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THE AUSTRALIAN VET SECTOR

The dynamics of qualifications: implications for VET

Dr Lisel O'Dwyer

Research and Data Analytics

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Background

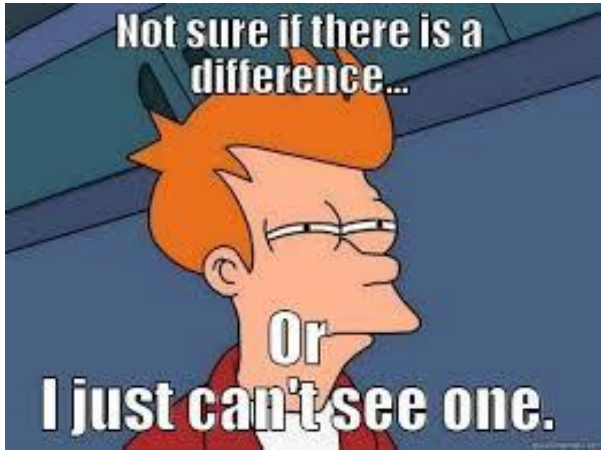
- Workers' qualifications generally reflect supply and demand for education and training in different fields and occupations
- Changes in the share of VET qualifications by occupation has implications for future training and industry needs
- Based on Karmel's (2011) work using 1996-2006 data

Research questions

- How have qualification profiles within occupations changed between 2006 and 2016, especially in the VET sector?
- What are the implications of such changes for future direction in the VET sector?

Age and gender

- Current profiles reflect the types of education and training (and social expectations and economic conditions) available up to 50 years ago.
  - Future profiles (and economic activity) more influenced by younger workers who will spend more time in labour force
- Many occupations requiring VET qualifications are known for their historically gendered profile
  - Has anything changed?



Method

- 2006 and 2016 Census
- 2015 ABS Survey of Qualifications and Work
- NCVER National VET Provider Collection 2017 (unpublished data)

Qualification groupings

- Higher education
- VET
  - Diplomas
  - Certificates I, II, III and IV
- No post-school qualification

Occupations

- We examined the qualifications of workers in the top 20 occupations (of 358 at ANZCO 4 level) based on:
  - Size (number of workers)
  - Most absolute growth
  - The greatest increase and decrease in the share of VET qualifications

