

Australian vocational education and training statistics

Total VET students and courses 2024

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



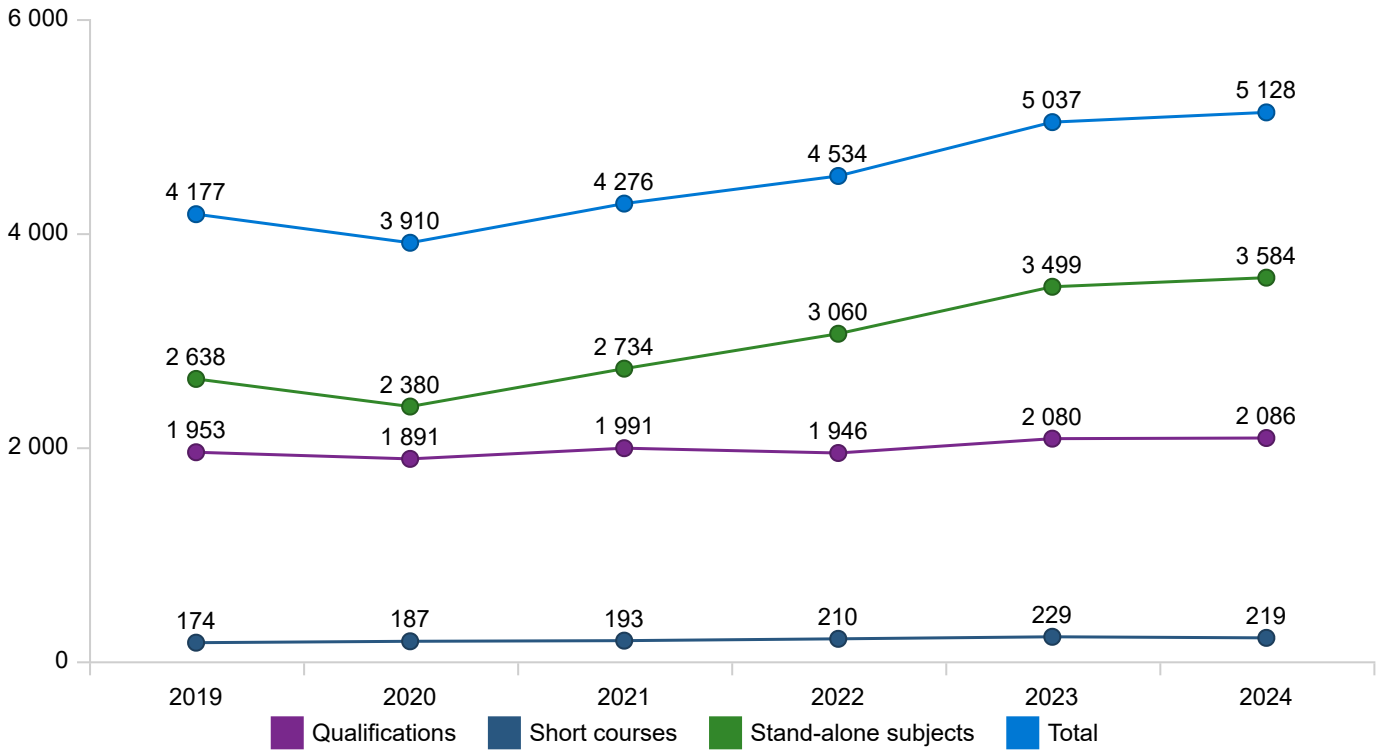
Snapshot

In 2024, 5.1 million students were enrolled in nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET), up 1.8% from 2023, and comprising an estimated 26.6% of Australia's resident population aged 15 to 64 years.

Students undertook training in various forms; 40.7% were enrolled in qualifications (up 0.3% to 2 085 790), 4.3% in short courses (down 4.1% to 219 430) and 69.9% in stand-alone subjects (up 2.4% to 3 584 145).

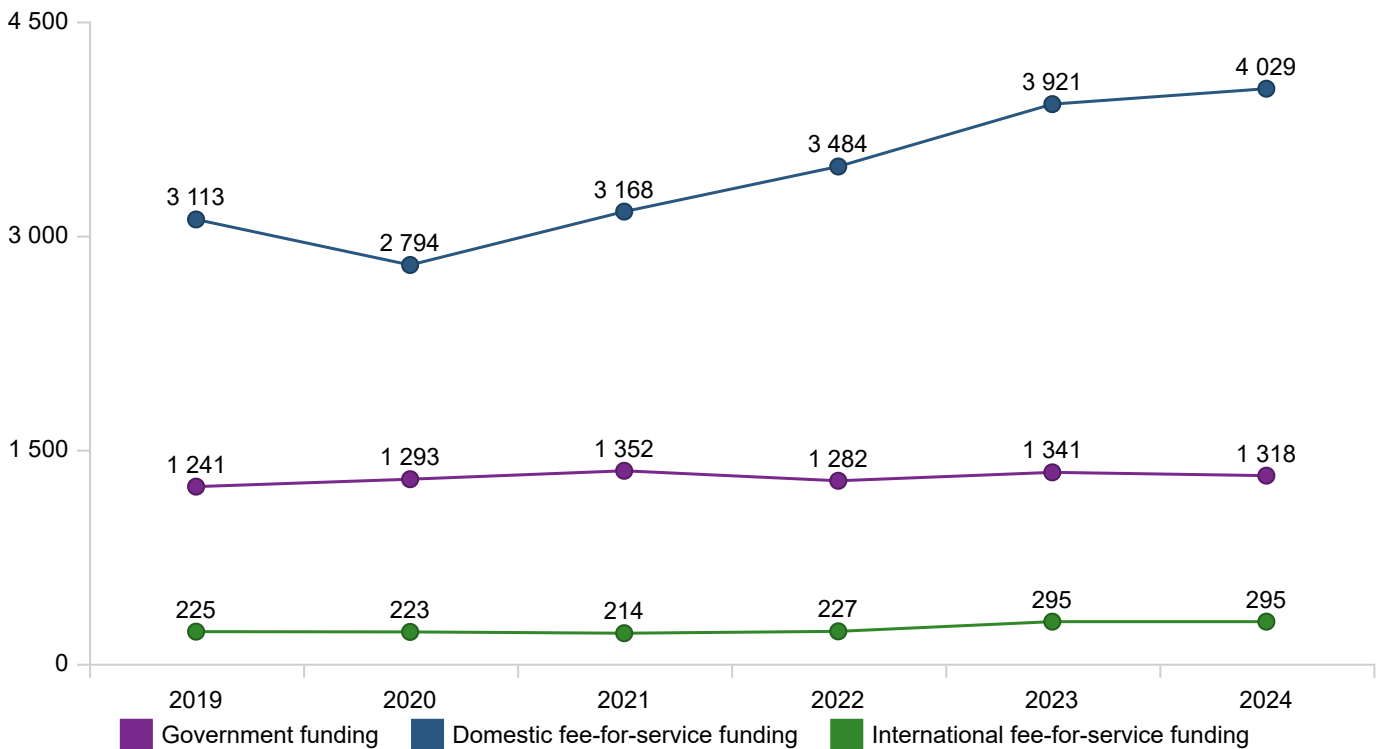
Among those enrolled in stand-alone subjects, first-aid courses remained the most common, with *HLTAID009 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation* accounting for 25.9% or 2.3 million subject enrolments.

Figure 1 Students by type of training, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Most VET students (4.0 million students or 78.6%) trained as domestic full fee-paying students, which increased 2.8% from 2023. A further 1 317 680 (25.7%) students undertook training with the assistance of government subsidies (domestic government-funded), down 1.8% from 2023. International students accounted for 5.8% (295 120 students) of the VET market, largely unchanged from 2023.

Figure 2 Students by funding source, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Domestic government-funded students

The number of domestic government-funded students decreased by 1.8% from 2023 to 1 317 680. These students were primarily:

- enrolled in qualifications: 1 228 110 (93.2%), remained steady from 2023
- training at TAFE institutes: 633 385 (48.1%), down 1.4% from 2023
- enrolled in Certificate III qualifications: 627 055 (47.6%), up 1.1% from 2023.

Domestic full fee-paying students

The number of domestic full-fee paying students increased by 2.8% from 2023 to 4 028 995. These students were primarily enrolled:

