

# Privacy Policy & Procedure

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## Purpose

This policy ensures that Southern Solutions Training Services meets its legal and ethical requirements in regard to the collection, storage and disclosure of the personal information it holds in regards to individuals.

This policy and procedure contributes to compliance with Clause 3.6 and 8.5 of the Standards, as well as compliance with Standard 3 of the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

## Definitions

**ASQA** means Australian Skills Quality Authority which is the national VET regulator and the RTO's registering body

**DET** means Department of Education and Training (C'wealth)

**DIBP** means Department of Immigration and Border Protection

**Personal information** means *'information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:*

- *'Whether the information or opinion is true or not; and*

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- *'Whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.'*<sup>1</sup>

**SRTOs** means the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015 – refer definition of 'Standards'

**Standards** means the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 from the VET Quality Framework which can be accessed at [www.asqa.gov.au](http://www.asqa.gov.au)

**TPS** means the Tuition Protection Scheme established to assist international students where the provider is unable to deliver their course in full because of provider default.

**Unique Student Identifier** is a unique reference number issued to an individual by the Australian Government. It is made up of numbers and letters and enables an individual to look up and track their training achievements in an online database.

**USI** means Unique Student Identifier as above

## Policy

### 1. Privacy Principles

- Personal information is collected from individuals in order that Southern Solutions Training Services can carry out its business functions. Southern Solutions Training Services only collects and stores information that is directly related to its business purposes and legal requirements of providing nationally recognised training and assessment.
- In collecting personal information, Southern Solutions Training Services complies with the requirements set out in the Privacy Act 1988 and the relevant privacy legislation and regulations of the states/territories in which the RTO operates.
- This means Southern Solutions Training Services ensures each individual:
  - Knows why their information is being collected, how it will be used and who it will be disclosed to.
  - Is able to access their personal information upon request.
  - Does not receive unwanted direct marketing.
  - Can ask for personal information that is incorrect to be corrected.
  - Can make a complaint about Southern Solutions Training Services if they consider that their personal information has been mishandled.

### 2. Collection of information

- In general personal information will be collected through course application and/or enrolment forms, training records, assessment records and online forms and submissions.
- The types of personal information collected include:
  - personal and contact details
  - employment information, where relevant
  - academic history

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<sup>1</sup> Definition from: Australian Government. *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Accessed on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at [http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014C00076/Html/Text#\\_Toc382302897](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014C00076/Html/Text#_Toc382302897)

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- for international students, current course information including CRICOS code, agreed starting date, expected completion date if the student did not start on the agreed date
- Information about any terminations for change to identity and duration of the course for international students
- English language proficiency for international students, including the name of the test and the score received
- visa information for international students, including the DIBP office where the visa application was made and current local DIBP office
- passport information for international students including whether the student was in Australia when they became an accepted student
- background information collected for statistical purposes about prior education, schooling, place of birth, disabilities and so on
- training, participation and assessment information
- breaches of student visa conditions relating to attendance and/or course progress
- fees and payment information
- information required for the issuance of a USI.

## 3. Unique Student Identifiers (USI)

- All students participating in nationally recognised training from 1 January 2015 are required to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) and provide it to Southern Solutions Training Services upon enrolment. Alternatively, Southern Solutions Training Services can apply for a USI on behalf of an individual.
- The Student Identifiers Act 2014 authorises the Australian Government's Student Identifiers Registrar to collect information about USI applicants. When Southern Solutions Training Services applies for a USI on behalf of a student who has authorised us to do so, we need to collect personal information about the student which will be passed on to the Student Identifiers Registrar. This will include:
  - name, including first or given name(s), middle name(s) and surname or family name
  - date of birth
  - city or town of birth
  - country of birth
  - gender
  - contact details, so the Student Identifiers Registrar can provide individuals with their USI and explain how to activate their USI account.
- In order to create a USI on behalf of a student, Southern Solutions Training Services will be required to verify the identity of the individual by receiving a copy of an accepted identification document. This document will only be used for the purposes of generating the USI and confirming the identity of the individual with the Registrar. Once the USI has been generated and validated, the identity documents used or collected for this purpose will be securely destroyed.
- The information provided by an individual in connection with their application for a USI:
  - is collected by the Registrar as authorised by the Student Identifiers Act 2014.
  - is collected by the Registrar for the purposes of:
    - applying for, verifying and giving a USI

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- resolving problems with a USI
- creating authenticated vocational education and training (VET) transcripts
- may be disclosed to:
  - Commonwealth and State/Territory government departments and agencies and statutory bodies performing functions relating to VET for:
    - the purposes of administering and auditing VET, VET providers and VET programs
    - education related policy and research purposes
    - to assist in determining eligibility for training subsidies
  - VET Regulators to enable them to perform their VET regulatory functions
  - VET Admission Bodies for the purposes of administering VET and VET programs
  - current and former Registered Training Organisations to enable them to deliver VET courses to the individual, meet their reporting obligations under the VET standards and government contracts and assist in determining eligibility for training subsidies
  - schools for the purposes of delivering VET courses to the individual and reporting on these courses
  - the National Centre for Vocational Education Research for the purpose of creating authenticated VET transcripts, resolving problems with USIs and for the collection, preparation and auditing of national VET statistics
  - researchers for education and training related research purposes
  - any other person or agency that may be authorised or required by law to access the information
  - any entity contractually engaged by the Student Identifiers Registrar to assist in the performance of his or her functions in the administration of the USI system
  - will not otherwise be disclosed without the student's consent unless authorised or required by or under law
- The consequences to the student of not providing the Registrar with some or all of their personal information are that the Registrar will not be able to issue the student with a USI, and therefore Southern Solutions Training Services will be unable to issue a qualification or statement of attainment.