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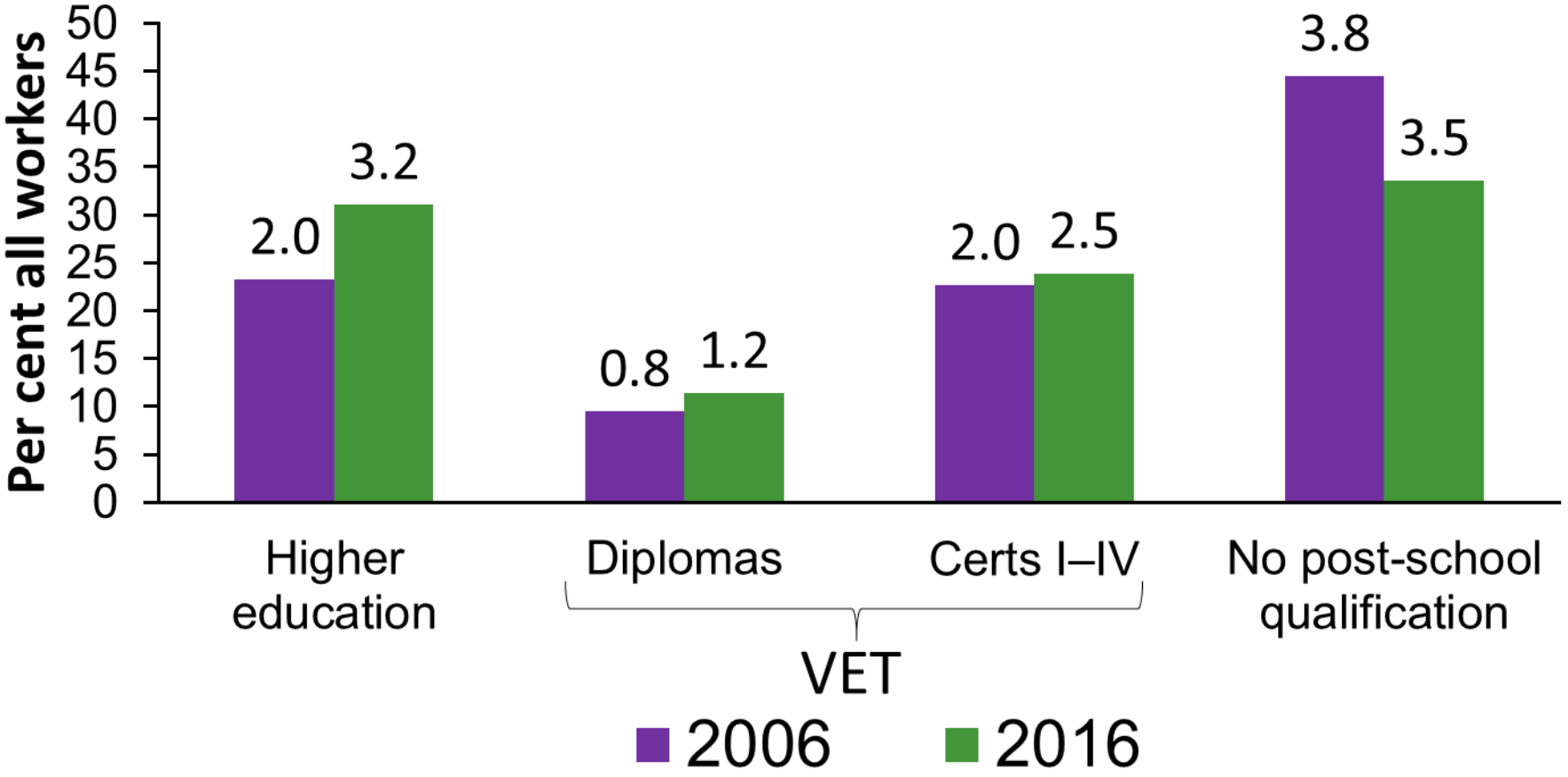
Qualifications of employed workers, 2006 and 2016 ("000 000)