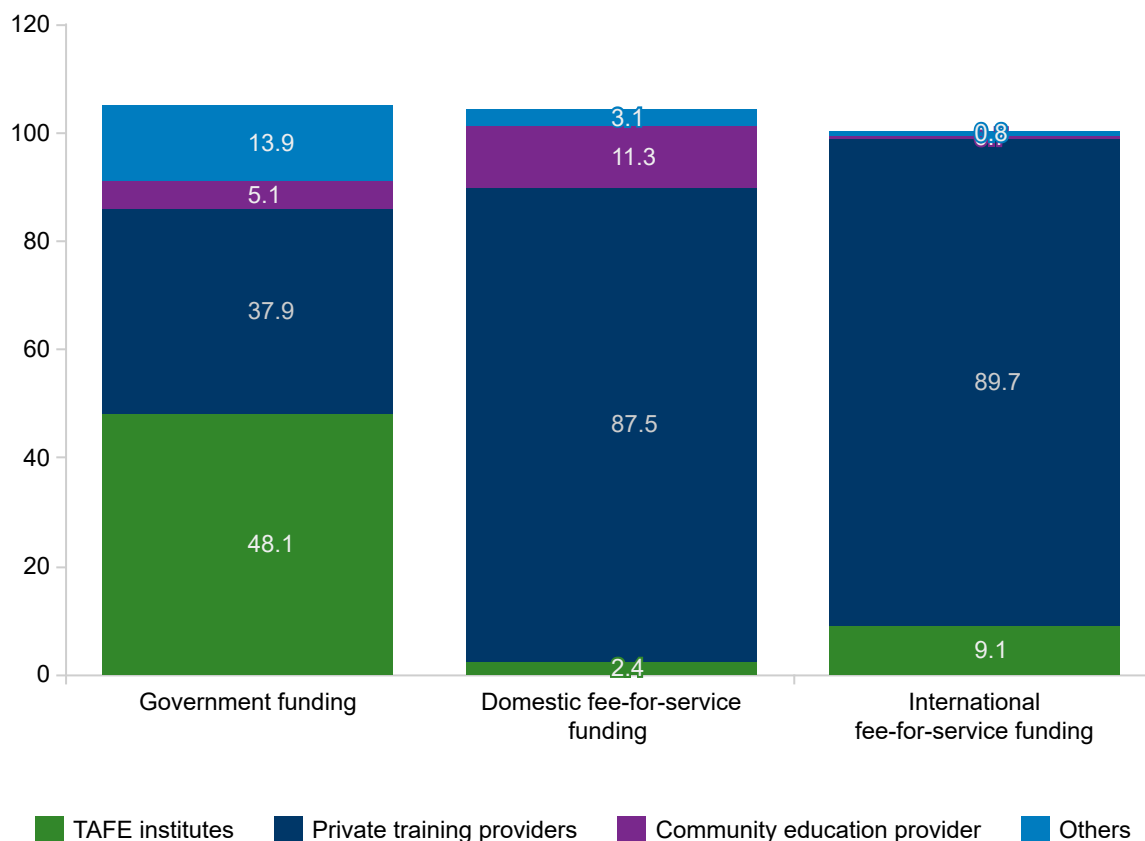
- in stand-alone subjects (3.5 million or 87.1%) up 3.6% from 2023, followed by qualifications (710 010 or 17.6%) down 2.6% from 2023
- at private providers (3.5 million or 87.5%) up 3.2% from 2023.

International full fee-paying students

The number of international full fee-paying students were largely unchanged from 2023 at 295 120. These students were primarily:

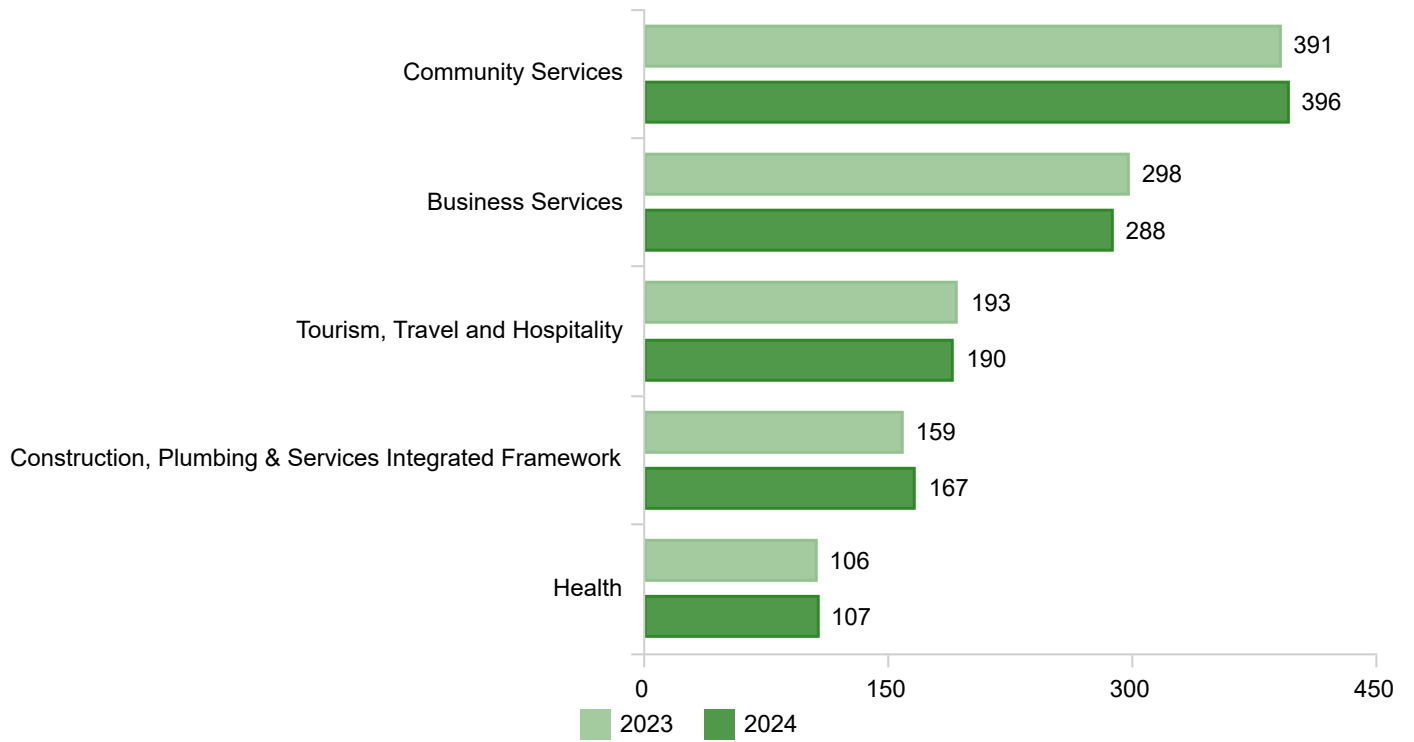
- enrolled in qualifications: 284 925 (96.5%), up 10.4% from 2023
- training at private training providers: 264 580 (89.7%), up 0.3% from 2023
- enrolled in Diploma or higher level qualifications: 166 650 (56.5%), up 22.8% from 2023.

Figure 3 Student funding source by training provider type, 2024 (%)



The most popular qualifications in 2024 were in Community Services, Business Services, and Tourism, Travel and Hospitality training packages.

Figure 4 Top 5 training packages by students, 2023 and 2024 ('000)



Students and participation rates

Students

In 2024, the number of students enrolled in national recognised VET increased by 1.8% from 2023, reaching 5 128 390. This growth reflects diverse participation across various demographic cohorts.

The following table highlights student trends across key demographic groups and their type of training in 2024.

Table 1 Students enrolled in nationally recognised VET in Australia by selected cohorts, 2024

Cohort	Students	Proportion (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
Females	2 375 950	46.3	2.0
Indigenous	181 635	3.5	4.4
With a disability	196 610	3.8	3.2
Regional and remote	1 384 350	27.0	2.6
Aged 15 to 19 years	764 925	14.9	3.8
School students	493 150	9.6	8.2
Had a previous highest education level of year 12	1 140 065	22.2	0.4
Studied full-time	592 870	11.6	9.3
Unemployed	507 380	9.9	1.8

Note: Qualifications are comprised of training package qualifications and accredited qualifications. For more detailed information, including students enrolled in short courses, please refer to the Total VET students and courses 2024 annual Databuilder.

The demographic characteristics of students undertaking qualifications in the VET sector differ notably from those of the overall Australian population. For example, the proportion of unemployed persons and young people aged 15 to 19 is significantly higher in the VET student cohort. These differences reflect the specific role that VET plays in supporting early career development, re-skilling, and access to education for underrepresented groups. To better understand how domestic VET students in Australia compared to those of the broader population, Table 2 presents selected demographic characteristics of VET students and compares to the Australian population more broadly.

In 2024, domestic Indigenous students were overrepresented in VET, accounting for 5.6% of all VET students, compared to just 3.8% of the Australian population – a notable positive variance of 1.8 percentage points.

Table 2 Domestic students enrolled in VET qualifications in Australia compared to the Australian population, by selected cohorts, 2024

Cohort	% of VET students ⁶	% of Australian population ⁷	Percentage point variance
Females	48.5	50.4	-1.9
Indigenous ¹	5.6	3.8	1.8
With a disability ²	6.3	15.7	-9.4
Regional and remote	29.6	27.2	2.4
Aged 15 to 19 years	28.3	6.1	22.2
School students ³	16.6	15.1	1.5
Studied full-time ⁴	24.8	10.8	14.0
Unemployed ⁵	13.4	4.1	9.3

- Notes:
1. The ABS data is the projected population and uses the medium paternity and medium life expectancy with the medium fertility projection.
 2. The latest disability data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is from 2022 and has been compared to NCVET 2024 data. Data is for persons aged 15-64 years.
 3. ABS percentage calculated as the total number of full-time and part-time students as a percentage of the Australian ERP.
 4. Data is for persons aged 15-74 years. ABS percentage calculated as full-time students as a percentage of the ERP aged 15-74 years.
 5. Data is for persons aged 15-64 years. ABS percentage calculated using the trend adjustment type.
 6. VET students are comprised of both domestic full-fee paying and government-funded students of any age (unless stated elsewhere) and excludes students who reside offshore.
 7. ABS populations may vary slightly across cohorts and from NCVET data. As a result, variances should be interpreted with caution. Data sources for population figures are detailed in the "Additional Information" section.

