

# IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSIONS

## TAFE NSW Response to consultation questions

### 1. Is the proposed approach likely to be effective in increasing transparency and public understanding of how contemporary admission to higher education work?

TAFE NSW agrees with the approach suggested in the Consultation Draft: *Improving the transparency of higher education Admission: Implementation Plan*. However, there is concern that the focus is primarily on ATAR entry programs. It is recommended that the proposed approach, including the new national admission information platform, will make more explicit the need to inform students of options for entry into higher education programs other than ATAR.

### 2. How achievable are the proposed implementation timelines?

The proposed implementation strategies will not impact significantly on TAFE NSW. However, the Implementation timelines table could be made more explicit by identifying the elements that need to be applied by each of the respective stakeholders. It is not clear when they apply to the Higher Education Providers (HEPs).

### 3. If there would be difficulty delivering the commitments proposed, what could be changed to make them achievable?

TAFE NSW has some concerns about the additional requirements for populating the 'information sets', included in Section 2 of Appendix C, that are intended to form part of the proposed new national admission information platform, specifically:

- Section 2 Appendix C, Student profile. The information required, most specifically in relation to previous tertiary education, is currently collected in some format by the HEIMs. A small additional change to the HEIMs would ensure that the data in this section could be drawn by the third party for the proposed new national admission information platform to ensure published data accuracy.
- TAFE NSW has concerns about the accuracy and authenticity of the information if this should be non-verified data submitted by the respective HEPs.

There are no concerns around the admission requirements as listed in Section 3 to 11 of Appendix C.

### 4. Do you have any comments on the proposed four broad groupings to describe the basis of admission for applicants to higher education?

TAFE NSW agrees with the four broad groupings and supports a commitment to the collection and reporting accurate admission information.

### 5. Do you agree that the proposed approach to ATAR threshold is reasonable?

Although TAFE NSW does not use ATAR as part of their admission requirements, the proposed ATAR threshold is clear and explicit. This will make decision making for prospective students and careers' advisors unambiguous.

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**6 Do the proposed “information sets” meet the need identified by the Higher Education Standards Panel for comparability of the information available from difference providers about the requirements to be admitted to study at each institution and each course that they delivery?**

Please refer to the response in to question 3.

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**7 Does the proposed approach set out in the draft implementation plan adequately inform prospective students about admission options or pathways that do not use ATAR? If not, how might this information be improved?**

The six implementation objectives outlined in the Admissions Transparency Implementation Plan are logical and largely reference ATAR related admission standards. TAFE NSW Higher Education does not employ ATAR as a means of entry to any of its Higher Education programs. TAFE NSW found the comments within this section did not provide the required amount of clarity around the impact upon their practice on non-ATAR entry processes. Reference to non-ATAR requirements is more explicit in the tables headed *Action and Timeframes* (p17). It is proposed that this approach be utilized throughout the implementation objectives to ensure an understanding of when non-ATAR entry requirements are being impacted.