

THE STOCK OF QUALIFICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by working-age¹ Australians, from two perspectives: focusing on working-age Australians and on qualifications. Formal qualifications are a major path to skill acquisition, so they provide an indication of the supply of skills in the economy. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



16.1 million working-age Australians

10.2 million qualified people



3.8 million

had **two** or **more** qualifications



6.4 million

had a **single** qualification



5.9 million

did not have a qualification



3.6 million working (61.7%)



2.3 million not working (38.2%)

People with a qualification who **were working**



8.4 million (82.9%)



2.0 million

were employed but had at least one qualification that was **not at all relevant** to their current job.



3.3 million

were employed and had **two or more** qualifications:

1.1 million

the **highest** qualification was **not the most relevant** to their current job.

1.0 million

the **most recent** qualification was **not the most relevant** to their current job.

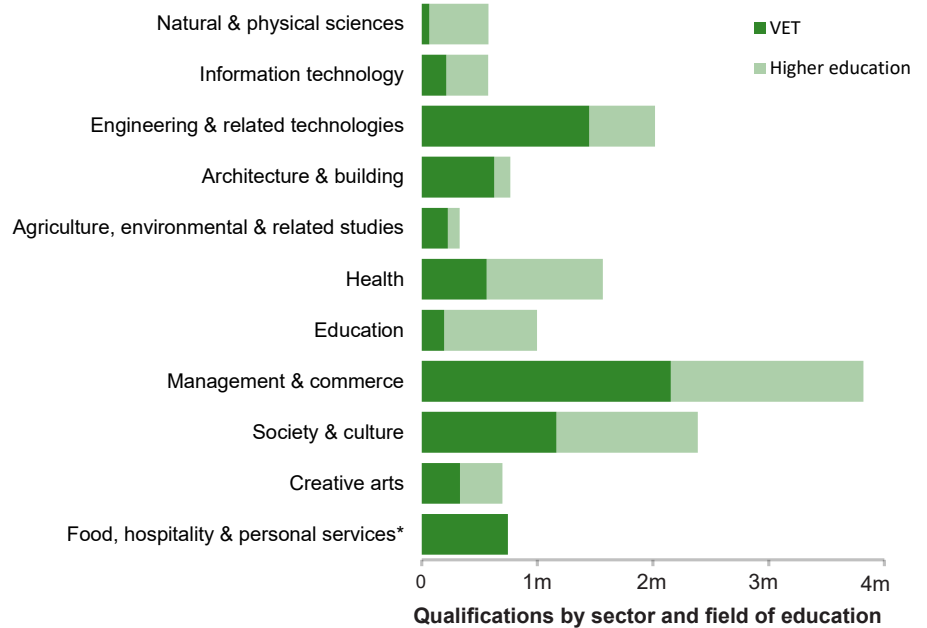
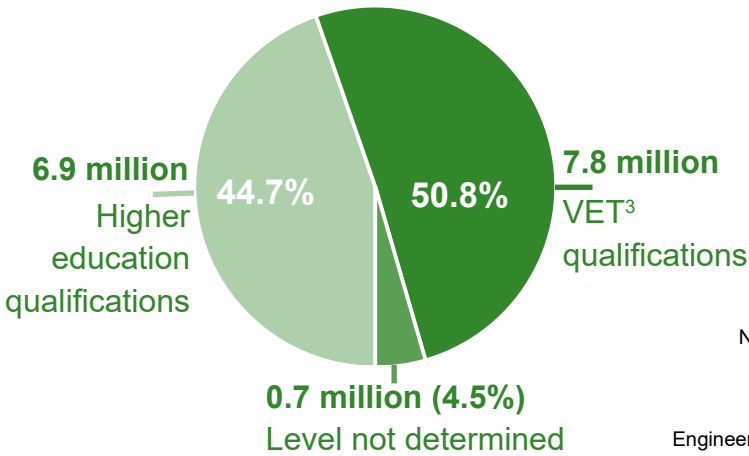
People with a qualification who **were not working**



1.7 million (17.1%)

working-age Australians who had a qualification were **unemployed** or **were not in the labour force**.

10.2 million people held 15.4 million qualifications²



If only the highest qualification was considered for each person, the estimate of all qualifications fell by 5.2 million (34%)



52% of qualifications were held by females⁴

Some comparisons

74.9% of VET qualifications and 84.7% of higher education qualifications held by employed people were relevant⁵ to the worker's current job.