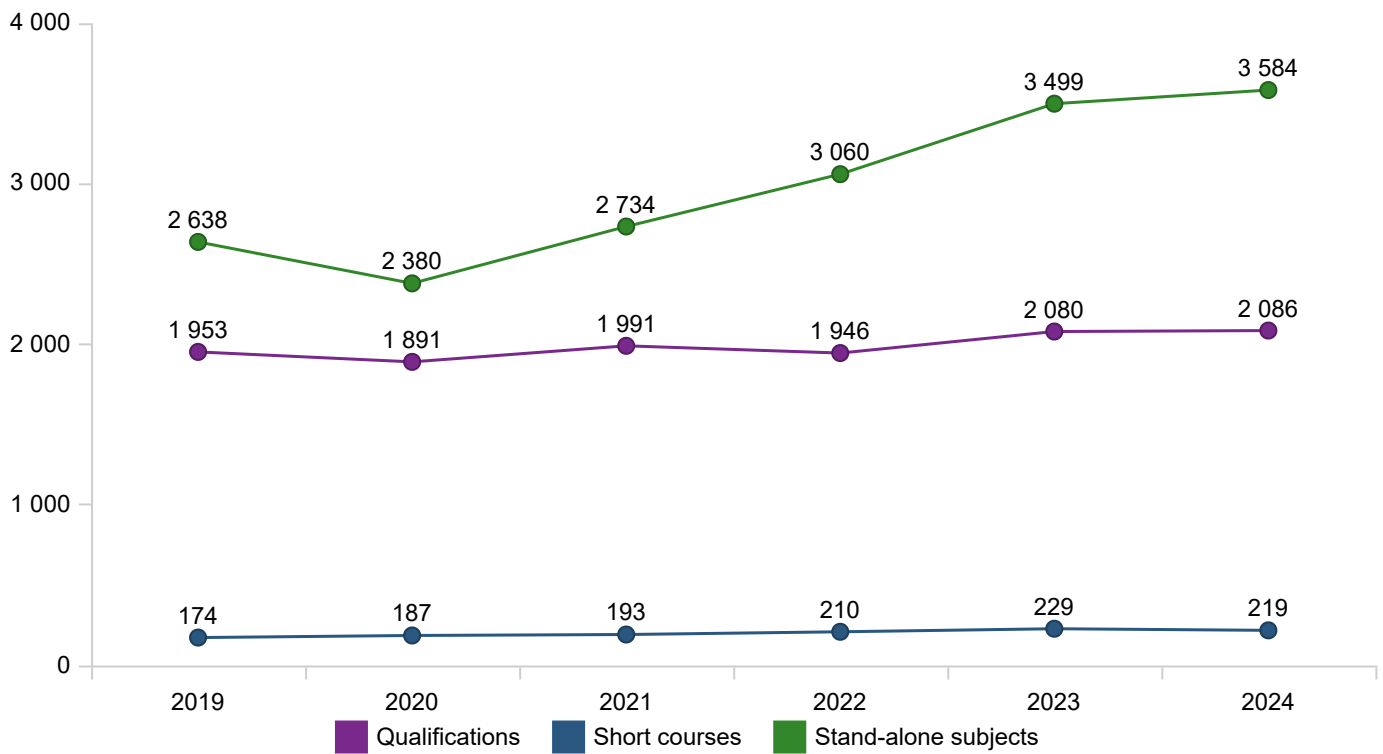
Of the 5.1 million students enrolled in nationally recognised VET in 2024, some were enrolled in one or more nationally recognised programs, some in stand-alone subjects and others in a combination of both.

In 2024, enrolments in national recognised programs remained steady at 2.2 million compared to 2023, while enrolments in stand-alone subjects increased by 2.4% to 3.6 million.

Among the 2.2 million students enrolled in nationally recognised programs:

- 87.0% in training package qualifications
- 7.5% in accredited qualifications
- 4.8% in training package skill sets
- 5.0% in accredited courses.

Figure 5 Students by type of training, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



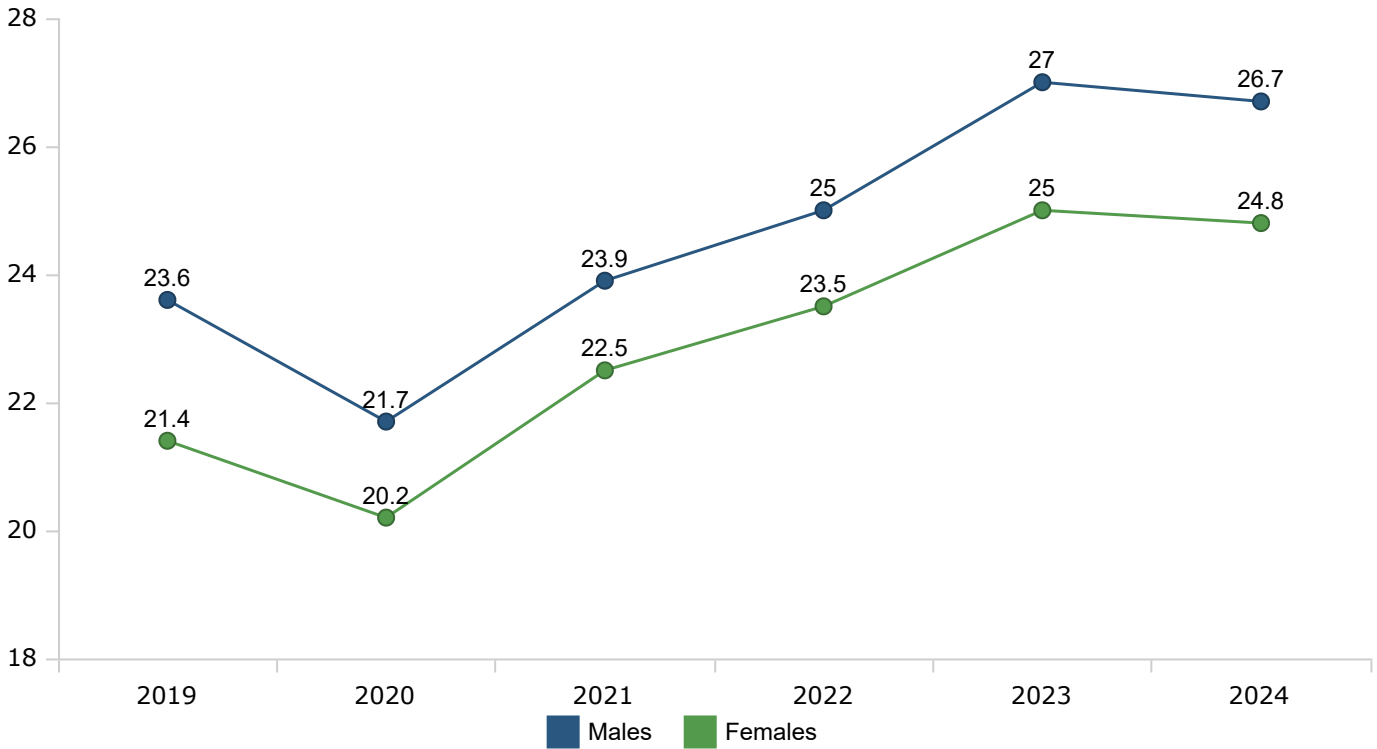
Note: The sum of students (n= 5.9 million in 2024) in the chart will not add to the 2024 total (5.1 million) as a student may have enrolled in multiple types of training in a calendar year.

Participation rates

In 2024, 26.6% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in nationally recognised VET, down slightly from 26.8% in 2023.

Male and female participation rates in VET were similar, at 26.7% and 24.8% respectively, for those aged 15 to 64 years in 2024.

Figure 6 Estimated participation rate of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years in VET, by gender, 2019 to 2024 (%)



Sources: NCVET, National VET Provider 2024 and National VET in Schools 2024 collections; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (June) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted May 2025.

Notes: Participation rates are derived by calculating the number of VET students with a usual residential address in an Australian state or territory, other Australian territories, or dependencies and where the state/territory is 'Not known' (excludes offshore population), as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to go for training, work, or other purposes.

The highest participation rate was among the students aged 15 to 19 years, with 45.0% engaged in VET.

Table 3 Estimated participation rate of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years in VET, by state or territory of student residence, 2024 (%)

Age group	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
15 to 19 years	39.5	42.5	52.7	40.7	44.7	36.3	33.4	36.5	45.0
20 to 24 years	32.8	31.3	39.8	35.7	38.8	37.7	32.9	26.8	37.3
25 to 44 years	23.9	22.1	29.5	27.2	27.1	27.7	29.7	21.3	27.2
45 to 64 years	16.7	15.5	20.1	16.7	15.2	17.5	21.1	15.0	18.2
15 to 64 years	23.7	22.6	29.4	25.3	25.5	25.3	27.6	21.2	26.6

Sources: NCVET, National VET Provider 2024 and National VET in Schools 2024 collections; [Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, \(June\) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted May 2025](#).

Notes: Participation rates are derived by calculating the number of VET students with a usual residential address in an Australian state or territory, other Australian territories, or dependencies and where the state/territory is 'Not known' (excludes offshore population), as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to go for training, work, or other purposes.

