



Funding Cap

In the weird world of tertiary funding we often come across policy which provokes perverse behaviour. The funding cap is a perfect example. Ostensibly it is a means of managing the allocation of funding AND of ensuring that quality outcomes are achieved.

Well, we can understand the allocation of funding part – that makes sense – but what’s this with ensuring that quality outcomes are achieved?

The argument goes along the lines that, if you are funded for 100 EFTS but enrol 104 EFTS, there is a danger that the overall quality of the programme you are delivering will fall. Hm...., yes that might be, but it may not.

There are simply too many variables involved to make this assumption without actually measuring student outcomes accurately and meaningfully – more on this topic below.

And what say you have an alternative source of funding; a grant from a foundation or trust, or sponsorship? Would that be OK? Well NO, according to TEC. They suggest, we are led to believe, that you would need to set up a new and parallel qualification for students funded in this way or – and how perverse is this? – set up a whole new training provider with a different provider code.

That’s a lot of paperwork and so who is going to bother? Best to enrol just the 100 EFTS then.

So in effect the funding cap policy has denied four students the opportunity to study at no cost to the tax payer. Nice one!



Three words: nose, spite, face.

The Humble Enrolment Event

As noted in last month’s Newsletter performance indicators are changing again but, unfortunately, the obsession with qualification outcomes remains and the humble enrolment event is once more ignored.

Take2 uses the term “enrolment event” to describe a period of enrolment. Others may talk of “stage”, “semester”, “study contract”, etc. What it boils down to generally is a student paying a fee to receive tuition and assessment over a period of time. For short qualifications a single enrolment event may comprise the whole qualification but, for longer qualifications or where students study part-time, it may take a number of enrolment events to complete the whole qualification.

The point is that for vocational training in particular a student may have no intention of completing a qualification.

George’s boss said that he would get a pay rise if he achieves the level 3 Unit Standards in a particular National Qualification. George is successful, does his job better, gets a pay rise, pays more tax; positive outcome.

Jill has been out of the workforce for a while and needs a bit of a confidence boost, plus a refresher in her area of expertise. Jill acs her studies in her first enrolment event, goes back to work and feels a whole heap better; positive outcome.

True neither George nor Jill will have letters after their name (just yet), but should their endeavours and the quality of the training providers that trained them be questioned on the basis that they did not complete a whole qualification?

Youth Guarantee

If you got Youth Guarantee funding don’t forget that you will need to add a new Funding Source code and use this code when enrolling Youth Guarantee students.

To add the code (“22 – Youth Guarantee”) open the Admin. Module, go to *System Management, External Lookups, Enrolment/Outcome*. Click on the *Funding Source* tab and scroll to the bottom of the list where you can add the new value.

Top Tips - Course Enrolment Start Dates

A few years ago TEC inserted the following message in the SDR Manual: “Ensure that you only use generic course start and end dates when submitting data to the Ministry where it is impractical to identify the relevant start and end dates for each unit or course.” In the 2010 SDR Manual you will find the message on page 10.

The purpose of the message was not made clear at the time and for many training providers it was truly impractical to follow this requirement: either because they had course register courses that represented clusters of Unit Standards or, if they had disaggregated down to Unit Standard level, the actual order of delivery of the Units was not set in advance – being up to the tutor to manage.

So the message was for the most part ignored. Nowadays, though, the message does have some relevance thanks in part to the perversities reviewed on the first page of this newsletter.

Imagine if you will a student who enrolls in a qualification that is one EFTS and studies full-time from February to December. The qualification is made up of, say, six courses. Were the six courses delivered in parallel then the same course enrolment date would be used for all six.

February	December
	Course Enrolment 1
	Course Enrolment 2
	Course Enrolment 3
	Course Enrolment 4
	Course Enrolment 5
	Course Enrolment 6

If this student withdrew in June they would have consumed one EFTS and there would be six “Did Not Complete” course completion outcomes.

Say, on the other hand the student’s programme was arranged so that the courses were delivered in a sequence and each course enrolment had dates that were the actual start and finish dates for the course.

February			December		
Course Enrolment 1	Course Enrolment 2	Course Enrolment 3	Course Enrolment 4	Course Enrolment 5	Course Enrolment 6

Now if the student withdrew in June having successfully completed courses 1 to 3, then course enrolments 4 to 6 could be deleted. Only 0.5 of an EFTS would have been consumed and there would be no “Did Not Complete” course completion outcomes. **No EFTS wasted on negative outcomes!**

The trick is, of course, that the six course enrolments have actual start and finish dates and not generic February to December dates.

It may not be possible for you to organise programmes in this way. It may only be possible to use generic dates. However if you can arrange things in this way then you need to make sure that actual start and finish dates are being applied. The good news is that *Take2* provides a mechanism whereby the course enrolment record can “inherit” start and finish dates from offered courses.

- In the Administration Module go to the *Site Details* form and on the *Site Defaults* tab set the *Course Enrolment Dates* field to “C – Set Dates”.
- In the Main Module on the *Curriculum* form offer each course for each period that it is to be taught – i.e. assign actual start and finish dates.

Record: 1 of 1
 Start Date: 01/02/2010 Finish Date: 15/03/2010
 Default Suffix: -10
 If you do not wish to use generic start and finish dates, you are advised to enter start and finish dates.
 Total selected courses: 0

- On the *Enrolment Defaults* form you will see an extra tab called *Course Dates* on which the offered course dates are displayed. If necessary you can edit the dates here before committing the enrolment.

Enrolment Defaults

Enrolment Defaults Course Dates

Code	Title	Start Date	Finish Date
SMS101-10	An Introduction to Student Management Systems	01/02/2010	15/03/2010