



Australian Government

Higher Education
Gender-based
Violence Regulator

Changes to Guidance on Collecting Annual Reporting Data under the National Code

Version 1 to Version 2 (April 2026)

About this document

This document summarises the key changes to the *Guidance on Collecting Annual Reporting Data under the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence* (Guidance), between Version 1 (published March 2026) and Version 2 (published April 2026).

Clarifications have been made to some key areas following sector feedback and minor issues identified with the accepted response values for required data elements, as set out at Appendix A of the Guidance.

The Higher Education Gender-based Violence Regulator (GBV Regulator) is committed to providing clarity and consistency in its Guidance to support higher education providers to comply with the National Code, and recognises the impost that changes can bring to respective data collection and reporting practices.

Any further amendments to data elements and accepted values will be made on an exceptions basis only and where the GBV Regulator considers it is essential for these to be made.

Key Changes

3.3 In-scope Incidents

This section of the Guidance previously instructed providers to collect and report on any incidents of gender-based violence involving a student or staff member that occurred overseas.

Following concerns raised by the sector, the GBV Regulator has updated this section to clarify that for the purposes of annual data reporting, incidents which occur overseas only need to be collected and reported where that incident is disclosed or reported to them **in Australia**.

Incidents which occur at an overseas campus and are not disclosed or formally reported in Australia are not in-scope and should not be included for the purposes of annual data reporting.

Providers should still ensure they have appropriate systems and resources in place to provide support to students and staff where they disclose or formally report an incident of gender-based violence while overseas, although this is not a legal requirement under the National Code.

Appendix A – Data elements to be collected

A number of amendments have been made to Appendix A, including:

1. further instruction to clarify that, where there are multiple respondents to a disclosure/formal report, the elements set out in the '*Elements relating to the Respondent*' section must be collected for each respondent.
2. the data element relating to the relationship between the Discloser and Respondent has been moved from the '*Elements relating to the disclosure/formal report and incident details*' section to the '*Elements relating to the Respondent*' section, acknowledging there may be multiple Respondents to a disclosure or formal report and each Respondent may have a different relationship to the Discloser.
3. the wording of some data elements have been adjusted to avoid confusion or provide greater clarity. Changes are set out in *Table 1* below.
4. a number of minor amendments have been made to the accepted response values to ensure clarity, consistency and alignment with the National Code. These changes are set out in the *Table 2* below.

Table 1: Changes to data elements

	Version 1 (previous)	Version 2 (current)	Summary of changes
6	Was the disclosure or formal report about a single incident, multiple incidents or a pattern of gender-based violence?	6 Was the disclosure or formal report about a single incident or multiple incidents?	Removed reference to pattern, noting single or multiple incidents is sufficient to identify trends and patterns.
15	Where did the gender-based violence incident(s) or pattern occur?	14 Where did the gender-based violence incident(s) occur?	Removed reference to pattern, noting single or multiple incidents is sufficient to identify trends and patterns.
19	Is the Respondent/s a resident or staff member of student accommodation facility?	18 Are any Respondent/s a resident or staff member of a student accommodation facility?	Updated to acknowledge there may be multiple respondents.

Table 2: Changes to accepted response values

Data Element	Version 1 (previous)	Version 2 (current)	Summary of changes
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Indigenous Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prefer not to answer Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Non-Indigenous Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prefer not to answer Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated in response to feedback from some providers that they may know that a student or staff member identifies as indigenous, but not whether they are aboriginal or torres strait islander specifically. A footnote has been provided to clarify that providers should choose whatever option is most relevant.

46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Indigenous • Aboriginal • Torres Strait Islander • Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander • Prefer not to answer • Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous • Non-Indigenous • Aboriginal • Torres Strait Islander • Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander • Prefer not to answer • Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above.
58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required ambulance to attend • Required police to attend • Required other health response including • Transfer to hospital or mental health facility • Required immediate access to provider support services • Required the temporary relocation of the respondent(s) • Other • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required ambulance to attend • Required police to attend • Required other health response • Transfer to hospital or mental health facility • Required immediate access to provider support services • Required the temporary relocation of the respondent(s) • Other • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed unnecessary additional word.

62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to counselling or specialist GBV service • Referral to specialist services for diverse communities • Referral to interpreter service • Referral to legal service • Removed the respondent from the living, working or studying environment • Referred to police • Referred to hospital • Provided immediate academic/work adjustments • Other • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to counselling or specialist GBV service/s • Referral to specialist service/s for diverse communities • Referral to interpreter service/s • Referral to legal service/s • Removed the respondent from the living, working or studying environment • Referred to police • Referred to hospital • Provided immediate academic/work adjustment/s • Other • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments for consistency and to account for referrals to multiple of the same tyope of service.
64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist sexual violence service • Specialist family violence services • Specialist LGBTQI+ service • Specialist diverse communities services • Other specialist GBV service • Medical service • Provider's GBV support services • Cultural support service • Legal support • Academic adjustments • Counsellor • None • Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist sexual violence service/s • Specialist family violence service/s • Specialist LGBTQI+ service/s • Specialist diverse communities service/s • Other specialist GBV service/s • Medical service/s • Provider's GBV support service/s • Cultural support service/s • Legal service/s • Academic adjustment/s • Counsellor/s • Other • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above.

66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist MBCP or other behavioural change services Specialist services for men Specialist family violence services Specialist LGBTQI+ service Specialist diverse communities services Other specialist GBV service Medical service Legal support Provider's GBV support services Cultural support service Counsellor Academic adjustments Other None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist behavioural change service/s Specialist service/s for men Specialist sexual violence service/s Specialist family violence service/s Specialist LGBTQI+ service/s Specialist diverse communities service/s Other specialist GBV service/s Medical service/s Provider's GBV support service/s Cultural support service/s Legal service/s Academic adjustment/s Counsellor/s Other None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value updated to more simply capture behavioural change services and avoid use of acronyms. Addition of specialise sexual violence service. Re-ordered to align with list provided for Discloser support services at data element 64.
70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 45 days 45-90 days 90-180 days 180-360 days More than 360 days Ongoing N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 business days or less 46-90 business days 91-180 business days 181-360 business days More than 360 business days Ongoing N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated timeframes to avoid overlap between response options and align with National Code requirements. Additional clarification that the periods refer to business days.

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- 45-90 days
- 90-180 days
- 180-360 days
- More than 360 days
- Ongoing
- N/A

- 20 business days or less
- 21-45 business days
- 46-90 business days
- 91-180 business days
- 181-360 business days
- More than 360 business days
- Ongoing
- N/A

- Inclusion of new response options to reflect where an appeal is resolved in less than 45 days, and ensure alignment with National Code requirements.
- Updated timeframes to avoid overlap between response options.
- Additional clarification that the periods refer to business days.