Funding source

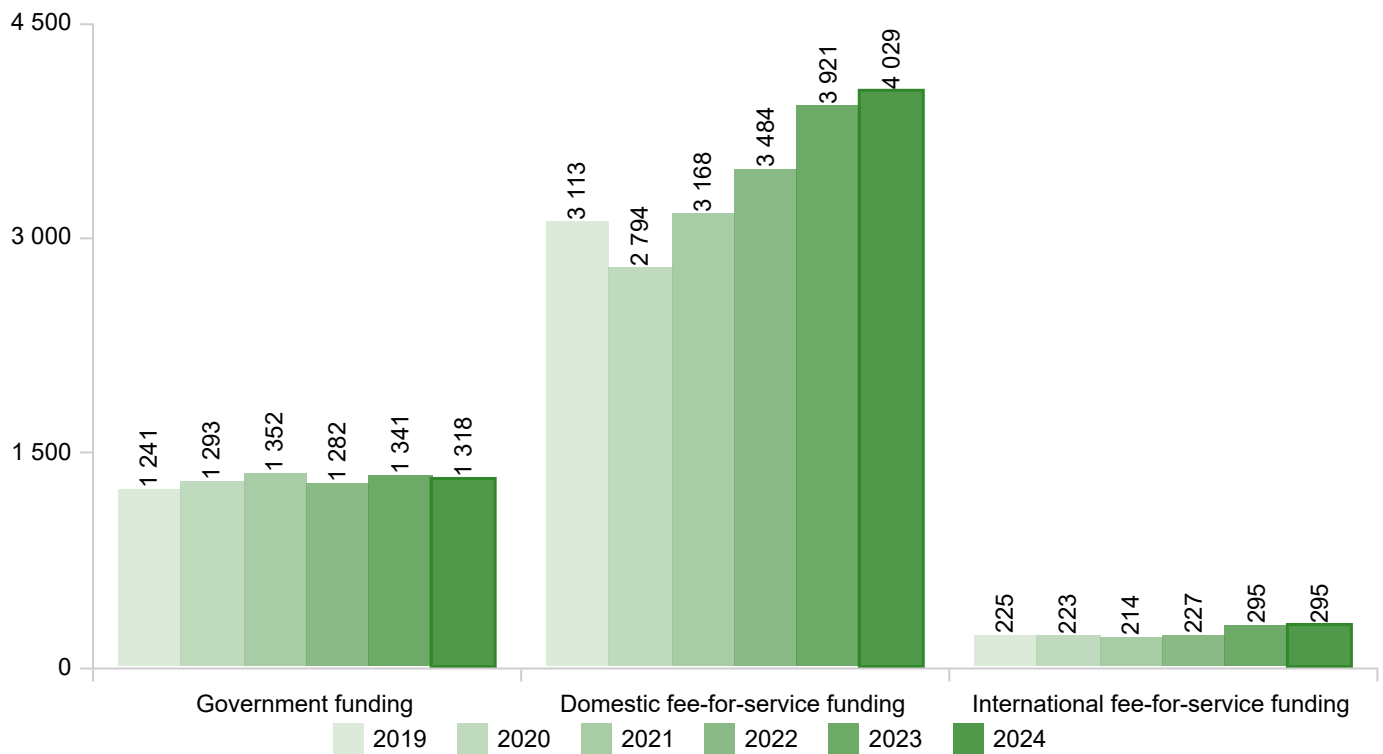
Students

Students can undertake training as a full fee-paying (fee-for-service) student or with the assistance of a government subsidy (government-funded).

In 2024, compared with 2023,

- government-funded students decreased by 1.8% to 1.3 million
- domestic full fee-paying students increased by 2.8% to 4.0 million
- international full fee-paying students remained steady at 295 120.

Figure 7 Students by funding source, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Note: The sum of students by funding source in the chart (n=5.6 million in 2024) will not add to the 2024 total (5.1 million) as a student may have multiple sources of funding in a calendar year.

International fee-for-service funding is a customised grouping consisting of all international fee-for-service values.

In 2024, the majority of:

- government-funded students (85.6% or 1.1 million) were enrolled in training package qualifications
- domestic full fee-paying students (87.1% or 3.5 million) were enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program (stand-alone subjects)
- international full fee-paying students (93.7% or 276 420) were enrolled in training package qualifications.

Table 4 Students by funding source and type of training, 2024

Type of training	Government funding	Domestic-fee-for-service funding	International fee-for-service funding
Training package qualifications	1 127 400	674 800	276 400
Accredited qualifications	126 200	42 700	9 300
Training package skill sets	18 200	90 100	800
Accredited courses	50 600	61 700	200
Stand-alone subjects	89 700	3 509 300	12 400

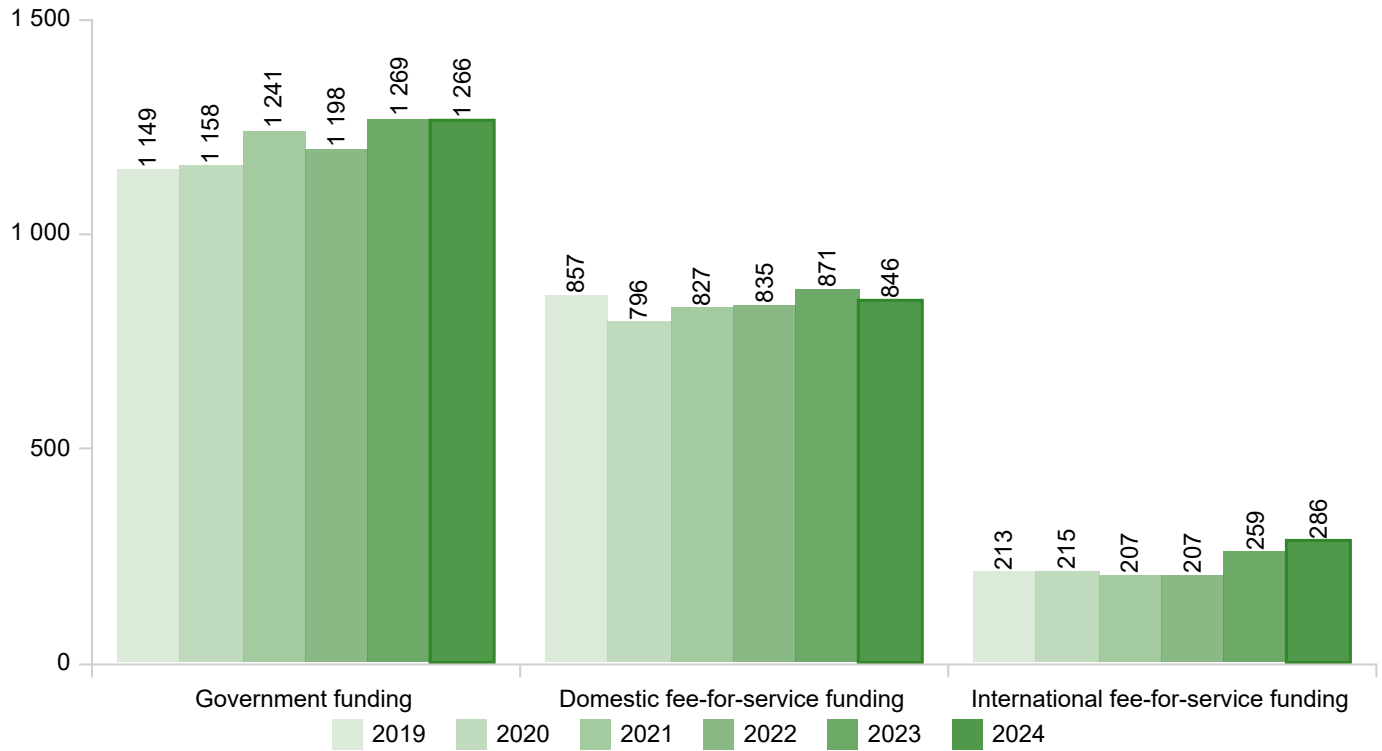
Note: The sum of students by type of training and funding source in the table (n=6.1 million in 2024) will not add to the 2024 total (5.1 million) as a student may have multiple sources of funding and types of training in a calendar year. International-fee-for-service funding is a customised grouping consisting of all international fee-for-service values.

Students in nationally recognised programs

In 2024, compared with 2023, the number of students enrolled in nationally recognised programs remained steady at 2.2 million. The number of:

- government-funded students decreased by 0.2% to 1.3 million
- domestic full fee-paying students decreased by 3.0% to 845 750
- international full fee-paying students increased by 10.3% to 285 640.

Figure 8 Students enrolled in programs by funding source, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Note: The sum of students by funding source in the chart (n=2.4 million in 2024) will not add to the 2024 total (2.2 million) as a student may have multiple sources of funding in a calendar year.

International-fee-for-service funding is a customised grouping consisting of all international fee-for-service values.

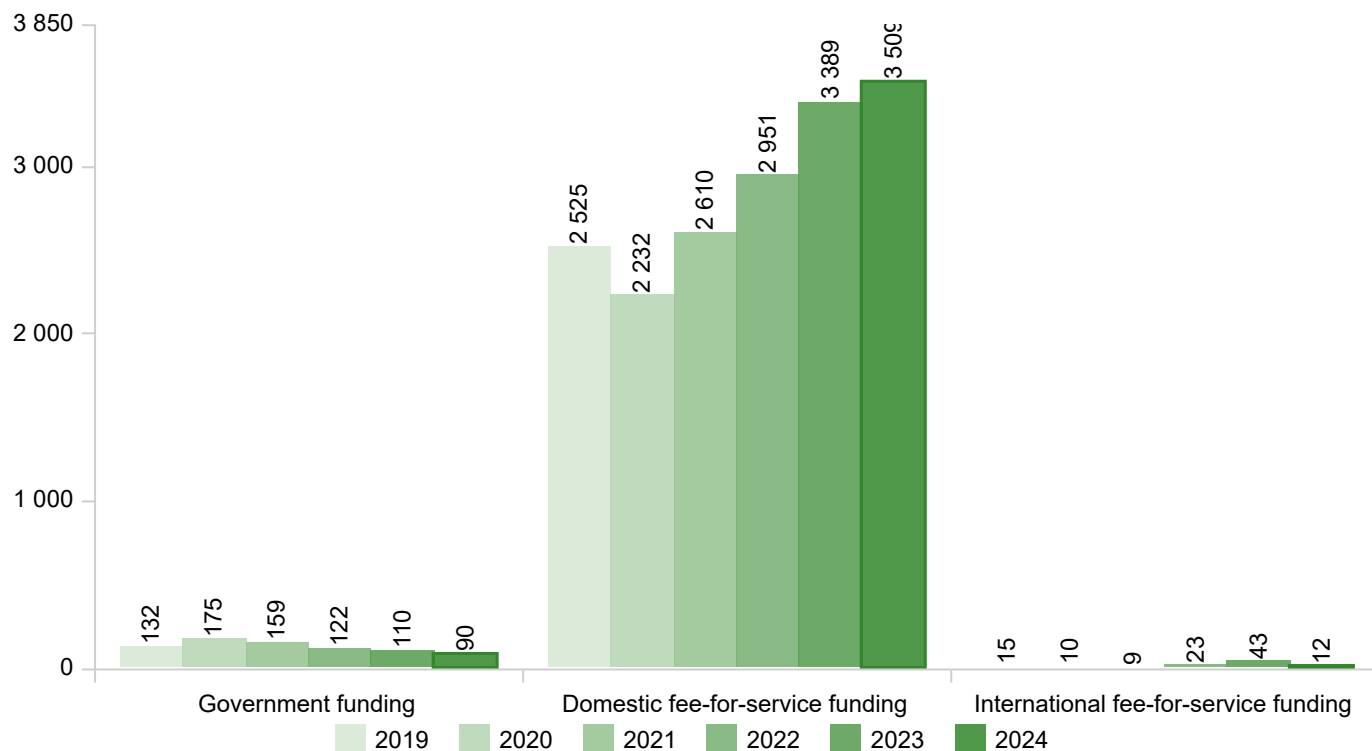
Students in stand-alone subjects

In 2024, compared with 2023, the number of students enrolled in stand-alone subjects increased by 2.4% to 3.6 million.

