

Just another number? A unique student identifier for the vocational education & training sector



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USI update

- Ministers also endorsed the final business case for a Unique Student Identifier (USI) for [VET for] submission to COAG. The USI will provide a critical source of data for the VET sector.
- The USI will directly benefit students, governments, researchers and providers and has been designed with robust privacy and governance settings.
 - *Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) Meeting SCOTESE Communiqué, 25 November 2011*

Likely next steps

- COAG consideration of the business case
- If agreed, work will progress concurrently on:
 - ▶ Legislative arrangements
 - Establishing the USI
 - Governance of the USI register
 - Privacy issues
 - ▶ IT solution
 - ▶ Identity and data management protocols
 - ▶ Stakeholder engagement

How it could work

- Students obtain a USI from the USI register
- Students provides the USI to training provider, or the training provider obtains one on their behalf from the USI register
- Data submitted to the National VET Provider Collection includes USI, but not identifying information
- Transcript of training can be obtained by the student from the USI register through linking the USI with the National VET Provider Collection

Proposed scope

- A unique number for all VET students:
 - ▶ across all accredited VET programs under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
 - ▶ covering all registered training organisations
 - ▶ applies to all international and VET in schools students enrolled in AQF qualifications with an Australian provider

Purpose

- To record all accredited education and training undertaken and qualifications achieved for each individual who access VET over his or her lifetime, thereby:
 - ▶ providing individuals with a composite and authenticated personal record
 - ▶ enabling governments to support student-centred training models by providing a single source of information on an individual's VET history

Underlying principles

- A cross-sectoral framework for the USI is established for the whole education and training system
 - ▶ with implementation first in VET
- Student identifying information is quarantined and stored separately from training activity
 - ▶ requires a USI registry

Underlying principles (2)

- To be established as a coherent national initiative
- To be based on a student-centred approach
- Other unique identifiers, such as the Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) can be accommodated in the design

Critical success factors

- Expert input into the business case
 - ▶ IT solution
 - ▶ Legal, privacy and governance
 - ▶ Consultation
 - ▶ Expert Advisory Group

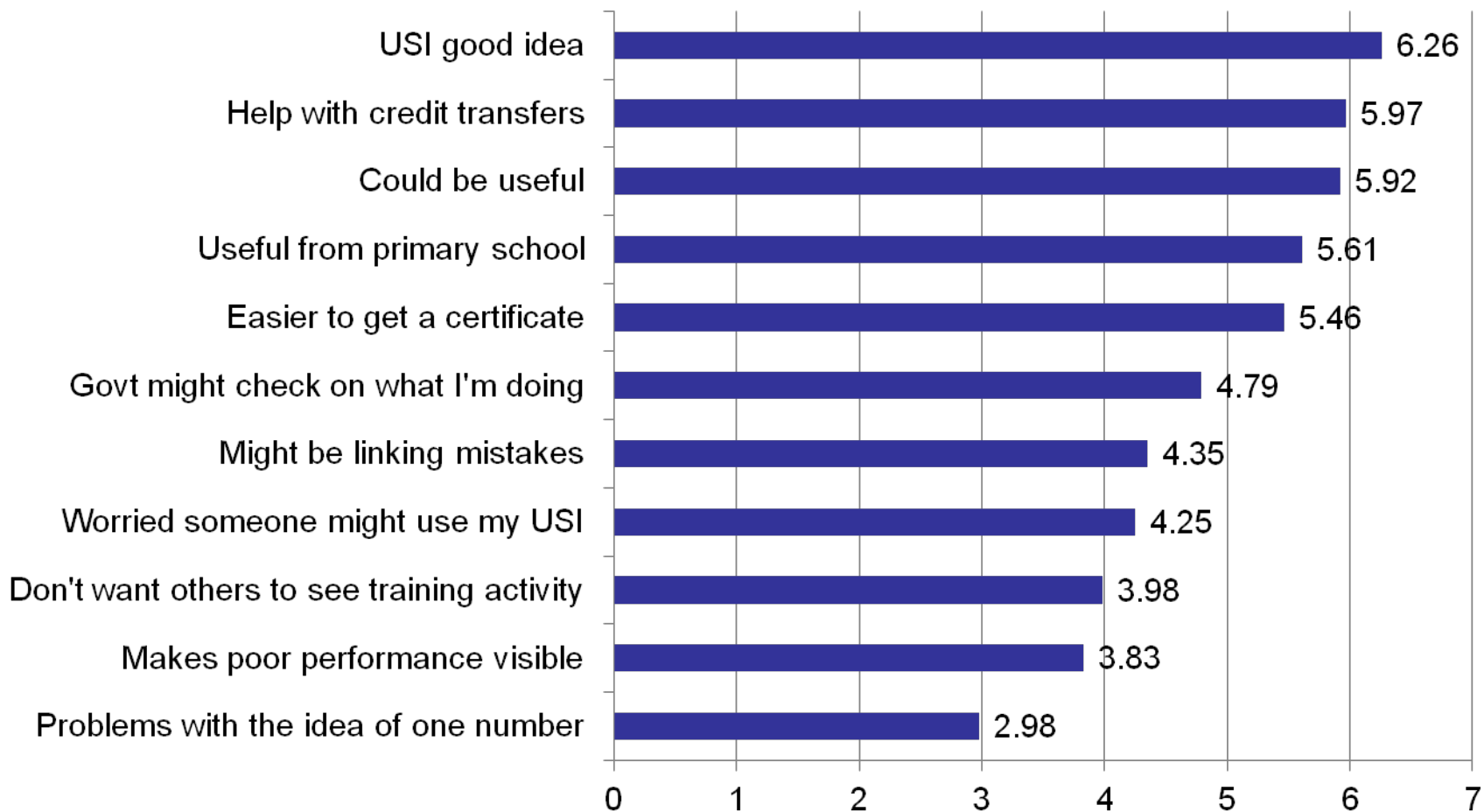
- Support
 - ▶ Committees
 - ▶ Government
 - ▶ Senior officials

Consultation to date

- 'Green paper' on www.training.com.au in August 2010
- Nous Consulting Group consultations in May 2011 available on www.ncver.edu.au
 - ▶ face to face and telephone interviews
 - ▶ student on-line survey

Student perspectives

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree, 7 = strongly agree



n=850 NSW TAFE students, May 2011

- USI project update: www.training.com.au
- Nous discussion paper:
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2412.html>
- Nous stakeholder report:
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2413.html>
- COAG communiqué:
http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2011-08-19/index.cfm
- SCOTese communiqué:
http://www.scotese.natese.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/61741/CommuniquA_-_SCOTese_Meeting_25_November_2011.pdf