

## Media Release | 7 July 2020

# OpenLearning releases OpenCreds, Australia's first cross-sector micro-credential framework

### Highlights

- OpenLearning releases final version of the OpenCreds framework for implementation
- OpenCreds is the first cross-sector micro-credential framework for Australian education providers aligned to the Australian Qualifications Framework
- Supports higher education providers, vocational providers and industry associations
- Consultation process completed with 350 people and four virtual roundtables
- Builds on OpenLearning's track record in enabling the delivery of high-quality online courses
- Potential to become the industry standard for micro-credentials

Sydney, Australia, 7 July 2020: Higher education software as a service (SaaS) company OpenLearning Limited (ASX: OLL) (**'OpenLearning'** or **'the Company'**) is pleased to announce that it has finalised the OpenCreds micro-credential framework after an extensive industry consultation process and it is now available for Australian education providers to use via the OpenLearning platform.

Around the world, interest in short courses and micro-credentials has grown as people look for faster and more cost-effective options for up-skilling and re-skilling, leading to a substantial increase in enrolments in courses on OpenLearning.

OpenCreds is designed to enable Australian education providers to capture this opportunity in the market and leverages OpenLearning experience in supporting the delivery of over 8,000 online courses to over 2.17 million learners. More than ever, lifelong learners are now asking whether online courses will be recognised by employers, lead to formal credit and enable them to learn new skills.

OpenCreds addresses these challenges by providing a common structure for the delivery of micro-credentials, making it possible for education providers to offer courses ranging from 2.5 hours to 150 hours of learning that lead towards credit in a formal qualification, are recognised by industry and with a high-quality learning experience in line with OpenLearning's educational philosophy.

OpenLearning first released a draft of the OpenCreds framework for public consultation in February 2020, which was downloaded over 350 times and attracted 8 written submissions in addition to feedback received during four virtual roundtables with participants from Australian universities, private higher education providers, vocational providers and industry.

Throughout the consultation process, OpenLearning engaged with its existing university partners, including UNSW Sydney, Australian Catholic University, University of Melbourne, Western Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney, University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University, University of New England, as well as private higher education providers and industry associations.

DeakinCo., part of Deakin University, is a global leader in micro-credentials, focusing on workforce capabilities, provided valuable input throughout the consultation process and is an early adopter of OpenCreds.

**DeakinCo. CEO, Glenn Campbell, said:** “Never before has lifelong learning been so critical to thriving in today’s workplace. At DeakinCo. we have a long history of working with industry and individuals to deliver learning that enhances workplace performance and future employability, and is aligned to both Australian qualification frameworks and industry standards. We see OpenCreds as an important foundation for the future of online learning and we are delighted to be offering our programs through the OpenLearning platform.”

The OpenCreds Framework was drafted to align with the recommendations in the *Final Report of the Review of the Australia Qualifications Framework (AQF)*, which recognised the importance of lifelong learning and the practical imperative of enabling learners to learn across sectoral and qualification boundaries, and the clarity provided by the 2019 report, *Making micro-credentials work for learners, employers and providers*, by Emeritus Professor Beverley Oliver at Deakin University.

The successful implementation of OpenCreds represents an opportunity for Australian education providers to offer short-form courses, credentials and pathways that meet the needs of industry and learners while enabling them to diversify revenue and increase their brand awareness.

Beyond Australia, OpenCreds will contribute to meeting the target set out by Austrade in the National Strategy for International Education: that is, educating 110 million students worldwide in 2025 by empowering Australian education providers with both a currency and a quality assurance process that meets the needs of the global lifelong learner.

OpenLearning invites all Australian education providers and lifelong learners to find out more about the OpenCreds framework by visiting: <https://solutions.openlearning.com/opencreds/>

**OpenLearning Group CEO & Managing Director Adam Brimo said:** “The release of the OpenCreds framework is an exciting milestone for OpenLearning, Australian education sector and lifelong learners. We’ve seen a proliferation of online courses over the past 8 years of varying quality and its becoming more difficult for potential learners to find quality courses that deliver the outcomes they need. OpenCreds can address this challenge and become both a stamp of quality for learners while providing interoperability between education providers and industry. I would like to thank all our partners and the public for their feedback and support throughout the consultation process.”

**OpenLearning Managing Director for Australia Cherie Diaz said:** “Having worked across higher education, vocational education and professional learning organisations, I’m proud of the fact that OpenCreds provides guidance to education providers as they enter or extend into the micro-credential space. From a learners’ perspective, OpenCreds provides them with a quality-assured framework, consistent language, and a clear articulation of their value and (potential) pathways so that lifelong learning is a practical reality for Australians. I’m grateful for those who contributed to the consultation process and am excited to support our new and existing partners as we launch OpenCreds.”

**Ends.**

**Stay up to date with OpenLearning news as it happens:**

Visit the Investor section of the OpenLearning website at: <https://solutions.openlearning.com/investor-home/>. There you can download the Company's Prospectus and see recent ASX Announcements and press coverage.

In addition to signing up for OpenLearning news directly from the Company, we also encourage shareholders to register to receive electronic communications from our share registry, Automic. To sign up for e-communications from Automic, please visit <https://www.automicgroup.com.au/>.

Thanks for your ongoing support. We look forward to sharing OpenLearning news with you.

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**About OpenLearning**

OpenLearning Limited is a software as a service company that provides a scalable online learning platform to education providers and a global marketplace of world-class courses for learners of all levels.

OpenLearning's platform enables the delivery of project-based, social learning to encourage interaction among users and foster a community of collaborative learners. The company's unique service provides a complete learning environment for all types of online education - from short courses through to micro-credentials and online degrees.

With more than 2.17 million learners worldwide across over 8,000 courses provided by 76 education providers, OpenLearning is at the forefront of a new wave of online education delivery.

To learn more, please visit: <https://solutions.openlearning.com/>