By funding source:

- government-funded students decreased by 18.7% to 89 670
- domestic full fee-paying students increased by 3.6% to 3.5 million
- international full fee-paying students decreased by 71.0% to 12 425.

Figure 9 Students enrolled in stand-alone subjects by funding source, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Note: The sum of students by funding source (n=3.61 million in 2024) will not add to the 2024 total (3.58 million) as a student may have multiple sources of funding in a calendar year.

Training providers

Provider counts

In 2024, there were 3805 registered training organisations (RTOs) that had an active registration and delivered nationally recognised VET.

Table 5 RTOs delivering VET by provider type, 2019 to 2024

Provider type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAFE institutes	25	24	24	24	24	24
Universities	16	16	16	15	14	14
Schools	390	384	370	350	342	342
Community education providers	221	208	198	191	183	173
Enterprise providers	132	123	121	122	124	122
Private training providers	2 899	2 770	2 839	2 901	2 993	3 130
Total	3 681	3 524	3 567	3 602	3 679	3 805

Note: The number of training providers is a distinct count of providers who delivered nationally recognised training and had an active registration in the calendar year as per the National Register of VET <<https://training.gov.au>>.

Table 6 RTOs delivering VET by state or territory of head office, 2024

Provider type	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TAFE institutes	1	12	1	1	6	1	1	1	24
Universities	1	6	3	0	2	1	1	0	14
Schools	18	45	243	4	18	2	2	10	342
Community education providers	71	55	19	6	12	1	3	6	173
Enterprise providers	44	23	19	13	10	5	5	3	122
Private training providers	995	760	773	162	311	39	32	58	3 130
Total	1 130	901	1 058	186	359	49	44	78	3 805

Note: The number of training providers is a distinct count of providers who delivered nationally recognised training and had an active registration in the calendar year as per the National Register of VET <<https://training.gov.au>>.

Table 7 RTOs delivering VET by state or territory of delivery location, 2024

Provider type	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other	Aust.	Offshore	Total
TAFE institutes	8	15	2	9	7	3	3	2	0	24	9	24
Universities	4	7	4	1	4	2	2	0	0	14	1	14
Schools	19	48	242	9	19	2	3	11	0	342	0	342
Community education providers	78	64	34	18	21	7	12	14	2	173	0	173
Enterprise providers	56	44	40	31	31	17	16	13	2	122	0	122
Private training providers	1 415	1 104	1 108	551	638	250	214	232	21	3 125	47	3 130
Total	1 580	1 282	1 430	619	720	281	250	272	25	3 800	57	3 805

Notes: The number of training providers is a distinct count of providers who delivered nationally recognised training and had an active registration in the calendar year as per the National Register of VET <<https://training.gov.au>>.

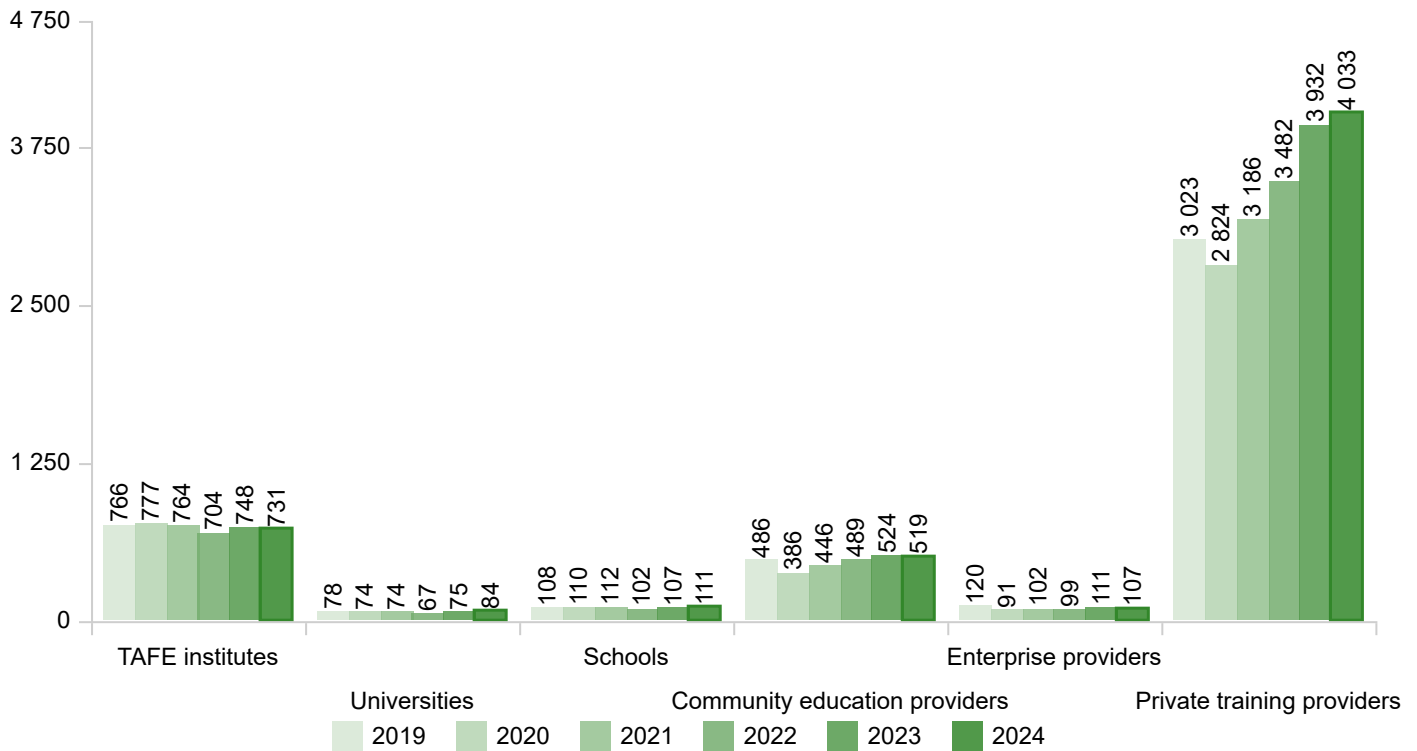
'Other' refers to 'Other Australian territories and dependencies' (for example, Christmas Island) and where the delivery location is not known.

The sum of training providers across state/territory and offshore delivery locations will not add to 'Australia' as a training provider may deliver in multiple locations in a calendar year.

The number of students enrolled at private training providers in 2024 increased by 2.6% from 2023 to 4 032 540. This growth was driven by an increase in the number of enrolments in stand-alone subjects.

In 2024, 78.6% of students were enrolled at private training providers, 14.3% at TAFE institutes, 10.1% at community education providers, 2.2% at schools, 2.1% at enterprise providers and 1.6% at universities.

Figure 10 Students by type of provider, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Note: The sum of students (n=5.6 million in 2024) in the chart will not add to the 2024 total (5.1 million) as a student may have enrolled in training with multiple provider types in a calendar year.

