

# Open data strategy

Date reviewed: January 2020

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## Introduction

The Queensland Government is committed to making freely available as much government data as possible, under its open data initiative.

In line with this initiative, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has adopted an open data culture and releases data it holds, subject to protecting the privacy of individuals in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld).

This strategy:

- documents the QCAA's plan for supporting the Queensland Government's open data initiative
- is reviewed annually to ensure its currency
- takes into account compliance with privacy legislation and internal policy requirements.

## QCAA's approach to open data

The QCAA will release data that is routinely collected and held by it in the course of conducting its business. The QCAA does not intend to generate, collect or hold additional data for the purpose of the open data initiative.

The QCAA will endeavour to:

- release as much data as possible by prioritising datasets that could be of value to the public, such as those with one or more of the following characteristics:
  - of public interest
  - supports greater openness and transparency of government and its processes
  - useful to researchers or non-government organisations
  - potentially useful to allow new products or services to be developed by users of the data, subject to applicable licensing
  - relevant to public discussion of education in Queensland
- make data accessible and easy to find by releasing it on the Government's Open Data Portal ([www.data.qld.gov.au](http://www.data.qld.gov.au)) in machine-readable formats and with the least restrictive open licensing as the default
- make data available for free
- inform stakeholders and key service delivery areas of scheduled data releases
- maintain data so that it is fit for the purpose for which it was collected.

## Accountable officer

The QCAA's Chief Information Officer ([opendata@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:opendata@qcaa.qld.edu.au)) is accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for ensuring that the QCAA meets the intentions of this strategy.

## Governance

The QCAA's Strategic Directions Group approves the release of datasets and promotes the open data initiative by:

- raising awareness of the benefits of open data within the QCAA
- ensuring open data activities are included in business plans and, where relevant, in individual performance plans.

## Datasets

The types of datasets held by the QCAA are outlined in Appendix 1.

### Personal data

The QCAA collects a significant amount of personal data, particularly about young people.

Therefore, not all data collected by the QCAA is suitable for release due to privacy and confidentiality obligations.

Datasets that may reasonably lead to the identification of an individual will not be released publicly.

### Schedule for publishing data

QCAA's data publishing schedule is outlined in Appendix 2.

The QCAA will update the schedule as more datasets are identified for publication.

## Continuous improvement

The QCAA will:

- promote open data standards and formats in existing work practices at business unit level
- seek methods to automate production and publishing of datasets
- continually improve quality, timeliness and efficiency of data releases
- invite feedback and suggestions from stakeholders and the public via [opendata@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:opendata@qcaa.qld.edu.au)
- encourage stakeholders and the public to identify other data that could be made available.

# Appendix 1: Types of data held by the QCAA

The following table provides a snapshot of the different types of datasets held by the QCAA.

**Note:** Not all data collected by the QCAA is suitable for release due to privacy or confidentiality limitations. Datasets that may reasonably lead to the identification of an individual are not suitable for publication.

Data area type	Description of data	Data grouped by					
		Student	School/ provider	Subject/ course	Testing	Certification	Corporate/ administrative
Educational year level: 3, 5, 7 and 9	National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test • enrolment, participation and outcomes	✓	✓		✓		
Educational year level: 11 and 12	Student enrolments and participation	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Subject details		✓	✓			
	Subject enrolments and participation	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	School and learning provider enrolments	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Vocational Education and Training (VET) • course details		✓	✓			
	Vocational Education and Training (VET) • enrolment, participation and outcomes	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Educational year level: 12	Senior external examination • enrolment, participation and outcomes	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test • enrolment, participation and outcomes <b>Note:</b> The last year the QCAA administered the QCS Test was 2019.	✓	✓		✓		
Educational year level:	Subject outcomes	✓	✓	✓			

Data area type	Description of data	Data grouped by					
		Student	School/ provider	Subject/ course	Testing	Certification	Corporate/ administrative
12 (continued)	Certification: Student Education Profile (SEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Statement, Statement of Results, Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA), Tertiary Entrance Statement</li> <li>• enrolment, participation and outcomes</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Tertiary entrance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enrolment, participation and outcomes</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> The last year the QCAA was responsible for tertiary entrance procedures was 2019.	✓	✓				
Educational year level: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12	Student personal details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. name, address, date of birth, gender</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓			
	School/provider details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. name of school/provider, locality</li> </ul>		✓	✓			
Corporate services	Consultancies and overseas travel						✓
Human resources	Workforce profile; positions; employee retention; payroll						✓
Finance	Income, banking, payments, accounts payable, accounts receivable, asset accounting, budgets, taxation, corporate card expenditure						✓
	Infrastructure: asset profile and management, expenditure and maintenance						✓
	Procurement and purchasing: suppliers, consultancies, contracts						✓
Information and Technologies	Asset profile, networks and connectivity, usage, data storage, facilities and infrastructure, ICT initiatives						✓

## Appendix 2: Data publishing schedule

While every care is taken to ensure the quality and veracity of data, the QCAA does not accept any liability for the data published, or for losses or damages incurred as a result of relying on this data.

The initial group of datasets to be released appear in the table below. Additional datasets will be identified, prepared and released:

- in response to stakeholder and public feedback and requests
- as part of an ongoing process to review data used by the QCAA in its business.

Dataset name	Description of data	Target date of publishing	Frequency of update (e.g. daily, monthly, quarterly, annually)	Open licence? (Yes or No)
Senior Secondary: Subjects — Small subject group level of achievement boundaries	The scale ranges for each level of achievement in each Authority subject	January	Annually	Yes
Senior Secondary: Tertiary entrance — Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs) — Band boundaries	The scaled Overall Achievement Indicator boundaries for each OP band <b>Note:</b> The last year the QCAA was responsible for tertiary entrance procedures was 2019. Contact the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre for future tertiary entrance data.	January	Annually	Yes
Senior Secondary: QCS Test — Grade cut scores	A table of QCS Test grade cut scores showing the raw score cut-offs for each QCS grade <b>Note:</b> The last year the QCAA administered the QCS Test was 2019. January 2020 will be the final release of QCS Test data.	January	Annually	Yes
Senior secondary: Year 12 outcomes	Year 12 student outcome data by school	February	Annually	Yes
Senior secondary: Subjects — Participation by school in Years 11 and 12	A list of the subject participation by school in Years 11 and 12	July	Annually	Yes
Consultancy	QCAA — consultancy expenditure	October	Annually	Yes
Overseas travel	QCAA — overseas travel expenditure	October	Annually	Yes