VET-dominant fields of education included **food, hospitality & personal services, architecture & building, and engineering & related technologies.**



Higher education-dominant fields of education included **natural & physical sciences and education.**



A higher proportion of qualifications in **education and health** had been completed by **females** than by males.



A higher proportion of qualifications in **engineering & related technologies, architecture & building and information technology** had been completed by **males** than by females.

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Data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Qualifications and Work survey 2018-19. For methodological detail and further findings, refer to NCVER report *The stock of qualifications in Australia*.

1 Working-age Australians are those aged 15-64 years.

2 Estimates for some breakdowns do not sum to the total due to rounding.

3 VET qualifications refer to certificate levels I-IV, certificates not further defined, and diplomas and advanced diplomas (which are predominantly VET but may also capture some higher education qualifications).

4 The survey includes the demographic variable 'Sex' with categories of 'Male' and 'Female' only.

5 'Relevant' includes working in the same field, and not working in the same field but highly relevant or relevant or somewhat relevant.

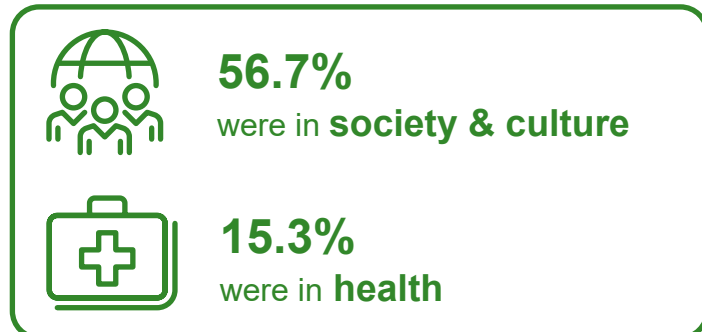
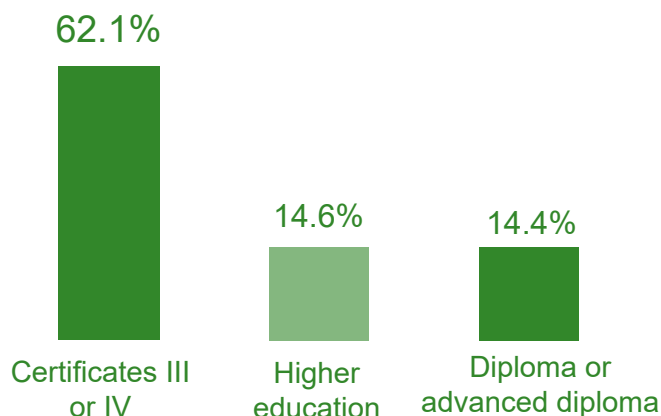
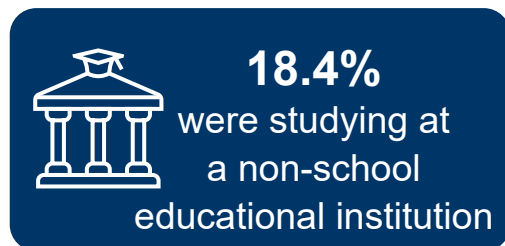
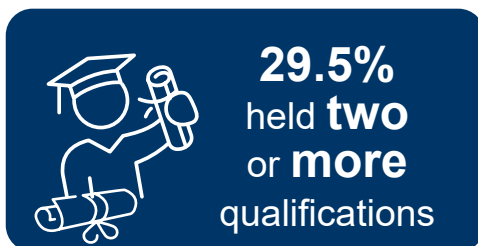
* In the chart, data for higher education qualifications for Food, Hospitality & Personal services are not shown due to high relative standard errors.

CASE STUDY: AGED AND DISABLED CARERS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by aged and disabled carers in Australia. Aged and disabled carers provide general household assistance, emotional support, care and companionship for aged and disabled persons in their own homes. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



Median age
46 years
80.2%
female



Almost a quarter of workers **did not** have a qualification.



More than a quarter had **two or more** qualifications.



Of all **VET qualifications** held by aged and disabled carers, **81.4%** were **relevant** to their current job.