Programs

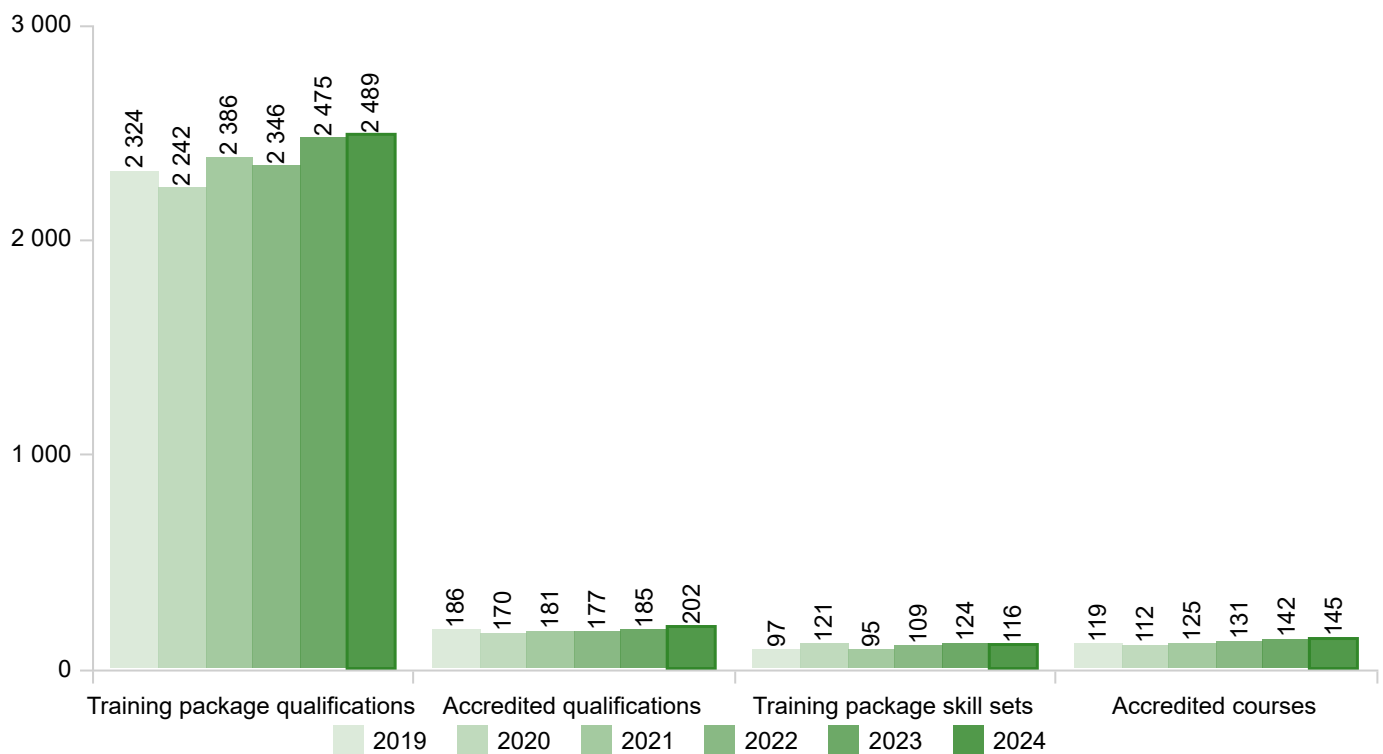
Program enrolments

In 2024, there were 3.0 million enrolments in programs. The majority (91.2%) were in qualifications, 84.3% were in training package qualifications and 6.8% in accredited qualifications.

Compared with 2023, enrolments in

- training package qualifications increased by 0.5% to 2.5 million
- accredited qualifications increased by 8.8% to 201 590
- training package skill sets decreased by 6.2% to 115 955
- accredited courses increased by 1.6% to 144 565.

Figure 11 Program enrolments by type of training, 2019 to 2024 ('000)

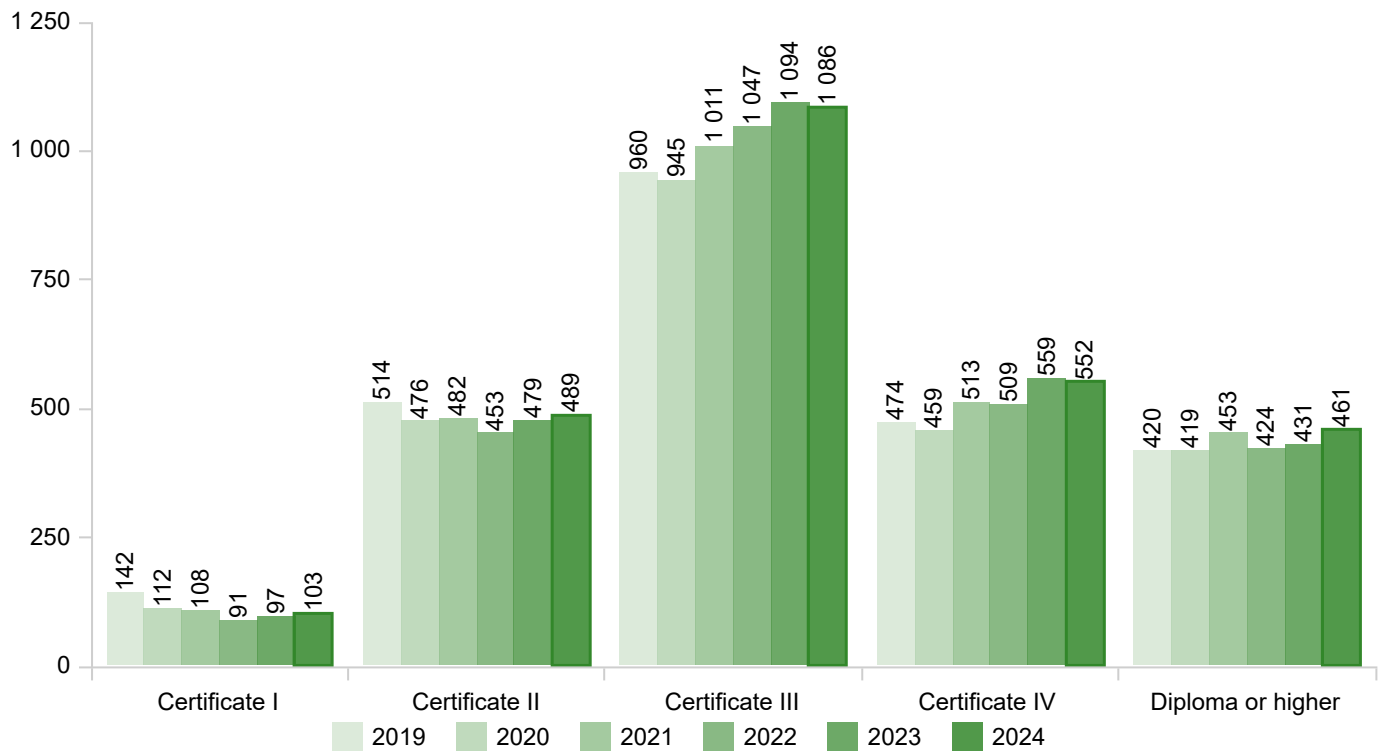


Qualification enrolments

Qualifications consist of both training package and accredited qualifications.

In 2024, there were 2.7 million enrolments in qualifications. The highest proportion of enrolments was at the certificate III level (40.4% or 1.1 million enrolments), followed by certificate IV (20.5% or 551 715).

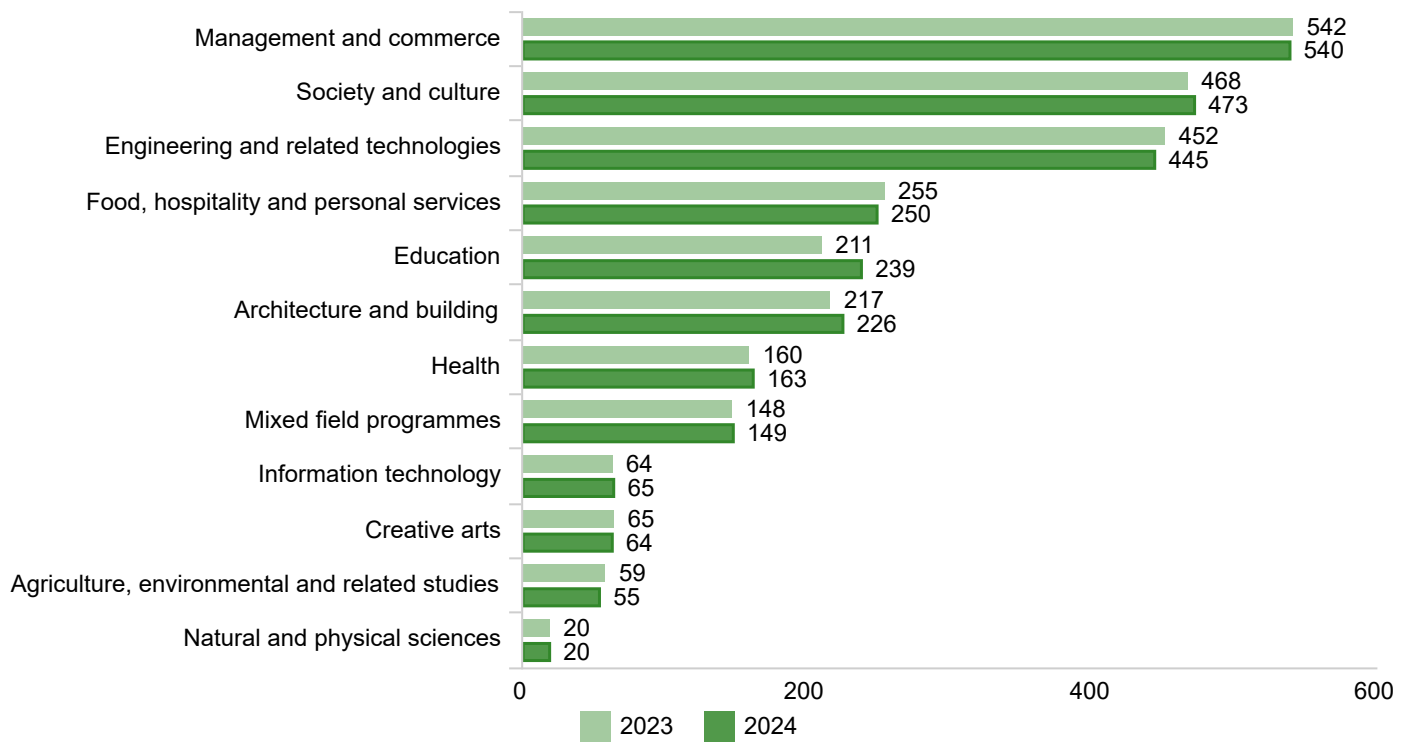
Figure 12 Qualification enrolments by level of education, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



Note: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only.

By field of education, the highest proportion of enrolments was in Management and commerce (20.1% or 539 915 enrolments), followed by Society and culture (17.6% or 472 905) and Engineering and related technologies (16.6% or 445 470).

