1. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

The Act refers to the Higher Education Support Act 2003

Student/s refers to all persons enrolled or seeking to enrol in a unit of study that meets the course requirements under subclause 45(1) of Schedule 1A of the Act who are, or would be entitled to VET FEE-HELP loan assistance under clause 43 of Schedule 1A of the Act.

2. Overview

2.1 The Pacific College of Technology (PCT) complies with the requirements of Clause 23 of Schedule 1A of the Act and the Information Privacy Principles set out in the Privacy Act 1988 in relation to the collection of information relating to all students.

2.2 PCT will allow a student to apply for and receive a copy of the VET personal information that the provider holds in relation to that student.

3. Collection of information

3.1 Personal information will not be collected unless:

   the information is collected for a purpose directly related to students; and
   the collection of the information is necessary for or directly related to that purpose.

3.2 Personal information will not be collected by unlawful or unfair means. The student must also need to take care that they do not provide their confidential information to any third party or recruitment agents without getting advice from the provider.

3.3 Where personal information is collected for inclusion in a record or in a generally available publication PCT will take reasonable steps to ensure that, before the information is collected or, if that is not practicable, as soon as practicable after the information is collected, the student concerned is generally aware of:

   the purpose for which the information is being collected;
   if the collection of the information is authorised or required by or under law the fact that the collection of the information is so authorised or required; and
   with whom the information may be shared (such as the Australian Government or Tuition Assurance Scheme).

3.4 Where PCT solicits and collects personal information for inclusion in a record or in a generally available publication it will take reasonable steps to ensure that:
the information collected is relevant to that purpose and is up to date and complete; and the collection of the information does not intrude to an unreasonable extent upon the personal affairs of the student.

4. Storage and security of personal information

4.1 PCT will ensure:

that the record is protected, by such security safeguards as it is reasonable in the circumstances to take, against loss, against unauthorised access, use, modification or disclosure, and against other misuse; and

that if it is necessary for the record to be given to a person in connection with the provision of a service to PCT, everything reasonably within the power of PCT will be done to prevent unauthorised use or disclosure of information contained in the record.

4.2 PCT will not use the information without taking reasonable steps to ensure that, having regard to the purpose for which the information is proposed to be used, the information is accurate, up to date and complete. PCT will not use the information except for a purpose to which the information is relevant.

5. Disclosure

5.1 PCT will not disclose the information to a person, body or agency (other than the individual concerned) unless:

the individual concerned is reasonably likely to have been aware that information of that kind is usually passed to that person, body or agency;
the individual concerned has consented to the disclosure;
PCT believes on reasonable grounds that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the life or health of the student or of another person;
the disclosure is required or authorised by or under law; or
the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the protection of the public revenue.

5.2 Where personal information is disclosed for the purposes of enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the purpose of the protection of the public revenue, the record-keeper shall include in the record containing that information a note of the disclosure.

5.3 A person, body or agency to whom personal information is disclosed will not use or disclose the information for a purpose other than the purpose for which the information was given to the person, body or agency.

6. Publication

Staff and students are advised of this policy through publication on the College website www.pct.edu.au.