2020 Reporting Requirements for the Higher Education Data Collections

I am writing to advise you that the 2020 reporting requirements for the Higher Education Data Collections was released on 25 June 2019.

The Ministerial Notice, issued under section 19-70 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA), covers both the information requirements and the method by which the information is collected. This Notice specifically addresses the method as the Australian Government moves from the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) to a more modern means of data collection.

From the 2012 *Review of Reporting Requirements for Universities* to the assessment of pain points in the HEIMS redevelopment workshops in 2016-17, sector feedback on the existing HEIMS has shown that changes need to be made. You have told us that the current system is expensive for you to maintain and data is provided back to you too late.

In November 2017, the Department of Education partnered with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to redevelop the existing submission technologies to enable simpler, more flexible reporting processes and better support data exchange and availability. The Transforming the Collection of Student Information (TCSI) project is also facilitating the restructuring of the student data collection, to remove duplication across submissions, simplify validation processes and improve data quality and timeliness.

The department has engaged in extensive consultation throughout 2018 and into 2019 to implement changes to data collection. This commenced in January 2018 with the release of the discussion paper *Redevelopment and Audit of the Higher Education Data Collection* and the establishment of the TCSI co-design group. We have continued to work with the sector through webinars, the TCSI newsletters and the DHS Service Hub, in reaching an understanding of your needs and how the TCSI project can meet them. Reflecting these consultations, we will transition to the new reporting arrangements by 31 May 2020.

In preparation, the 2020 Ministerial Notice is issued in two parts. This release of the Notice sets out the requirements for the submission of higher education data:

- The primary channel for data submission will use APIs (Application Programming Interface). This channel supports system-to-system submission and reporting functionality.

- A file upload capability is also available for low volume transactions and basic ICT capability.

The technical specifications for APIs are being developed progressively, in collaboration with developers across the sector. Technical documentation is available from the Govdex Developer portal or by contacting HEIMS Data Collections.

An update to this Notice will issue the scope, structure and timing requirements for 2020 data reporting.

- Draft documents were first released on 5 February 2019. Feedback over the past five months has been incorporated into the final versions released today. Providers have a final opportunity to comment by 19 July 2019. All documents for review are available from the TCSI Resources page of HEIMSHELP.

We anticipate issuing the update to the Notice towards the end of July, following the outcomes of the consultation process.

If you have any queries relating to the 2020 transition to TCSI, please contact Maureen Wood, Transforming the Collection of Student Information, on (02) 6218 4470 or Maureen.Wood@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Taylor
Branch Manager
Market Analysis and Data

25 June 2019

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT ACT 2003

Notice under subsection 19-70(1)

I, Dr Andrew Taylor, Branch Manager, Market Analysis and Data Branch, Department of Education, as delegate of the Minister for Education under paragraph 238-5(1)(b) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) for the purposes of subsection 19-70(2) of HESA:

Approve the form in which all 2020 data must be lodged. This is via the following submission channels:

- APIs (Application Programming Interface) for system-to-system submission; or
- File upload to the portal.

The documents for these submission methods are available by contacting HEIMS Data Collections on (02) 6240 7487 or emailing HEIMS.datacollections@education.gov.au.

You are required to check for any changes that may, from time to time, be made to the data requirements. All changes to the requirements for the Higher Education Data Collection will be noted in the 2020 Higher Education Data Requirements and Change Control document.

Dr Andrew Taylor
Branch Manager
Market Analysis and Data Branch

25 June 2019