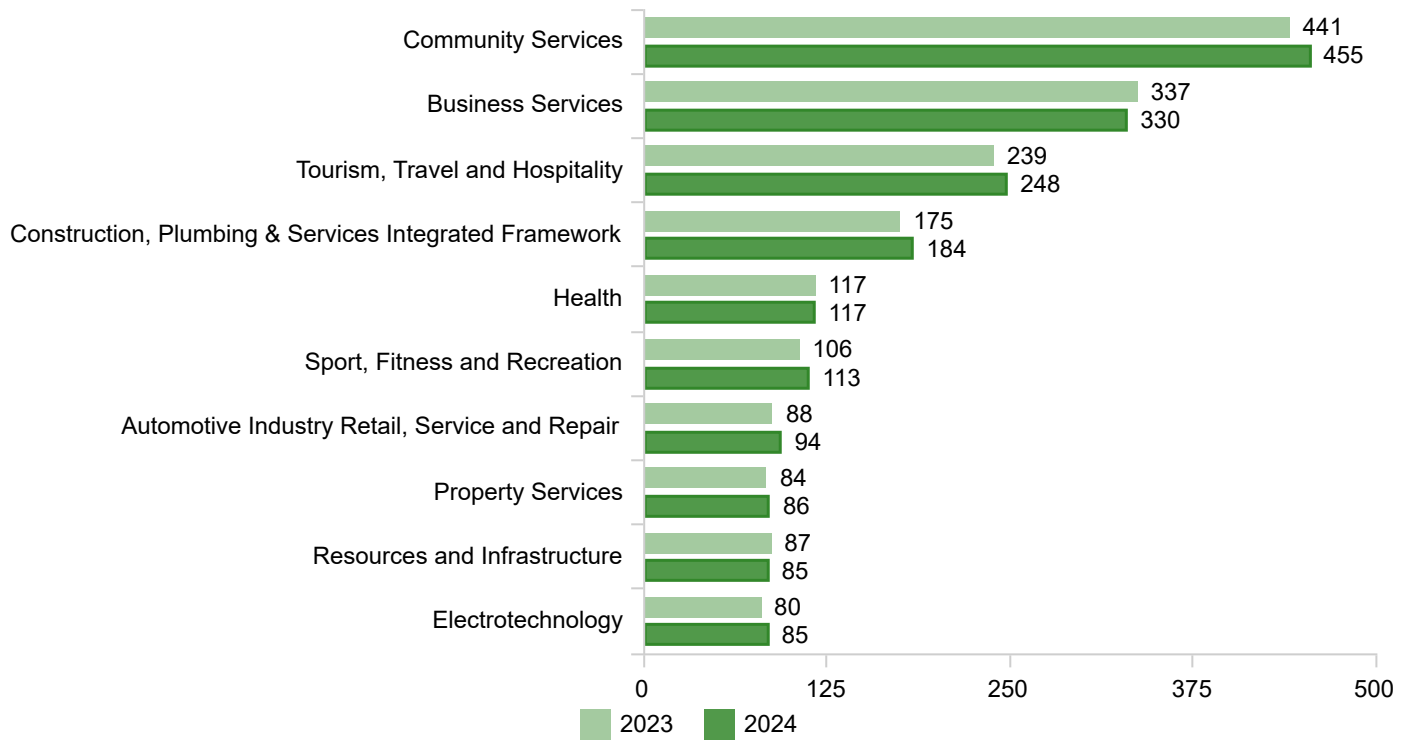
Figure 13 Qualification enrolments by field of education, 2023 and 2024 ('000)



Note: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only.

By training package, the highest proportion of enrolments was in Community services (18.3% or 455 460 enrolments), followed by Business services (13.3% or 329 835) and Tourism, travel and hospitality (10.0% or 248 480).

Figure 14 Qualification enrolments by top 10 training packages, 2023 and 2024 ('000)

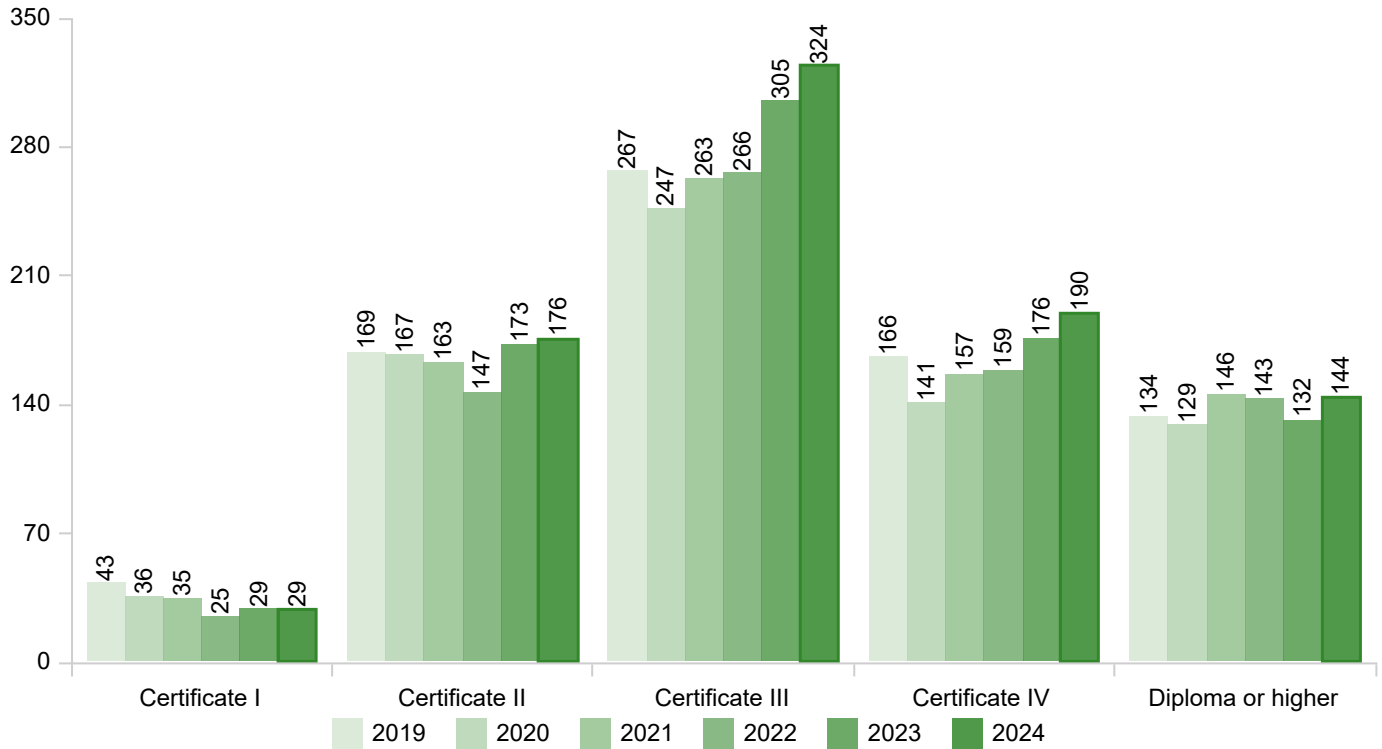


Notes: Data in the figure above is based on training package qualifications only. Accredited qualifications are excluded.

Qualification completions

In 2024, 863 640 nationally recognised qualifications were completed. The highest proportion of completions was at the certificate III level (37.5%), followed by certificate IV (22.0%) and certificate II (20.4%).

Figure 15 Qualification completions by level of education, 2019 to 2024 ('000)



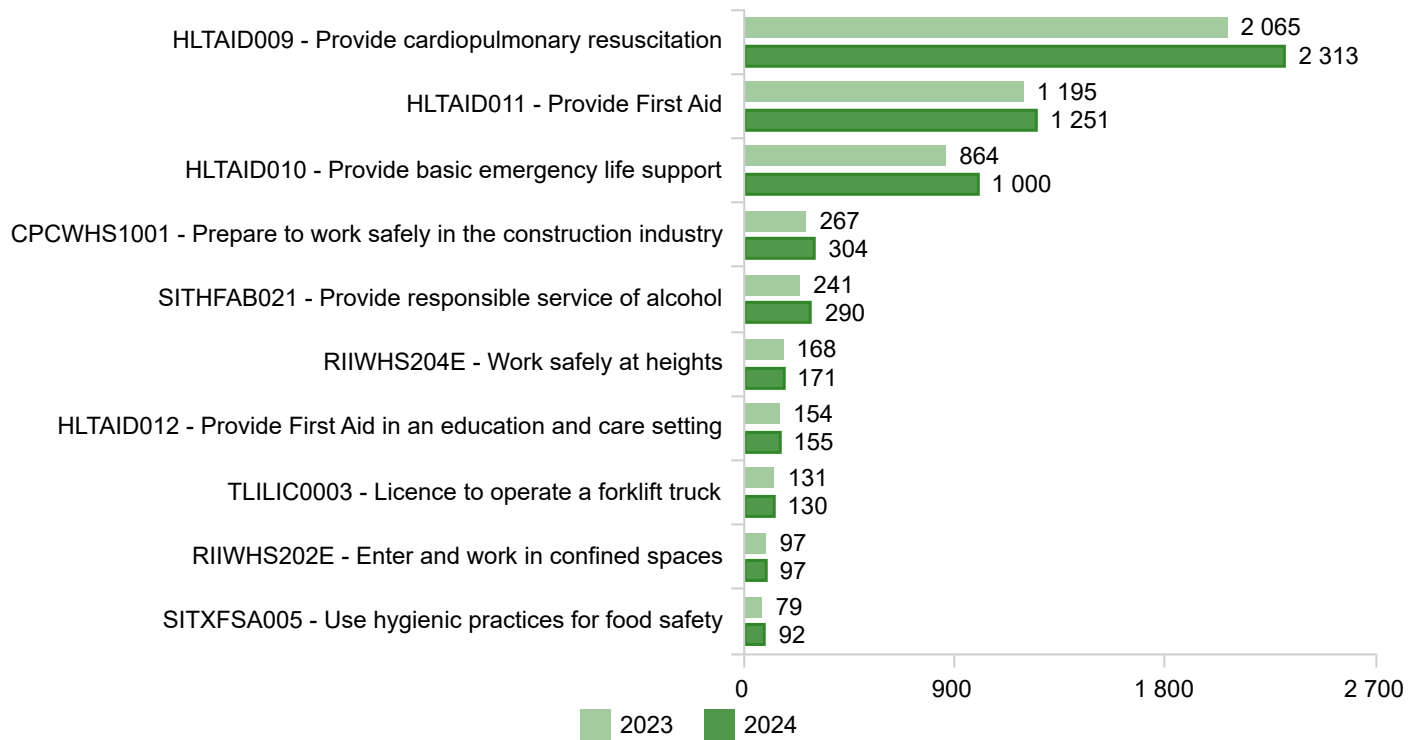
Notes: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only.

