



# Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) – Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) Privacy Notice

## 1.1. Background and purpose for collection of personal information

The Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) program consists of four survey elements:

*Student Experience Survey (SES)* which measures five aspects of the student experience (referred to as focus areas): skills development, peer engagement, teaching quality and engagement, student support and services, and learning resources; as well as other aspects of students' higher education experience.

*Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS)* which measures short-term employment outcomes, salaries, skills utilisation, further study activities and graduate satisfaction 4-6 months after course completion.

*Graduate Outcomes Survey – Longitudinal (GOS-L)* extends the assessment made in the GOS, by measuring graduates' medium-term employment outcomes and further study activities 3 years after completing their studies.

*Employer Satisfaction Survey (ESS)* which measures how well higher education institutions prepare graduates for the workforce from the perspective of their direct supervisor.

Personal information is collected to facilitate each of the QILT surveys. Covering study levels from undergraduate and above, and both domestic and international students, QILT is the only comprehensive system of higher education surveys in Australia covering the student life cycle from commencement of studies in higher education, to employment after course completion. Importantly, this depth within QILT provides an evidence base to:

- inform policy development and research regarding the quality of higher education in Australia
- provide a consistent basis for higher education providers to assess their performance and support their continual improvement efforts in key areas such as teaching practices, learner engagement and student support
- provide the underlying information for the ComparED website where prospective students can explore and compare Australian higher education institutions and study areas based on the real-life experiences of current students and recent graduates, and
- improve the quality of higher education in Australia by supporting quality assurance of the higher education sector by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

This privacy notice relates specifically to the *Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS)*.

## 1.2. Who is conducting the survey?

The Social Research Centre has been engaged by the Australian Government Department of Education (the department) to conduct the suite of QILT surveys, including the GOS.

### 1.3. How did you get my contact details and other personal information?

Personal information is information or an opinion about an identified or reasonably identifiable individual. Personal information about you includes your contact details, course details, citizenship and residence status and disability status, amongst other details.

When you enrolled in your course, your higher education provider (institution) collected your personal information to process and manage your enrolment. These details were provided to the Social Research Centre by your institution for the purposes of administering the data collection for the GOS.

Your responses to the GOS will be linked with personal information (such as your age group, citizenship and residence status, and your disability status) and course data provided by your institution. This allows the questionnaire to be shortened as we do not need to ask specific details about your background or your course in the survey.

### 1.4. Protection and management of your information

Both the department and the Social Research Centre must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act) including the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), as well as additional legislative obligations for handling information collected and used in the QILT surveys under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (Cth) and the *Student Identifiers Act 2014* (Cth).

To protect personal information, the Social Research Centre uses a secure portal for the transfer of information from your institution, and a secure platform for the completion of online surveys.

For the duration of the survey, the Social Research Centre stores all personal information and survey responses on secure servers located within Australia.

#### **What information is collected in the Graduate Outcomes Survey?**

If you choose to participate, further information about you will be collected by the Social Research Centre on behalf of the department in this survey.

This will include information about your current employment (e.g. salary, occupation and industry of employment), your views on how the course you studied at your institution prepared you for your employment, and any further studies you are undertaking.

Throughout the survey, you may choose to provide sensitive information such as information or an opinion about a race or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, membership of a professional or trade association, or membership of a trade union. Please know that any personal information, including sensitive information, you choose to provide will be handled in accordance with this privacy notice.

#### **Collection of personal information about others**

The GOS also asks you to provide the name and contact details of your supervisor at your place of employment, including their role. This supports the Social Research Centre being able to invite your supervisor to participate in the ESS. The ESS collects personal information about graduates to measure how well institutions prepare graduates for the workforce by assessing the skills and work readiness of graduates.

We need consent to collect personal information from someone other than the individual concerned so please seek your supervisor's consent before providing this information. The Social Research Centre provides materials (e.g. pro-forma email content) to assist with the process of gaining consent from your supervisor.

### **Is my participation voluntary and what are the consequences of not participating?**

While your participation in the survey will provide valuable feedback about your experiences as a student in your course and at your institution/s that is highly valued, participation in QILT surveys, including the GOS, is completely voluntary.

By participating in the GOS, you will be eligible to participate in the GOS-L. Additionally, if you choose to provide your supervisor's name and contact details in the GOS, your supervisor will be able to participate in the ESS. However, if you decide to not participate in the GOS or to provide your supervisor's name and contact details, it will not adversely impact you.

### **Use and disclosure of personal information**

Some personal information (such as your name, email address and phone number) is only used for administering the survey.

Other personal information such as demographic information (including gender, age group and citizenship status) as well as course information is also used to analyse and interpret the survey data. However, only aggregated, non-identifiable data are made publicly available on the QILT and ComparED websites.

Personal information about you that is collected under the GOS (and ESS where you have provided your supervisor's details) may be disclosed to third parties, including but not limited to:

- other Australian Government agencies or personnel contracted by the Commonwealth such as the Social Research Centre for the purpose of data sharing or data integration
- TEQSA for risk assessment and review processes (GOS only)
- the institution where you completed your studies to enable assessment of their performance and support continual improvement in key areas such as teaching practices, learner engagement and student support
- Universities Australia and Independent Higher Education Australia, university peak bodies that have consented to share institutional data among their members and with their respective peak body for research relating to the provision of higher education, including research relating to quality assurance, or planning the provision of higher education
- State and Territory government entities for research relating to the provision of higher education, including research relating to quality assurance, or planning the provision of higher education
- a small number of external service providers who help administer the GOS through email and messaging services will be provided with your contact information for the sole purpose of administering the survey. These companies destroy all records of your name and contact details at the conclusion of the survey.

Personal information may also be disclosed to other parties where the individual whose personal information it is has agreed, or it is otherwise permitted under the Privacy Act. Your personal information is unlikely to be disclosed to overseas recipients.

## Who to contact

For general queries about the survey, please contact the Graduate Outcomes Survey Helpline on 1800 055 818 (free call within Australia) or email [goshelpdesk@srcentre.com.au](mailto:goshelpdesk@srcentre.com.au). This includes queries or complaints concerning your personal information, or to request access to, or make a correction to, your personal information.

### 1.5. Privacy policy

The department's [Privacy Policy](#) contains more information about how the department will manage your personal information, including information about how to make a complaint and seek access to and correction of your personal information.

To contact the department about your personal information, email [privacy@education.gov.au](mailto:privacy@education.gov.au).

To contact the department about the QILT program, email [qilt@education.gov.au](mailto:qilt@education.gov.au).

The [Social Research Centre's Privacy Policy](#) also contains information on how they protect your privacy rights including information about complaints and how you can access the information they hold about you.