



# Linking your VET records to your LSAY data

In just one minute you can help us build a better picture of what life is like for young people in Australia.

## What is data linkage?

Data linkage brings together information from a number of data sources. Linking Vocational Education and Training (VET) records with the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) data can help researchers and policy makers gain new insights into issues that influence the wellbeing of young Australians. That's why we are asking for your consent to add your VET data to your LSAY responses.

## What data are being linked?

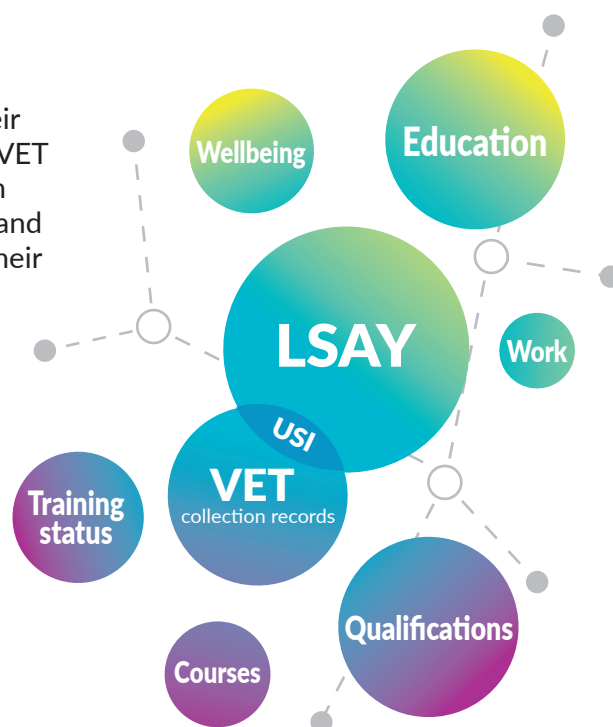
The LSAY questionnaire asks young people about their education, employment and wellbeing. The National VET Provider Collection contains information about which subjects and programs students are studying, where and when they are studying, as well as the outcomes of their training activity.

## Do I need to do anything?

There's not much to it—all you have to do is grant us consent and we will do the rest.

After you take your survey, The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) will use your Unique Student Identifier (USI)\* to link your VET and LSAY data together.

\*A USI is a ten digit reference number given to students participating in a nationally recognised training course in Australia. A USI gives you easy access to all your training records. For more information visit the [USI webpage](#).



## Four reasons to link VET and LSAY

1. Further our insights into young people's wellbeing and their transitions.
2. Expand the range and improve the quality of the data.
3. Help build better programmes for youth.
4. Reduce the time spent asking you the boring questions in LSAY, so we can get to the more interesting stuff!

## Who's who in data linkage

**Wallis Market & Social Research (Wallis)** conducts the LSAY field work and data collection.

**The Unique Student Identifier (USI) office** collect the right USIs for the data linkage.

**National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)** is responsible for LSAY - VET data linkage.

**Australian Data Archive (ADA)** stores and protects LSAY data and linked VET data.

# If you have done any VET study, we would like your permission to add your VET data to your LSAY responses. This will help us achieve so much more!

## Do I have to give consent?

Giving your consent is voluntary, which means it is completely up to you. By providing your consent you are allowing NCVER to link your survey results to any VET study you have already done or might do in the future.

## I've changed my mind, can I withdraw my consent?

You can withdraw your consent to link your data at any stage by contacting [Wallis](#) (see details below), however any data that have already been linked will be retained. If you choose not to provide consent, you can still continue to be part of the survey.

## I'm no longer part of LSAY, what happens to my VET data?

If you withdraw from the survey, we will continue to link to any other VET study you might do. So make sure you let us know if you'd like to withdraw your consent to link your data.

## Is my privacy protected?

Your personal information will be handled in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

Your contact details will only be held by Wallis. NCVER do not have access to any personal contact details. All personal details are removed by the USI office before your USI is passed on to NCVER.

When researchers use the data all the information is grouped together so you can't be identified and all data are stored on secure servers with access restrictions. For more information see the [LSAY privacy notice](#).

Wallis Market & Social Research  
1800 241 271  
[lsay@wallisgroup.com.au](mailto:lsay@wallisgroup.com.au)

## How your data is linked



### 1. Consent given

If you provide your consent, Wallis (the same organisation that conducts your LSAY interviews) will send your details (name, date of birth, email, phone number and address) or Unique Student Identifier (USI) along with a unique linking ID to the USI Office. Wallis will also send a matching ID to NCVER.

### 2. Matching details with USIs

The USI Office will match your LSAY contact details to the details you provided when obtaining your USI. Your contact details will be removed and only your USI along with a unique linking ID will be sent to NCVER.



### 3. Linking VET and LSAY

NCVER will use your USI to locate your training activity information reported to the National VET Provider Collection (i.e. what you studied, where and when you studied, as well as your training outcomes). NCVER will then remove your USI and use a unique linking ID to match your VET training activity data to your LSAY survey information.



### 4. Making the data available

The linked data will be stored with the ADA and can only be accessed through a formal approval process. Your contact details will not be included and the data cannot be used to identify you.



### 5. Building a better picture

Researchers and policy makers will use your linked data to help better understand and improve education and training for future generations.

