

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Collection of Nationally Consistent Definitions of student background characteristic information for National Reporting

In 2005, new nationally defined background characteristic information is to be collected for all Australian students participating in national testing, including those enrolled in Victorian Government and non-Government schools. The information is to be combined with student outcome data for the various national tests, aggregated and used for national reporting purposes.

What is the purpose of national reporting?

- The primary purpose of national reporting is to improve the educational outcomes of our young people by informing the Australian public, and especially the education community and parents, about progress towards achieving the *National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century*.
- The *National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century* specifically state that students' outcomes from schooling should be 'free from the effects of negative forms of discrimination based on sex, language, culture and ethnicity, religion or disability; and of differences arising from students' socio-economic background or geographic location'; and that 'the learning outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students [should] improve and, over time, match those of other students'.
- The strong equity dimension of the *Goals* reflects the principle that it is the right of all young Australians to aspire to success in learning, and to have the knowledge, skills and understanding essential to effective participation in civic life.

For more information on the *National Goals*, go to <http://www.mceetya.edu.au>

What safeguards are there to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal information?

- All States and Territories have privacy and freedom of information legislation encompassing such matters as the manner and purpose of collection of personal information, storage and security of data, and access to information.
- Schools and school systems have in place comprehensive confidentiality and security policies and procedures for the collection and handling of personal information. Such policies set out the types of information collected, used and disclosed, the purpose for which it is collected, and matters relating to access and correction of information.
- All information that could identify or would reasonably identify individual students to whom particular background characteristics belong is removed for national reporting so that no personal information is reported publicly.

Strict reporting protocols and standards apply to data presentation in all publications of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs.

OCCUPATION GROUP

Please select the appropriate group from the following list. If you are not currently in paid work but have had a job in the last 12 months, or have retired in the last 12 months, please use your last occupation to select from the list. If you have not been in paid work for the last 12 months, enter 'N' into the 'occupation code' filed on the enrolment form.

<p>Occupation Group A Senior management in large business organisation, Government administration and defence, and qualified professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Executive/Manager/Department Head in industry, commerce, media or other large organisation. • Public Service Manager (Section head or above), Regional Director, health/education/police/fire services administrator. • Other administrator (School Principal, Faculty Head/Dean, library/museum/gallery director, research facility director). • Defence Forces Commissioned Officer. • Professionals – generally have degree or higher qualifications and experience in applying this knowledge to design, develop or operate complex systems; identify, treat and advise on problems; and teach others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health, Education, Law, Social Welfare, Engineering, Science, Computing</i> professional. • <i>Business</i> (management consultant, business analyst, accountant, auditor, policy analyst, actuary, valuer). • <i>Air/sea transport</i> (aircraft/Ship's Captain/Officer/Pilot, Flight Officer, flying instructor, Air Traffic Controller). 	<p>Occupation Group B Other business managers, arts/media/sportspersons and associate professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Manager of farm, construction, import/export, wholesale, manufacturing, transport, real estate business. • Specialist Manager (finance/engineering/production/personnel/ industrial relations/sales/marketing). • Financial Services Manager (bank branch manager, finance/investment/ insurance broker, credit/loans officer). • Retail sales/Service Manager (shop, petrol station, restaurant, club, hotel/motel, cinema, theatre, agency). • Arts/Media/Sports (musician, actor, dancer, painter, potter, sculptor, journalist, author, media presenter, photographer, designer, illustrator, proof reader, sportsman/woman, coach, trainer, sports official). • Associate Professionals – generally have diploma/technical qualifications and support managers and professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health, Education, Law, Social Welfare, Engineering, Science, Computing</i> technician/associate professional. • <i>Business/administration</i> (recruitment / employment/industrial relations/ training officer, marketing/advertising specialist, market research analyst, technical sales representative, retail buyer, office/project manager). • Defence Forces senior Non-Commissioned Officer. 	<p>Occupation Group C Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradesmen/women generally have completed a 4 year Trade Certificate, usually by apprenticeship. All tradesmen/ women are included in this group. • Clerks (bookkeeper, bank/PO clerk, statistical/actuarial clerk, accounting/claims/audit clerk, payroll clerk, recording/registry/filing clerk, betting clerk, stores/inventory clerk, purchasing/order clerk, freight/transport/shipping clerk, bond clerk, customs agent, customer services clerk, admissions clerk). • Skilled office, sales and service staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Office</i> (secretary, personal assistant, desktop publishing operator, switchboard operator). • <i>Sales</i> (company sales representative, auctioneer, insurance agent/ assessor/loss adjuster, market researcher). • <i>Service</i> (aged/disabled/refuge/child care worker, nanny, meter reader, parking inspector, postal worker, courier, travel agent, tour guide, flight attendant, fitness instructor, casino dealer/supervisor). 	<p>Occupation Group D Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers drivers, mobile plant, production/ processing machinery and other machinery operators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality staff (hotel service supervisor, receptionist, waiter, bar attendant, kitchen hand, porter, housekeeper). • Office assistants, sales assistants and other assistants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Office</i> (typist, word processing/data entry /business machine operator, receptionist, office assistant). • <i>Sales</i> (sales assistant, motor vehicle/ caravan/parts salesperson, checkout operator, cashier, bus/train conductor, ticket seller, service station attendant, car rental desk staff, street vendor, telemarketer, shelf stacker). • <i>Assistant/aide</i> (trades' assistant, school/teacher's aide, dental assistant, veterinary nurse, nursing assistant, museum/gallery attendant, usher, home helper, salon assistant, animal attendant). • Labourers and related workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Defence Forces</i> – ranks below senior NCO not included above. • <i>Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fishing, mining worker</i> (farm overseer, shearer, wool/hide classer, farm hand, horse trainer, nurseryman, greenkeeper, gardener, tree surgeon, forestry/logging worker, miner, seafarer/fishing had). • <i>Other worker</i> (labourer, factory hand, storeman, guard, cleaner, caretaker, laundry worker, trolley collector, car park attendant, crossing supervisor).
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