Subjects

In 2024, there were 8.9 million enrolments in stand-alone subjects, an increase of 4.9% from 2023, and 39.4% from 2019. The majority of these enrolments were delivered by private training providers (7.4 million or 83.2%), a further 11.8% (or 1.1 million enrolments) were delivered by community education providers.

Overall, 53.7% of enrolments in stand-alone subjects were related to first aid training category. The highest proportion of enrolments was in *HLTAID009 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation* (25.9% or 2.3 million enrolments).

Figure 16 Top 10 subjects by number of stand-alone subject enrolments, 2023 and 2024 ('000)

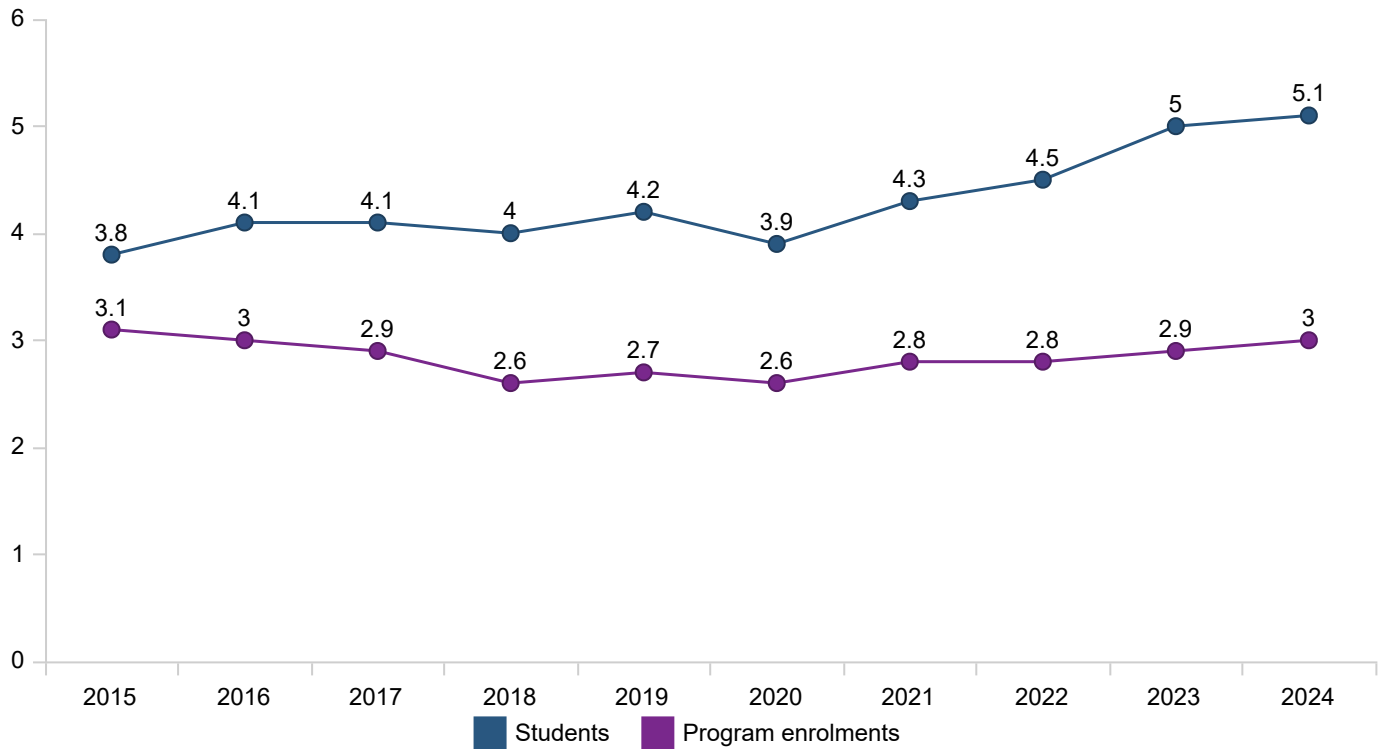


Note: Units may be superseded if replaced with an equivalent training product. This may result in enrolments being in both the current and superseded unit of competency within the same collection year. More information on the subjects listed in this chart is located at <https://training.gov.au>.

Time series

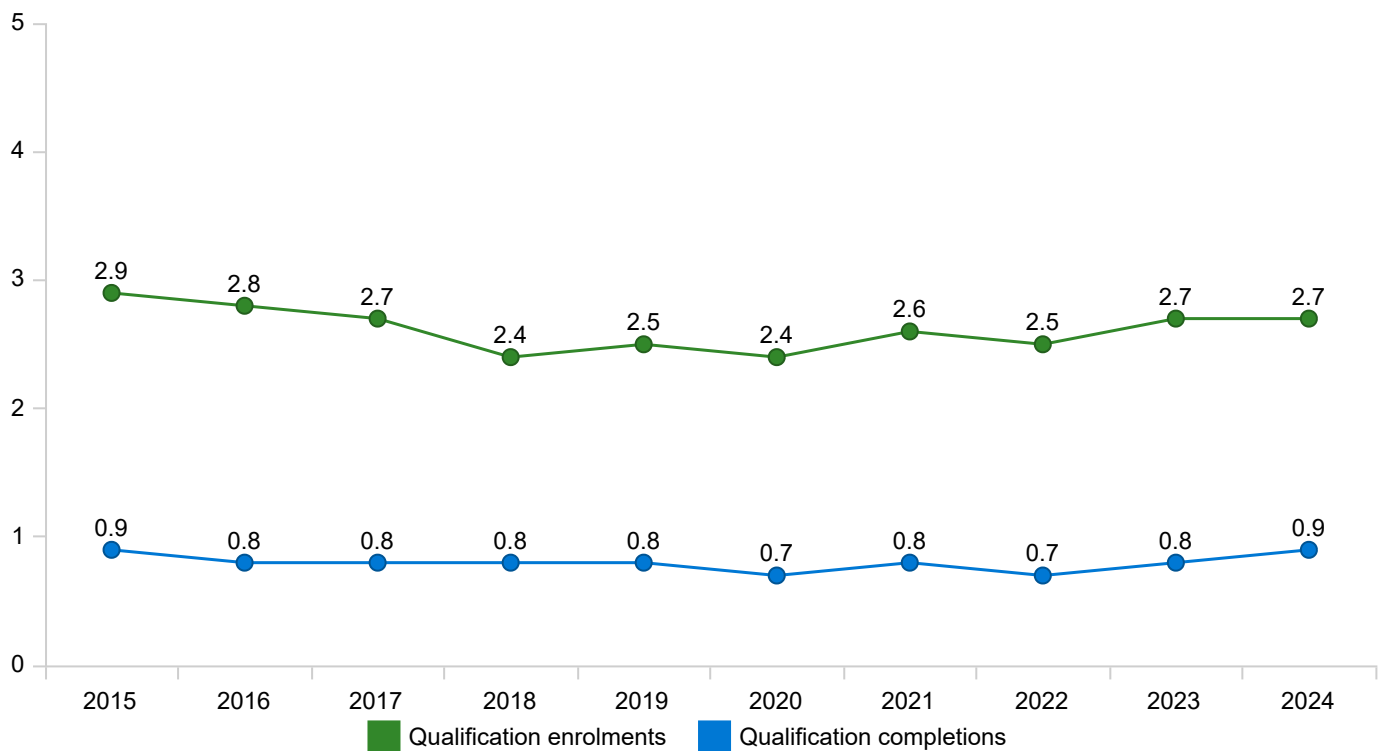
Time series data from 2015 to 2024 show trends in student numbers and program enrolments.

Figure 17 Students and program enrolments, 2015 to 2024 (million)



Time series data from 2015 to 2024 show trends in qualification enrolments and completions.

Figure 18 Qualification enrolments and completions, 2015 to 2024 (million)



Notes: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only. Qualification completions will be revised with subsequent releases of *Total VET students and courses*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Caution should be used when comparing trends, as 2024 NSW figures are likely overstated. For further details, see the explanatory notes in the download section of the page.

Data sources for Table 2:

Females: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, \(June\) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted May 2025.](#)

Indigenous: [Projected population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, States and Territories, 2021 to 2031](#)

Disability: [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Remoteness: [Regional population, 2023-24 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Age group: [Quarterly Population Estimates \(ERP\), by State/Territory, Sex and Age](#)

School students: [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(2024\), Schools, ABS Website, accessed 21 May 2025](#)

Full-time study: [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(May 2024\), Education and Work, Australia, ABS Website, accessed 21 May 2025](#)

Unemployed: [Labour Force: Age Groups](#)

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For details and exceptions visit the [NCVER Portal](#).

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