

# Privacy Statement

## Complaints to the Overseas Students Ombudsman

The Overseas Students Ombudsman collects, stores, uses and discloses personal information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (the APPs).

The *Ombudsman Act 1976* allows us to collect your personal information from you or your authorised representative when performing our functions under the *Ombudsman Act 1976*, such as investigating your complaint. When deciding whether to investigate a complaint, or when investigating a complaint we may also collect your personal information from a private education provider, another government agency such as the Department of Education (for instance information contained on the Provider Registration and International Students Management System), private bodies or individuals. The purposes for which we may collect personal information and the various functions of the Ombudsman are described in more detail in our [Privacy Policy](#).

You may complain to the Overseas Students Ombudsman anonymously, or by using a pseudonym, however, depending on the nature of your complaint, this may mean that we will be unable to assist you through an investigation. To investigate your complaint we may also need you to supply other personal information e.g. date of birth, citizenship, information about personal relationships, medical conditions or immigration status. The personal information that we will need to collect in order to assist you depends greatly on the nature of your complaint. The kinds of personal information that we collect are described in more detail in our [Privacy Policy](#).

If we investigate your complaint we will normally disclose some of your personal information to the private education provider about which you have complained. In particular this is likely to include your name and the nature of your complaint. If at any time we decide not to investigate your complaint then we may still provide some of your personal information to the private education provider about which you have complained to enable that agency to assist you further with your complaint. The *Ombudsman Act 1976* also permits us in certain circumstances to transfer your complaint, including your personal information contained in that complaint, to another agency or body that is more appropriate for the handling of such a complaint. Most commonly this is the Australian Skills Quality Authority, the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency and/or the Tuition Protection Service.

In some instances we may need to disclose your personal information to a translator if it is contained in a document that is given to us written in a language other than English.

If you have any concerns about the disclosure of your personal information, then you should speak to a public contact officer.

Our [Privacy Policy](#) contains information about how you can seek access to, and correction of, your personal information that we have collected. The policy also explains how you may complain if you believe we have breached your privacy and how this complaint will be handled by us.

When you make a complaint it is unlikely that the Ombudsman will disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.