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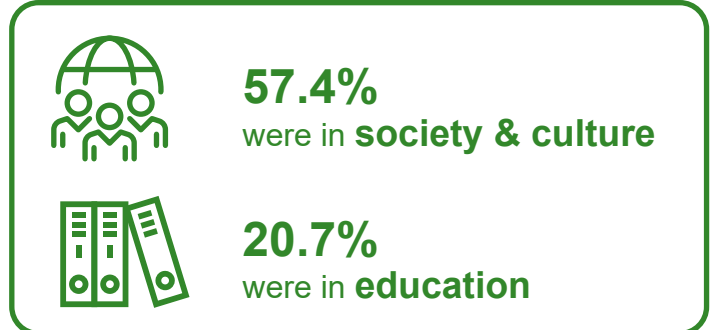
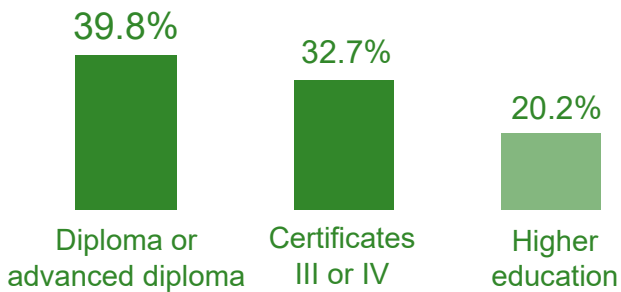
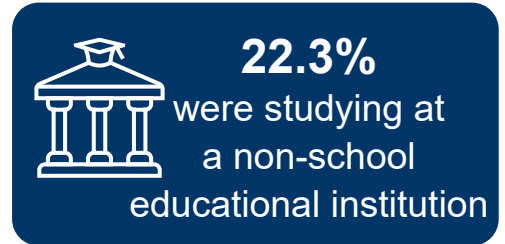
This case study, including the occupation description, is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Robust survey sampling was available at the 4-digit level (unit group).

CASE STUDY: CHILD CARERS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by child carers in Australia. Child carers provide care and supervision for children in residential homes and non-residential childcare centres. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



Median age
36 years
94.2%
female



VET and higher education were both common pathways.



Many workers were **studying**.



84.4% of **VET qualifications** and **72.8%** of **higher education qualifications** held by child carers were **relevant** to their current job.



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CASE STUDY: CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by construction managers in Australia. Construction managers plan, organise, direct, control and coordinate the construction of civil engineering projects, buildings and dwellings, and the physical and human resources involved in building and construction. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



Median age
46 years
92.9%
male



52.5%
had a **single**
qualification



31.6%
held **two or more**
qualifications



44.7%



Certificates III
or IV

30.3%



Higher
education

13.9%



Diploma or
advanced diploma



51.8% of
qualifications were in
architecture and building



**VET and higher
education** were both
common pathways.



Architecture and building
was the predominant field
of education.



Of all **VET qualifications** held by construction managers,
90.3% were **relevant** to their current job.

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This case study, including the occupation description, is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Robust survey sampling was available at the 4-digit level (unit group).

CASE STUDY: CONTRACT, PROGRAM & PROJECT ADMINISTRATORS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by contract, program and project administrators in Australia. Contract, program and project administrators plan and undertake administration of contracts, organisational programs, special projects and support services. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



Median age
43 years
53.6% female



45.2%
had a **single**
qualification



38.9%
held **two**
or **more**
qualifications



11.5%
had both a VET and
a higher education
qualification



56.3%



Higher
education

17.8%



Certificates
III or IV

16.7%



Diploma or
advanced
diploma

40.2%



Management
& commerce

17.8%



Engineering
& related
technologies

17.6%



Society &
culture



Workers held a **mix of qualifications**, at **different levels** and
in **diverse fields** of education.



83% of **VET qualifications** and **88.7%** of **higher education qualifications** held by contract, program & project administrators were **relevant** to their current job.