Source: 2006 and 2016 Census, ABS

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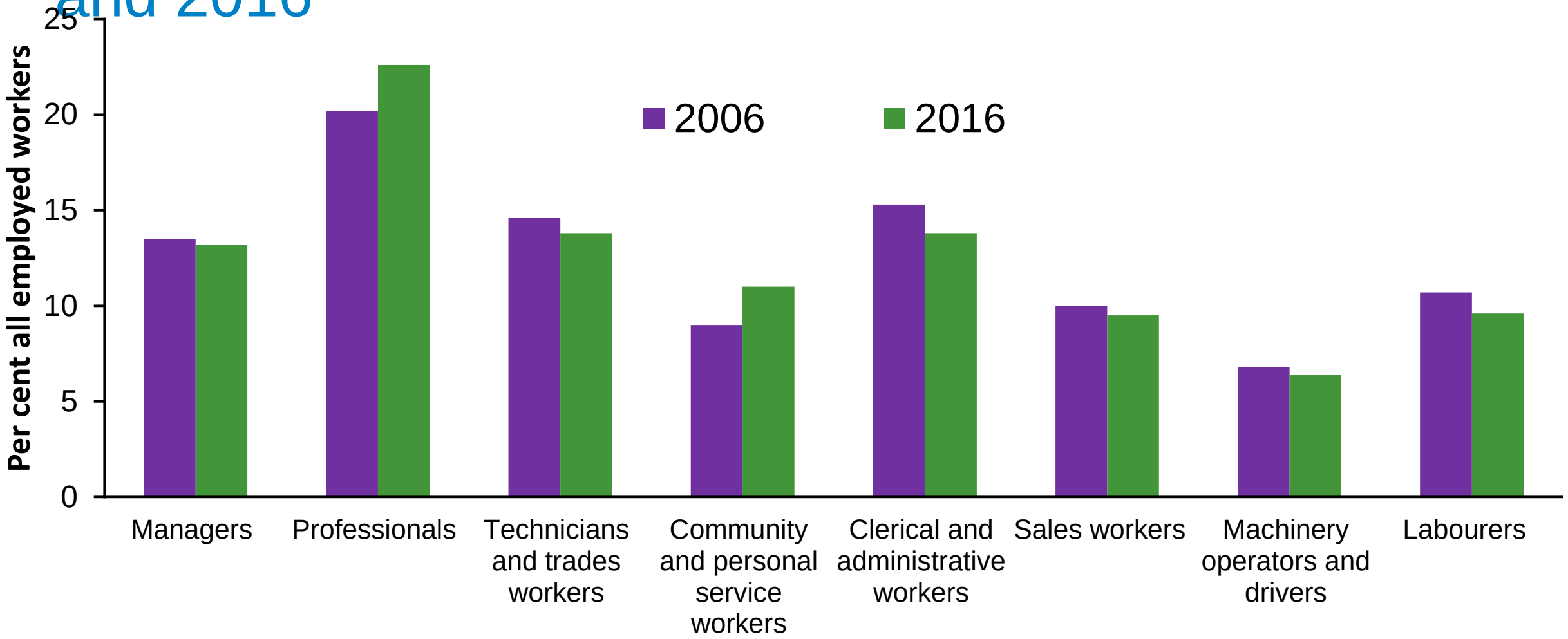
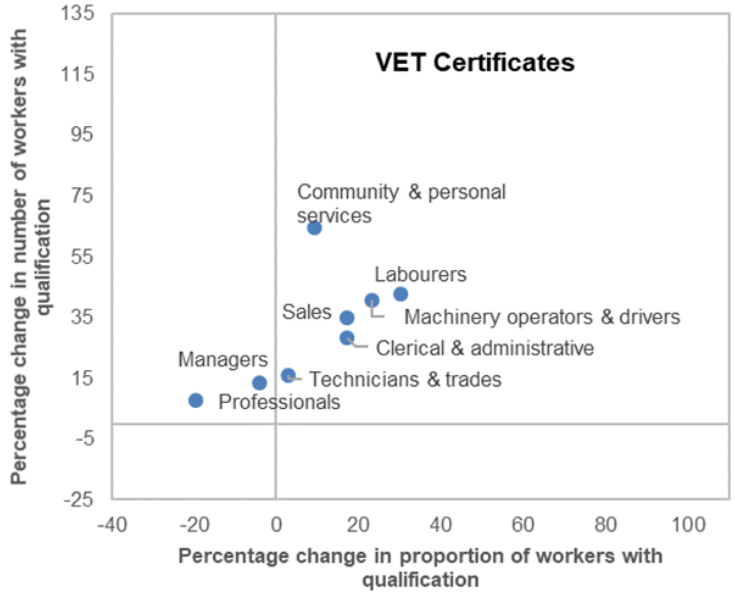
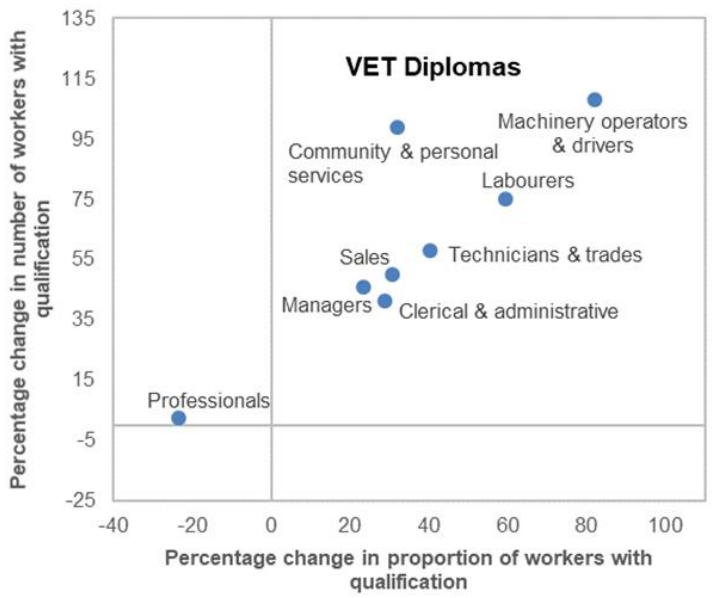
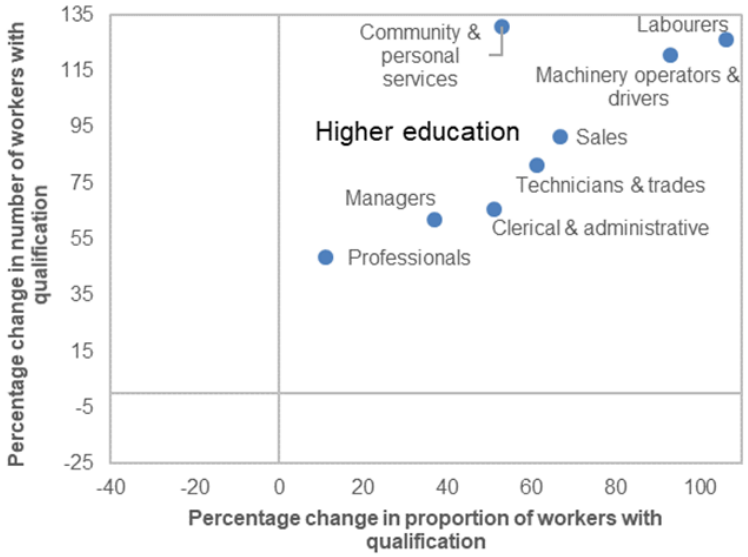
Employed workers by occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit), 2006 and 2016

