

Transition to TCSI

You have highlighted the importance of receiving detailed information on the process to transition from the current reporting systems to the TCSI solution. We have initiated discussions on this issue with the TCSI co-design contributors and will share the outcomes of our conversations with you over the coming months.

Contact us

Detailed information on the TCSI project is available on the [TCSI Resources page](#) on HEIMSHelp.

If you have any additional queries relating to TCSI please contact us at:

- **For general project and reporting issues:**

HEIMS Data Collections:

HEIMS.datacollections@education.gov.au

Telephone: (02) 6240 7487

- **For developer support and access to Govdex TCSI Developer Group Community**

TCSI.Developer.Support@humanservices.gov.au