



VET in Schools 2025: explanatory notes

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

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Explanatory notes

Scope

- 1 This publication reports on government funded and fee-for-service VET activity that is recognised by a senior secondary assessment authority as contributing to an individual's senior secondary certificate of education.
- 2 This publication does not cover the following types of training activity:
 - activity undertaken at the overseas location of a training organisation
 - credit transfer (reported with *outcome identifier - national '60 - credit transfer'*)
 - subjects that were superseded part-way through training (reported with *outcome identifier - national '61 - superseded training'*)
 - training that has not yet started (reported with *outcome identifier - national '85 - not yet started'*)
 - VET delivered to school students that does not contribute to their senior secondary certificate (not submitted by a recognised Board of Studies submitter or their agent)
 - any activity where revenue was earned from another training provider in terms of subcontracting, auspicing, partnership or similar arrangements¹ (reported with *funding source - national '80 - revenue earned from another training organisation'*).
 - students who were award only

Data sources

- 3 Data are sourced from the administrative records reported to NCVER by the recognised senior secondary assessment authority (referred to as boards of studies) or their agents.
- 4 The information contained in this publication is, unless otherwise stated, derived from the National VET in Schools Collection. This collection is compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS), release 8.0. For further information on AVETMISS go to <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/rto-hub/statistical-standard-software/avetmiss-vet-provider-collection-specifications-release-8.0>>.
- 5 This publication also makes use of data and classification information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For more information, refer to the fact sheet Use of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data in 'total VET activity' located at <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-tva-fact-sheets>>.
- 6 Participation rates are calculated based on ABS data for the number of school students, available from the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>>.

Data treatment

- 7 Note that the percentages presented in this publication are reported to one decimal place.

¹ Third party delivery is issued under the name and logo of the principal provider. The principal provider is expected to submit the administrative records to the National VET in Schools Collection, it is this activity that is reported on in lieu of any administrative records provided by a sub-contracted training organisation.

- 8 Other numbers have been rounded, after aggregation, to the nearest five. Rounding can lead to situations where the sum of rows does not add up to the rounded totals.

Data revisions

- 9 Data from previous collections, represented within this publication, may differ from those presented in prior publications as:
- Data may have been rebased. Data revisions take place to facilitate comparisons across collection periods and years based on current data. For example, if a training provider was reported in the current year with provider type of 'school' but in the previous year the same provider was reported as 'community education provider', NCVER will adjust the previously reported provider type to match that of the current year.
 - data may have been submitted to NCVER after the original reporting window has closed. These data would not have been included in that collection's publication. However, they will be included in the following years' publications.
 - Program completions are revised annually.
 - Updates to the National Register of VET at training.gov.au (such as changes to accreditation, program or unit/module details) have been applied to data for both the current and previous years.

Student attributes

- 10 When reporting on training activity (subject enrolments, program enrolments, or program completions), NCVER uses the student attributes as reported with the training activity.

Training providers

- 11 There have been reductions in the number of TAFE institutes reported in New South Wales, Western Australia, and Queensland due to the implementation of reform measures in those jurisdictions. For example, from 1 January 2019 the number of TAFEs reported in New South Wales decreased from 11 to one as part of the One TAFE consolidation program.

Reporting derivations

- 12 One of the core derivations for the VET in Schools publication is *major program*, which enables reporting of students by program attributes without duplicating counts. This derivation is necessary as NCVER does not apply the counting students methodology to the VET in Schools collection owing to lower overall Unique Student Identifier reporting.

The hierarchy for identifying the highest program is as follows:

- Set to the program identifier with the highest level of education identifier, where 211 is the highest and 999 is the lowest.
Refer to the *Program level of education* identifier field in the AVETMISS data element definitions: edition 2.3 <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/rto-hub/statistical-standard-software/avetmiss-data-element-definitions-edition-2.3>> for a full list of codes
- Else, if there are multiple program identifiers with the same (highest) level, use the one with the most reporting hours

- c. Else, if there are multiple program identifiers with the same (highest) level and reporting hours, use the one with the lowest field of education
 - d. Else, if there are multiple program identifiers with the same (highest) level, reporting hours, and field of education then use the program that comes last in alpha-numerical order.
- 13 Another derivation is *highest funding source*, which establishes a single funding source value to group a student or program by; the student/program is grouped against the highest reported value irrespective of anything else. A reporting derivation is required as *funding source* is an attribute of a subject enrolment. Therefore, a program and student can have multiple valid funding sources. The values in order of highest to lowest are 'Government funding', 'International fee-for-service funding', 'Domestic fee for service funding'.
- 14 Similarly, when reporting on students by training attributes, such as *School type* and *Provider type*, which can also have multiple valid values, these attribute values are recoded to 'Attending more than one <attribute> type' to ensure students are only counted once.

Data quality and comparability issues

- 15 The COVID-19 pandemic, and states and territories' economic responses, may have impacted training data, particularly from March 2020 onwards. Any comparison with previous years should be made with caution.
- 16 VET in Schools data may not be comparable across states and territories due to differences in definitional and compilation practices used by states and territories to populate some fields.
- 17 While the Unique Student Identifier (USI) provides a mechanism with which to better reflect student counts by identifying unique student records across a variety of submitters and training organisations, this process is not used in the VET in Schools collection because many VET in Schools records are still reported without a USI.
- 18 Due to a large number of 'unknown' student demographic information estimated participation rates is derived using VET in Schools students aged 15 to 19 years for each 'State of Data Submitter'. The State of Data Submitter is used as a proxy for state of residence.
- 19 As of 2023 the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3 classification is based on the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. This classification has also been applied retrospectively to data from 2021 onwards so figures may differ from those published previously by statistical area, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), and/or Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). Earlier editions of the ASGS have been applied to data prior to 2021.
- 20 Occupations are classified using the 2022 release of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).
- 21 Some states and territories have high or completely missing client demographic data across a number of attributes. Caution taken when using data with high 'not known' responses. See '*Not known*' information below.