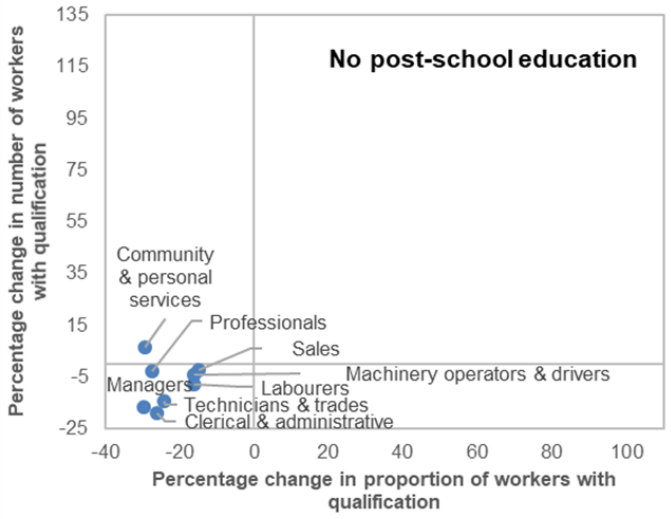


Source: 2006 and 2016 Census, ABS









Source: 2006 and 2016 Census, ABS

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Qualification profile of the 20 largest occupations (ANZSCO 4-digit), 2006 and 2016

