About The Department

The NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) provides services in the areas of public schools, vocational education and training, early childhood education and care, Aboriginal affairs, volunteering, youth and community and regional engagement.

It also includes the operations of TAFE NSW, Sport and Recreation and Veterans' Affairs.

The department employs in excess of 84,000 staff, and is one of the largest organisations in Australia.

The Challenge

DEC's Grant Management System was authored in technologies which were no longer considered strategic, and, with their key software consultant physically re-locating, points of support were diminishing.

In addition, DEC had an undesirable over-dependency on paper forms and manual data entry.

iCOMP and CERTUS were engaged to replace the custom system with one based around IBM Cognos TM1.

Key Requirements

Department of Education NSW desired to replace their legacy system with TM1, to calculate and process payments and generate reports for following schemes:

- Supervisor Subsidy Scheme which provides a subsidy towards the cost of providing supervisors or teachers for classes in special schools catering for students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities or autism

- Per capita grants which are payments to registered private schools based on enrolment numbers

- Interest Subsidy Scheme, which provides payments to private schools in relation to the interest paid on loans for approved capital works

- National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) Payment (Gonski school commonwealth program)

Business Benefits

- ✔ Manual forms replaced with TM1 inpt sheets, reducing the need for data re-entry

- ✔ Business Logic defined centrally & leveraged consistently across forms, reports and schools

- ✔ Data automatically collated appropriately

- ✔ Related information captured and used to simplify overall process

- ✔ Miscommunications avoided with status of assesments and reviews available at a glance

- ✔ Ongoing supportability on a strategic platform

- ✔ More comprehensive historical reporting

Data Collection and Contribution

TM1 Web, the web client user interface for TM1, allows for access to, and submission of, centrallised data via the web.

Users can easily publish data views and "Websheets" authored in Excel, which can be designed for both reporting and data submission.

TM1 Web supports powerful security configuration to give administrators fine-grained support for distribution and sharing of reports and websheets.

Single Source of Truth

Having data contributed to a central repository like TM1 allows both data and business logic to reside centrally.

This gives the organisation a "single source of truth" and reduces the possibility of human error. It also ensures that business logic is applied consistently throughout the system.

Data can be contributed from an almost unlimited number of disparate sources, both human and system.

It is then aggregated, transformed and standardized to form the core foundation of a robust and flexible reporting and analytics platform.

Self Service Analytics

Data analysis and report generation took an enormous amount of time to achieve with legacy systems coupled with cumbersome Excel spreadsheets.

With the introduction of advanced data capture and reporting capabilities, DEC was able to generate standardised reporting while also making self-service ad-hoc analytics available to users.

With easy report generation, internal staff are now able to create and share the reportson the fly without any assistance from IT.