



VET for School Students Fact Sheet

Information on Consent to access additional personal and learning supports

What are personal and learning supports?

All RTOs provide a range of supports to their students to help them to succeed in their training. See the RTO Supports fact sheet [here](#) (for schools and parents) and [here](#) (for students) for more information on these general supports.

Additional personal and learning supports are also available and are designed to provide individualised support to students who are experiencing complex issues or experiencing challenges with their study that the normal classroom supports are not able to fully support.

When a school refers a school student to a VET training provider to be assessed for entry into a VET course through the VET Readiness Orientation process (VETRO), parents (or students if they are over 18 or have independent status) are asked to give their consent for the student to access either Learner Support Services (LSS) or TAFE SA Student Services (TAFE SS), depending on the training provider they will be enrolled with.

Follow this [link](#) for more information about TAFE SS and this [link](#) to the LSS Fact Sheet for students.

What do additional supports include?

Both LSS and TAFE SS provide access to one-on-one advice, encouragement and practical support for difficulties students may be experiencing that are or could impact on their success in training. Students can be referred to these services by their trainer, or they can self-refer. These supports go beyond the supports typically provided in the class by the training organisation and respond to additional or complex individual needs of students. These barriers could be to do with the learning environment, study skills difficulties, personal life challenges interfering with training or be linked to their experiences with transitioning into study or from study to employment.

What might school students need additional support with?

When first entering an adult learning environment school students may need additional support to adjust to the expectations that students will take responsibility for their learning and help seeking as well as differences in how the teaching and learning takes place and how work placements need to be undertaken.

Sometimes support may be needed for study skills – like how to organise learning and manage time, sometimes it is to help understand how to behave in an adult workplace or an adult training space. Workplace rules are often different to school rules.

Some school students may struggle with personal wellbeing challenges –that they cannot understand or overcome on their own, they may be experiencing bullying or other anxieties that are typical of young adults. Many school students experience adult challenges like not having a safe place to call home, financial worries, feeding themselves or their siblings.

In all these cases, students struggle to put their studies first, and this is where Learner Support Services or TAFE Student Services provides the individualised, wholistic support that students need in these circumstances. These supports are offered in consultation and partnership with the school and any other services that the student may be accessing – whether at school or outside of school.

Why is it important for a school student to use this service?

Schools will have supports in place for students that need additional services. But school students will not necessarily be able to use this while they are off the school campus, while they are at the training provider campus or while they are in the workplace. The LSS/TAFE SS provider often has more capacity and resources in place to support the student while they are doing their training or work placement.

The LSS/TAFE SS support person understands what it is like to be in a learning site where students are treated as adults. And sometimes this is one of the hardest adjustments for school students. Providing this support is often critical to success.

What are you giving consent for in Part A and Part C of the Online Referral Form?

As the parent or independent student, you are giving consent to access a LSS/TAFE SS support person employed by a VET training provider, someone who has specialised skills in supporting students with personal/living and learning difficulties that are making it hard for them to focus on their training.

If the school student chooses to access these additional services, they will also be required to sign a further consent form indicating that they agree to share information where needed. This is to ensure that the student understands and is comfortable with how their personal information is treated, who it might be shared with and what the limits of confidentiality mean.

Information shared between the student and the support person will remain private and confidential unless there are circumstances in which the support person or training provider **MUST** notify other people, or where the student has given their permission to share information with particular people or organisations.

It is important to know that:

1. Information that the support person has before the student consults with them is not considered confidential. This could include information disclosed to the school, disclosed by the parent/student to the training provider or another individual/organisation where consent has been given to share this.
2. Information that is generally known to the public (which includes the school or the workplace that the student is placed in) is not considered confidential.

3. Information that the support person gets – without using information given to them by the student – is not confidential.
4. If it is required by law (through court order or subpoena), this information must be provided.
5. If the case manager or training provider believes that the information provided means that the student is at risk of danger or harm to themselves or others, the information will be shared with relevant authorities.
6. If information disclosed to the LSS case manager identifies illegal activities, this must be reported. This includes where there is suspicion of child, elder or dependent adult abuse.

Personal information will be shared with the Department for Innovation and Skills, including academic results and details of the support provided for the purposes of tracking the student's progress, ensuring the student receives effective support, referral to other agencies or services, providing information about further training and/or employment opportunities and statistical analysis, evaluation and reporting of participation in the program.

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