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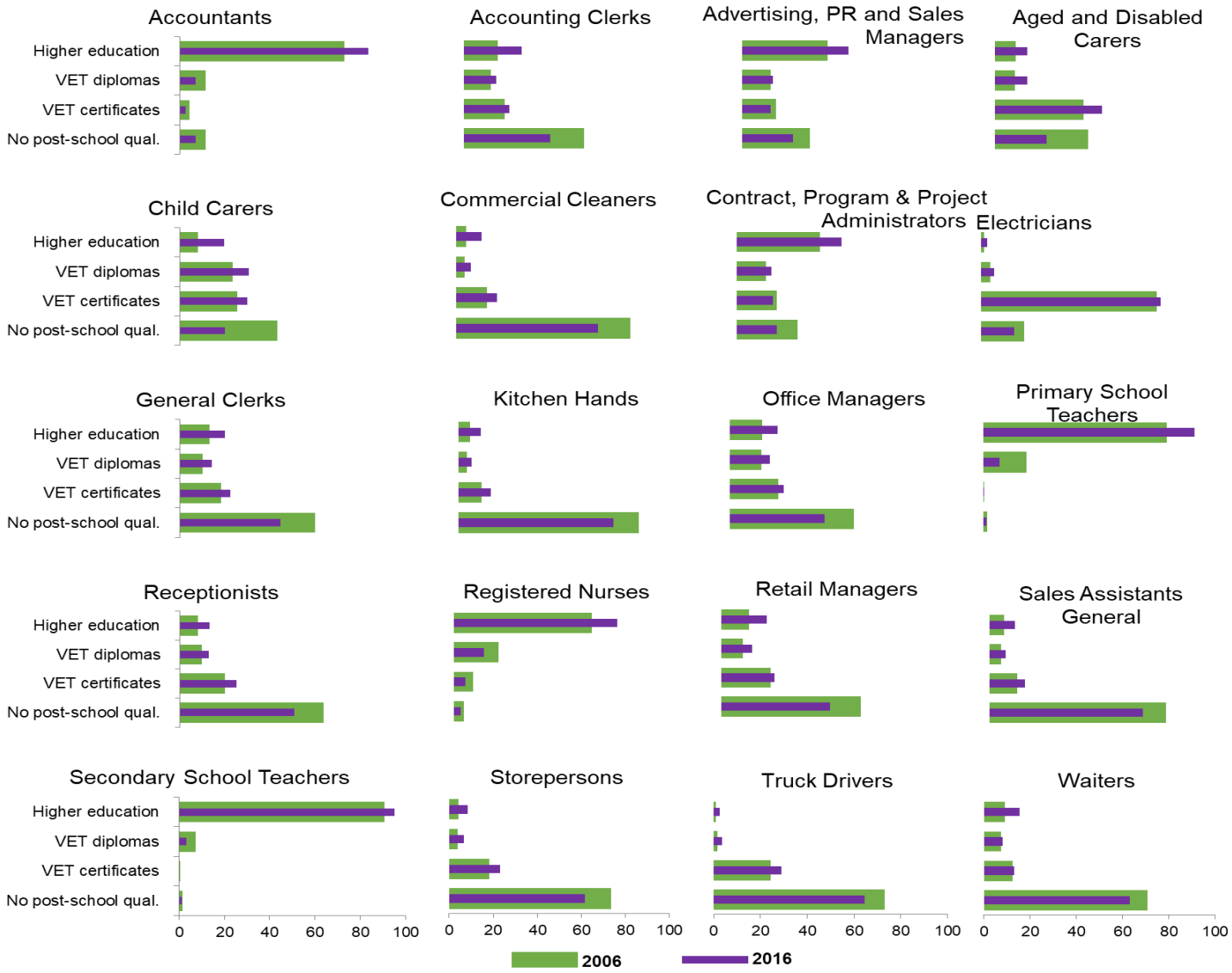

Source: 2006 and 2016 Census, ABS

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The 20 occupations with the most growth (2006, 2011 and 2016) and govt-funded VET completions (2007-2017)

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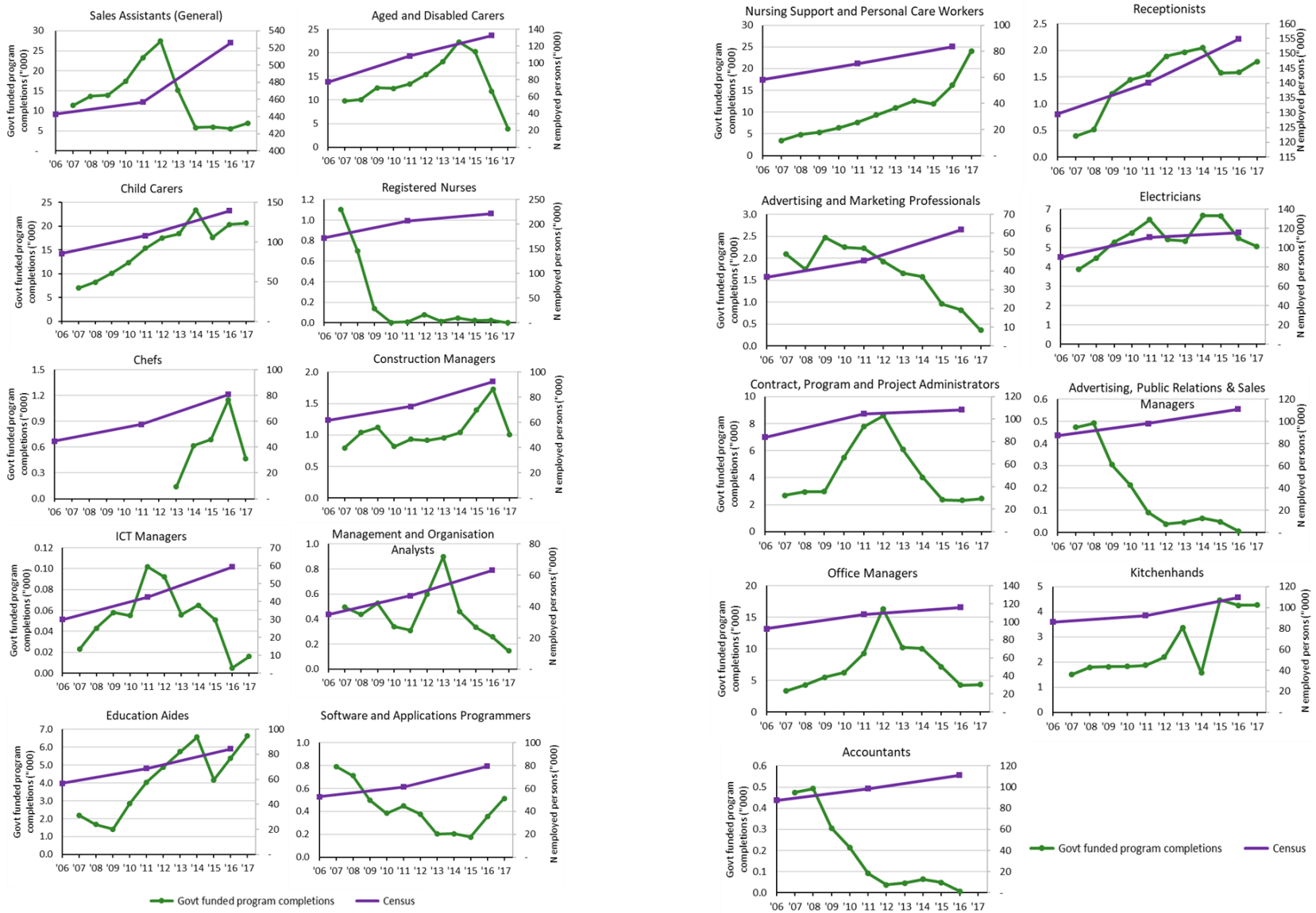

