



# VET for School Students Fact Sheet

Information on consent to access additional personal and learning supports

## What are personal and learning supports?

All vocational education and training (VET) providers offer a range of supports to their students to help them to succeed in their training.

Additional personal and learning supports are also available and designed to provide individualised support to students experiencing complex issues or challenges with their VET studies.

When a school student wants to access a subsidised VET course whilst at school their school will initiate a VET Readiness Orientation (VETRO) referral to a VET provider. In the referral form the school, parent, and student (if over 18 or have independent status) are all asked to give their consent for the student to access additional supports if needed.

Depending on the training provider these additional supports may be through either Success and Wellbeing Services (SWS) or TAFE SA Student Services (TAFE SS).

Follow this [link](#) for more information about TAFE SS and this [link](#) for more information on Success and Wellbeing Services.

## What do additional supports include?

Both SWS 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. For example, the learning environment, study skills difficulties, personal life challenges interfering with training or transitioning into study or from study to employment.

## What might school students need additional support with?

VET is an adult learning environment and school students may need additional support to adjust to the expectations. For example, taking responsibility for their learning, asking for help, differences in how the teaching and learning takes place, and work placements.

Sometimes support may be needed for study skills, like how to organise learning and manage time. Sometimes it's to help understand how to behave in an adult training space or an adult workplace where rules are different to those at school.

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

Success and Wellbeing Services or TAFE Student Services can help with 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 may have supports in place for students that need additional services. However, 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.

SWS/TAFE SS can support the student while they are doing their training or work placement.

SWS/TAFE SS understand what it is like to be in a VET learning environment or on a work placement 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?

When you complete Part A (school) or Part C (parent or independent student) in the VETRO referral form, you are giving consent for the student to access SWS/TAFE SS support, if needed.

This support is provided by a person employed by a VET provider and 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 free 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 needs to discuss the issues with their school or VET provider. This would be to organise or negotiate supports, or where the VET provider is legally obligated to notify other people, or where the student has given their permission to share information with particular people or organisations. Only the information that must be shared to fulfil these needs will be shared and will be limited to those who need to know.

## Important to know

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 support person or VET 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 support person identifies illegal activities, this must be reported. This includes where there is suspicion of child, elder or dependent adult abuse.
7. Personal information for subsidised VET school students will be shared with the Department for State Development (DSD), 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.



8. Information held by DSD is subject to the 'Information Privacy Principles' issued by the South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Personal information that has been collected, used, and stored will be dealt with by DSD in accordance with the relevant privacy guidelines.