## 4. Storage and use of information

- Southern Solutions Training Services will store all records containing personal information securely and take all reasonable security measures to protect the information collected from unauthorised access, misuse or disclosure. Personal information will be stored in paper-based files that are kept in a secure location and electronically in a secure environment to which only authorised staff have access.
- The personal information held about individuals will only be used to enable efficient student administration, provide information about training opportunities, issue statements of attainment and qualifications to eligible students, and to maintain accurate and detailed records of student course participation, progress and outcomes. Information about international students may also be shared to promote compliance with the conditions of student visas and the monitoring and control of visas.
- Southern Solutions Training Services may use the personal information provided by an individual to market other internal products and services to them. An individual may opt out of being contacted for marketing purposes at any time by contacting our office. Information will not be passed onto any third party marketing companies without the prior written consent of the individual.

## 5. Disclosure of information

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- The personal information about students enrolled in a Course with Southern Solutions Training Services may be shared with the Australian Government and designated authorities, such as ASQA (the RTO's registering body) and its auditors, the USI Registrar (as per above), DET, TPS and DIBP, Apprenticeship Network Provider, State Training Authority (VRQA and Training Services NSW), Victorian Department of Jobs, skills industry and regions, and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). This includes personal details, contact details, course enrolment information, unit outcomes, AQF certification and statement issuance and information about training participation and progress.
- Southern Solutions Training Services will not disclose an individual's personal information to another person or organisation unless:
  - They are aware that information of that kind is usually passed to that person or organisation.
  - The individual has given written consent.
  - Southern Solutions Training Services believes on reasonable grounds that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the life or health of the individual concerned or another person.
  - The disclosure is required or authorised by, or under, law.
  - The disclosure is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the protection of public revenue.
- Any person or organisation to which information is disclosed is not permitted to use or disclose the information for a purpose other than for which the information was supplied to them.

## 6. Access to and correction of records

- Individuals have the right to access or obtain a copy of the information that Southern Solutions Training Services holds about them including personal details, contact details and information relating to course participation, progress and AQF certification and statements of attainment issued.
- Requests to access or obtain a copy of the records held about an individual must be made by contacting our office using the Request to Access Records Form. The individual must prove their identity to be able to access their records.
- There is no charge for an individual to access the records that Southern Solutions Training Services holds about them; however there may be a charge for any copies made. Arrangements will be made within 10 days for the individual to access their records.

## 7. Complaints about privacy

- Any individual wishing to make a complaint or appeal about the way information has been handled within Southern Solutions Training Services can do so by following Southern Solutions Training Services's Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure.

## Procedure

### A. Privacy Notices

Procedure	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check privacy notices are included in relevant forms and information such as Enrolment Forms. This includes the suggested wording about privacy from the National Code.</li> <li>• Ensure the Victorian Government prescribed privacy notice is included where appropriate</li> </ul>	Compliance Manager

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Procedure	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the NSW Government privacy notice is included where appropriate</li> </ul>	

## B. Marketing Privacy

Procedure	Responsibility
<b>A. Email marketing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is an opt-out option on all marketing emails and correspondence sent to individuals in relation to marketing.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<b>Business Development Consultant</b>

## C. Privacy of USI

Procedure	Responsibility
<b>A. USI Authority and Identification documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USIs are collected on the <i>Enrolment Form</i>. Where a student does not have a USI they may request for Southern Solutions Training Services to create one on their behalf.</li> <li>Students who request for Southern Solutions Training Services to create a USI on their behalf must sign the USI Authority Form and provide the required identification document/s.</li> <li>A USI must not be created for a student if the USI Authority Form which includes the privacy notice has not been signed.</li> <li>Once the USI has been generated and validated, the ID documents (where used only for the purposes of generating the USI) must be securely destroyed and not kept on file.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the <i>Student Administration Policy and Procedure</i> for detailed instructions on the generation of USIs.</p>	<b>Administration Team</b>

## D. Access to records

Procedure	Responsibility
<b>A. Request to access records</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals may request to access their records by using the <i>Request to Access Records Form</i>. Written requests should be sent to the head office.</li> <li>Requests may be from past or current students or other individuals. It may be to access records held in a file about a student, or access to a previously issued AQF certification document – refer to the <i>AQF Certification Policy &amp; Procedure</i>.</li> </ul>	<b>Administration team</b>

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Procedure	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon receiving a completed form, confirm the request is valid and has been made by the individual to which the records relate – check identification documents.</li> <li>Arrangements for provision of records should be made as suitable – mailing copies, providing a time for records to be viewed etc.</li> <li>Arrangements should be made verbally and confirmed in writing within 10 days of receiving the request.</li> <li>Where records are to be mailed, they should only be mailed to the address that is held on file for that individual, unless alternate change of address information is provided along with proof of identity – such as a driver's license or utility bill.</li> <li>Where records are to be shown to an individual, the student must produce photo ID prior and this should be matched to the records held on file about the individual to confirm they are only viewing their own records.</li> </ul> <p>Keep a note on how the records were accessed on the individuals file.</p>	

## E. Amendment to records

Procedure	Responsibility
<p><b>A. Request for records to be amended</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where an individual requests for incorrect records held about them to be corrected, they can do so by login into the student portal and update.</li> <li>Upon receipt of a request form, consider whether the records held are correct or not. If the request is valid and records are incorrect, update records accordingly.</li> <li>Do not update records if they are found to be correct already.</li> <li>Advise the individual accordingly of the actions taken to follow up their request</li> </ul>	Administration team

## Version History

Version	Date	Reason for change	Prepared and approved by
1.2.	March 2023	Amendments to Skills first contract included	Marie Vassallo Consulting

## Document Control

Author:	Carol Riley
Approved By:	Jayne Marsh
Approval Date:	March 2023
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