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Occupations with changes greater than 15 percentage points in share of VET-qualified workers and direction of change in number of workers (+ or -), 2006–16

Increase in VET qualified share	Decrease in VET qualified share
Railway track workers (n = 3961, +)	Ambulance officers and paramedics (n = 13 351, +)
Recycling and rubbish collectors (n = 2118, -)	Dental hygienists, technicians and therapists (n = 6552, +)
Shearers (n = 2686, -)	Medical imaging professionals (n = 15 622, +)
Train and tram drivers (n = 10 739, +)	

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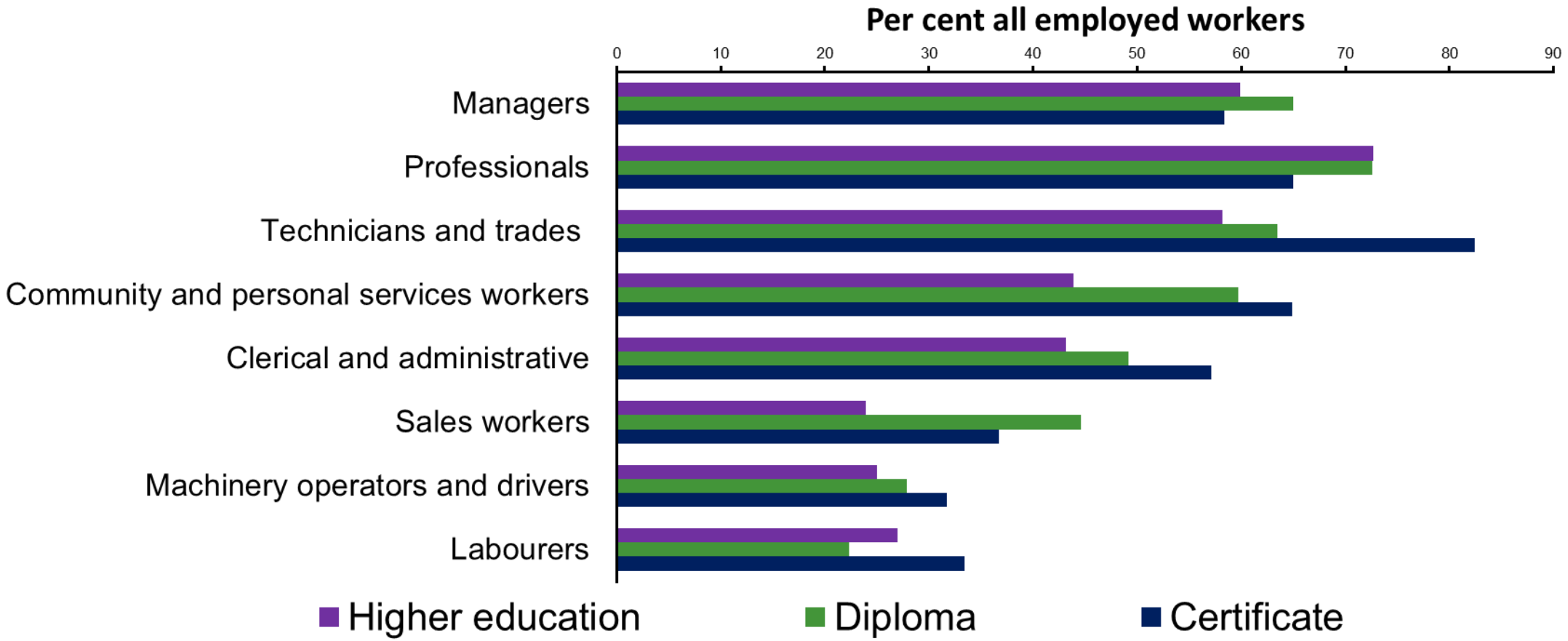
Workers in same field as qualification



