



# Changes to the VET Student Loans Rules 2016

On 19 October 2023 amendments to the VET Student Loans Rules 2016 (VSL Rules) commenced. Those amendments followed consultations during 2022 with VSL providers and vocational education and training sector representative organisations about ways to improve the operation of the VET Student Loans Program.

The department thanks stakeholders that participated and provided feedback on the proposed changes in the 2022 consultation process. We expect to consult on further program improvements in 2024.

## What are the changes?

Providers are asked to note the following changes to the VSL Rules that have occurred following the making of the VET Student Loans Amendment Rules (No. 1) 2023 (the Amending Instrument):

- **Annual Forecast** - the annual forecast process previously required by section 116 has been removed.
- **Annual Reporting** – an annual reporting requirement has been introduced under a new section 116. Under that provision, VSL providers must give to the Secretary information relevant to the department’s routine monitoring of activities to enable it to support providers in meeting their obligations under the VET Student Loans Act 2016 (VSL Act) and the VSL Rules. Specifically, providers are required to give to the Secretary:
  - i. information about the provider’s links with industry and other bodies as required under section 35 of the VSL Rules
  - ii. information about any ‘third party arrangements’, whether approved or not, which the provider has engaged a third party to deliver all or part of an approved course of the kind referred to in section 15(1)(b) of the VSL Act
  - iii. a report on the results of the provider’s last annual assessment of student satisfaction in relation to each of its courses made under subsection 34(2) of the VSL Rules and
  - iv. any other information determined by the Secretary.

The department will provide further information in the coming months about the manner and timing of the new annual reporting requirements. However, the first annual reporting will not

be required until 2024. Providers will be given support and adequate time to prepare for the new reporting requirements.

- **Annual Financial Statements** – the changes extend the timeframe for lodgement of annual financial statements by non-listed VSL providers from 3 months to 4 months after the end of each financial year.
- **Related Party Transactions** – requirements relating to transactions between providers, their key personnel and other related parties have been adjusted so that they apply to a broader range of transactions.
- **Course Provider Requirements** – the changes increase the number of course provider requirements that listed providers are taken to meet.

The Amending Instrument and the Explanatory Statement can be viewed on the Federal Register of Legislation at: [VET Student Loans Amendment Rules \(No.1\) 2023 \(legislation.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.gov.au/australian-legal-requirements/vet-student-loans-amendment-rules-no-1-2023), or can be located from the Register's home page (legislation.gov.au) by typing 'VET Student Loans' into the search function.

In due course a compilation of the principal instrument – the VET Student Loans Rules 2016 – will also be available on the Register.

The department will contact providers in the coming months about arrangements for annual reporting in 2024.

Please direct any questions about the changes and associated new arrangements to [VETStudentLoans@dewr.gov.au](mailto:VETStudentLoans@dewr.gov.au).