New South Wales

- 22 In the current publication, 2019 figures differ slightly from those originally published due to the removal, at the submitter's request, of a small number of students in New South Wales incorrectly reported as undertaking VET as part of their senior secondary certificate of education.

- 23 Since 2006, New South Wales have reported 100% of their students with a disability flag of 'Not known'.
- 24 In 2023, a high number of student records were submitted with blank *Client Identifier - apprenticeships* and *Training Contract Identifier*, which is used to determine whether a student is undertaking training toward a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. Therefore, the increase reported in 2024, from 2023, may be attributed to improved reporting.

Victoria

- 25 Since 2006, several student demographic fields are not captured by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's enrolment form, resulting in 100% of students being reported as 'Not known' for these fields. Fields include disability flag, prior educational achievement flag, and language identifier.
- 26 In 2024, over 308,000 client (student) records were appended with Unique Student Identifiers (USI), that were previously blank, in the VET in Schools collection spanning 2015 to 2024. This will improve the de-duplication of training activity within the Total VET Activity (TVA) dataset.

Western Australia

- 27 Since 2018, several student demographic fields are no longer reported to NCVER due to legislative restrictions on the provision of data, resulting in 100% of students being reported as 'Not known' for these fields. Fields include disability flag, state/territory of residence (and any attributes derived from this data), country (of birth) identifier, Indigenous status identifier, and language identifier.
- 28 School-based apprenticeship and traineeship data in 2018 was affected by non-reporting of the *Client identifier - apprenticeships* field in the National VET in Schools Collection. No school-based apprenticeship and traineeship data from Western Australia is presented for this year.

Australian Capital Territory

- 29 Since 2018, a number of subject enrolments have been submitted by ACT Board of Studies (Submitter ID 860) with incorrect program identifiers.

Normally, one single program is made up of multiple subject enrolments, all linked to the same program identifier (e.g. eight subject enrolments belonging to a single program for a student). However, if a student's subject enrolments are reported against different program identifiers, it appears as though that student is enrolled in multiple programs rather than one.

This inflates program enrolment counts, misrepresents apprentice and trainee assigned program identifiers and may also lead to understated program completions.

There are fewer instances of students with greater than 2 program identifiers reported as of the 2024 collection.

'Not known' information

- 30 Data are reported as 'not known' for the following reasons:

- information was not collected or cannot be supplied to NCVER
- a student has not responded to a question on the enrolment form
- invalid information was supplied.

31 Caution should be taken when using data which allow a 'not known' response.

32 For demonstrative purposes, the extent of 'not known' data, as submitted, for selected student variables is illustrated in table 1.

Table 1 VET in Schools clients with 'not known' data, 2019 to 2025 (%)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Disability status	62.7	59.3	56.7	57.5	56.9	57.9	57.6
Gender	16.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Indigenous status	23.4	18.7	17.8	17.2	16.6	15.0	14.3
Previous highest education level	3.9	5.0	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.0
Prior education	41.6	38.5	26.1	27.4	26.9	27.4	27.3

Administrative outcomes

33 Administrative outcomes represent a procedural state of a subject rather than a period of active delivery or of assessment. These *outcome identifier - national* values include '60 - Credit Transfer', '61 - Superseded subject' and '85 - Not yet started'. These outcomes are not reported on in NCVER's publications.

34 As these outcomes are not in scope of NCVER's publication, reporting of them will be determined by individual state and territory requirements, which may mean that these outcomes are never captured.

35 Data on these outcomes are presented in the tables following.

36 Credit transfer identifies that a student has received training credit for a subject they have completed previously.

Table 2 VET in Schools subject enrolments by credit transfer and state/territory, 2019 to 2024 ('000)

Credit transfer subjects	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New South Wales	11.7	13.5	10.3	11.1	13.3	56.4	64.6
Victoria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2
Queensland	68.4	95.0	105.6	95.8	95.1	99.3	96.8
South Australia	3.5	4.6	5.4	4.4	3.0	2.9	3.3
Western Australia	62.7	36.0	20.0	27.2	26.1	32.9	26.3
Tasmania	2.7	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.3	1.6
Northern Territory	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.4	1.6	2.1
Australian Capital Territory	-	-	-	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3

Note: A dash (-) represents a true zero.

37 Superseded subject identifies that training activity started in a subject but was not completed before the student was transferred to a superseding subject against which the end outcome will be recorded.

Table 3 VET in Schools subject enrolments by superseded subject and state/territory, 2019 to 2024 ('000)

Superseded subjects	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New South Wales	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	-
Victoria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Queensland	2.1	0.5	0.9	2.5	6.1	1.0	0.0
South Australia	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Australia	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.0

Tasmania	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-
Northern Territory	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: A dash (-) represents a true zero.

38 Not yet started indicates that a student has been enrolled into a subject, but training activity or assessment has yet to commence. It is not mandatory to report subjects with this outcome to NCVER.

Table 4 VET in Schools subject enrolments by not yet started and state/territory, 2019 to 2024 ('000)

Not yet started subjects	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New South Wales	2.8	4.7	4.3	-	7.0	10.9	15.3
Victoria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Queensland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Australia	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.6	-	0.0	0.4
Western Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	0.0	-	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: A dash (-) represents a true zero.

Miscellaneous

39 In tables containing student remoteness or state/territory of residence, 'offshore' refers to the overseas postal addresses of students studying in Australia.