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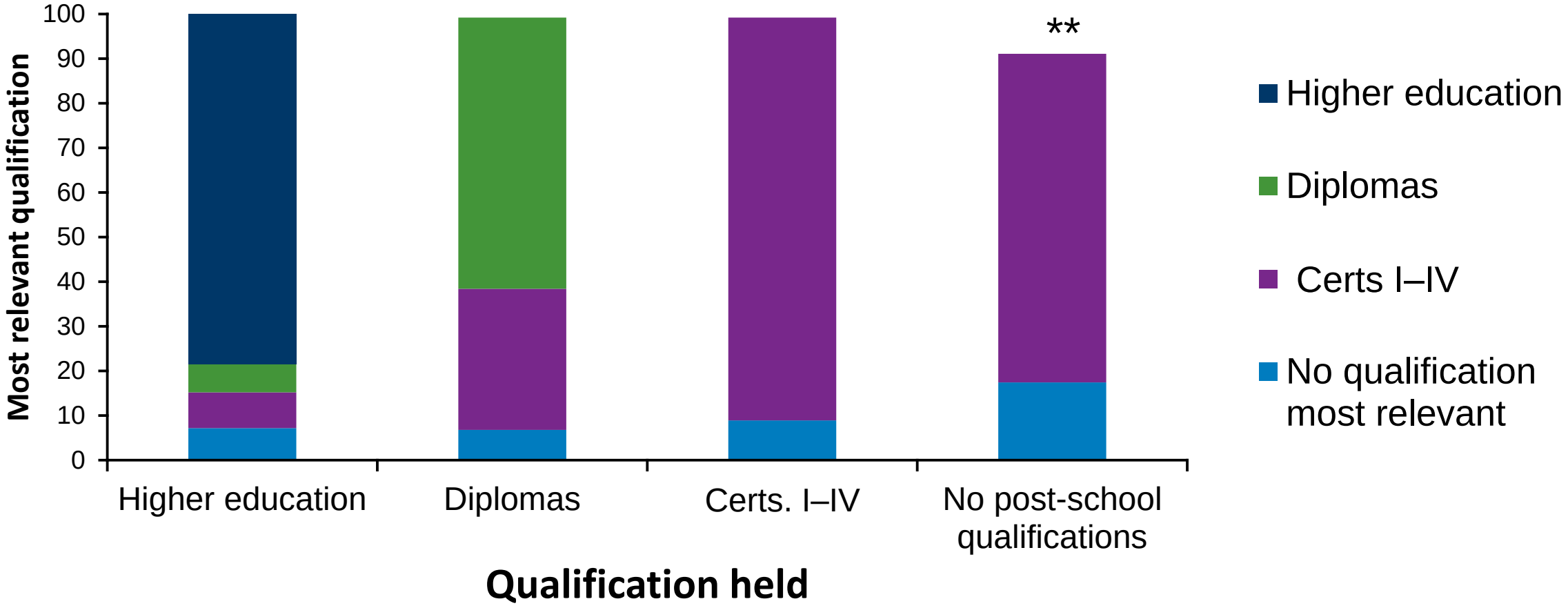
Relevance of qualification to current job



** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Why are workers working in fields unrelated to their qualifications?