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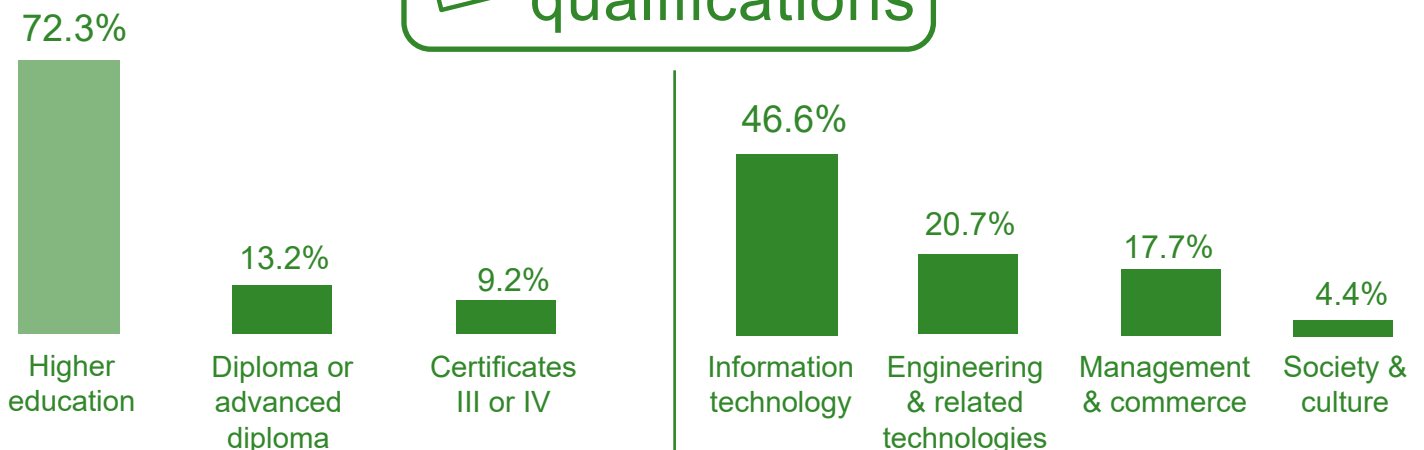
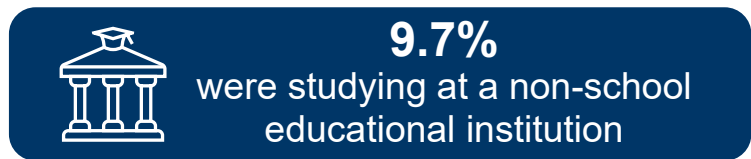
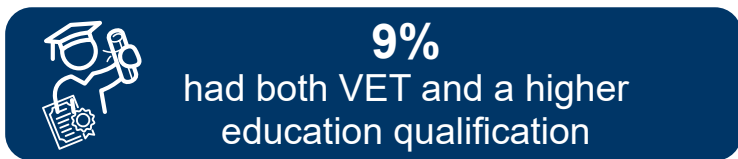
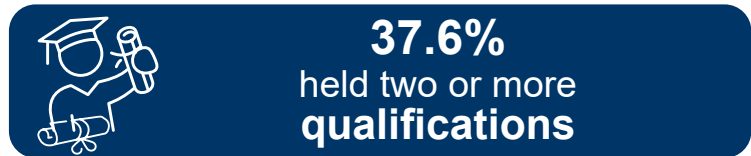
This case study, including the occupation description, is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Robust survey sampling was available at the 4-digit level (unit group).

CASE STUDY: ICT PROFESSIONALS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by information and communication technology (ICT) professionals in Australia. ICT professionals perform analytical, conceptual and practical tasks which support the efficient and secure provision of ICT services to government, commercial and industrial organisations, and individuals. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).




Median age
38 years
83.1% male




Higher education qualifications were **much more prevalent** than VET qualifications.



Most workers held at least **one qualification**.



85.3% of VET qualifications and **91.3%** of higher education qualifications held by ICT professionals were **relevant** to their current job.



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This case study, including the occupation description, is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Robust survey sampling was available at the 2-digit level (sub-major group).

The Qualifications and Work survey does not capture training that is not accredited. Non-accredited training may be particularly prevalent in information technology.

CASE STUDY: METAL FITTERS & MACHINISTS

This infographic presents a summary of non-school qualifications held by metal fitters and machinists in Australia. Metal fitters and machinists fit and assemble fabricated metal parts into products, set up machining tools, production machines and textile machines, and operate machining tools and machines to shape metal stock and castings. Data are drawn from the ABS Qualifications and Work survey (2018-19).



Median age
40 years

100%
male



63.4%
had a **single**
qualification



20.2%
held **two** or
more qualifications



81.8%
of qualifications were
Certificates III or IV



87.4% of
qualifications were in
**engineering and related
technologies**



The majority of workers
had a **single qualification**.



Qualifications were predominantly
Certificates III or IV, and
most were in **engineering
& related technologies**.



Of all **VET qualifications** held by metal fitters and machinists,
93.5% were **relevant** to their current job.

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