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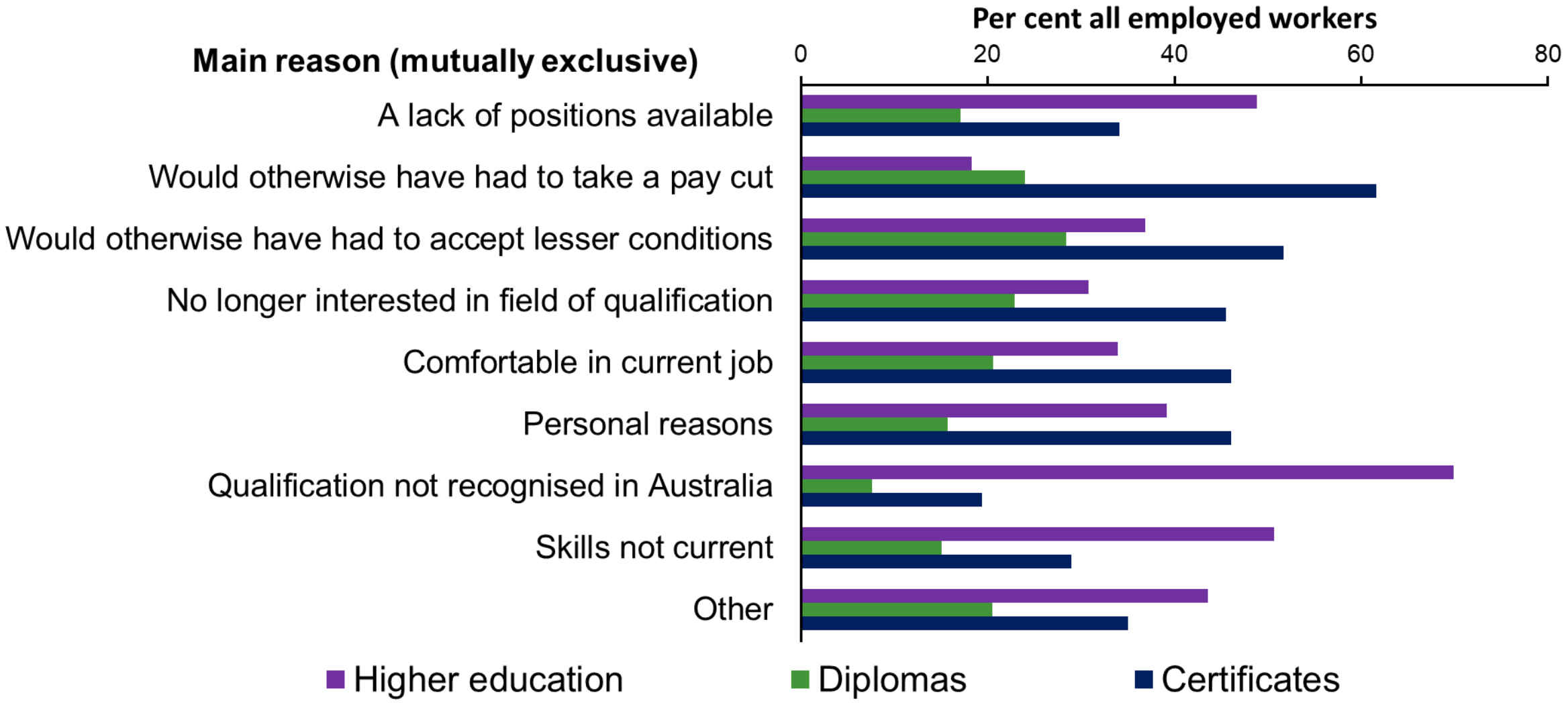

Implications

- Three main drivers of future demand for VET:
  - Training for occupations with scope for training to be introduced
  - Training for occupations with high rates of VET qualifications that are also expanding
  - Training for declining occupations that have proportionately more VET-qualified workers

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