



Terms and definitions: Government funding of VET 2024

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

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Introduction

Purpose

The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand specific data terms.

This document covers the data terms used in *Government funding of VET 2024* publication and related data products.

Terms and acronyms which have a broader vocational education and training application have not been included in this document. Readers are referred to the *Glossary of VET*, which is available at the VOCEDplus website: <https://www.voced.edu.au/glossary-vet>.

Using this document

Terms that appear in the publications and data items are listed in alphabetical order with the following information provided for each:

- Definition: a brief explanation of the meaning behind the term and any relevant information
- Applies to a listing of which publications the term is applicable to using the following acronyms/abbreviations

VET Vocational Education and Training

GFVET Government funding of VET

All All publications which are:

Government-funded students and courses, Total VET students and courses, VET in Schools, VET Qualification Completion Rates, Government funding of VET

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition	Applies to
Accredited courses	Nationally recognised courses accredited by VET regulators. They are programs below AQF level 1 and successful completion results in a statement of attainment outcome.	All
Apprenticeships	Identifies whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship /Traineeship Training Contract. The term 'Apprenticeship' includes both apprenticeships and traineeships.	GFVET
Apprenticeship status	Funding for programs that directly and indirectly support apprentices and trainees.	GFVET
Apprenticeship unknown category	Unknown funding may arise when a grant or funding arrangement has been provided for the support services but the impact at the training level is unclear.	
Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)	Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a nationally consistent framework of credentials offered in post-compulsory education and training that covers qualifications from certificate I through to a doctoral degree. For more details on the AQF, see < http://www.aqf.edu.au >.	All
Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)	The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a geographical framework created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.	GFVET
Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS)	AVETMISS is a national data standard, which ensures the accuracy and consistency of vocational education and training (VET) information.	All
Australian Government flexible funding	Ongoing Australian Government payments to state and territory governments made under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory governments to achieve the long-term objectives identified in the National Skills Agreement (NSA). This will include all flexible funding payments under the NSA including specific purpose payments, Cap 1 and Cap 2 payments.	GFVET
Australian Government milestone base funding	Milestone driven is a time limited payment provided by the Australian Government to states and territory governments for the delivery of outcomes agreed under National Partnership or Project Agreements and since 2024 National Skills Agreement policy initiative payments.	GFVET
Capital expenditure	Capital expenditure is periodic; it is the reporting of the expenses incurred over the year for a capital project that relate to VET matters.	GFVET
Capital funding	Government funding provided to training organisations for capital projects that relate to VET matters. This includes equipment acquisition, and construction of industry-based and school-based skill centres.	GFVET
Collection year	The calendar year in which the training/funding activity was reported	All

Term	Definition	Applies to
Community Education Provider	Refers to not-for-profit, community-based organisations with a primary focus on adult education. Community-based adult education providers deliver courses relating to leisure, personal and community education development, employment skills, preparation for VET and nationally recognised programs of study.	GFVET
Disability status	Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment, or long-term condition.	All
Employer assistance	Expenditure on VET programs that support employers to engage in VET by training their workforce or employing an apprentice or trainee. Funding may be provided by grants, incentive payments and support services.	GFVET
Enterprise RTO	Companies accredited to deliver qualifications to their own workforce and includes government and non-government RTOs.	GFVET
Full fee-paying student	A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay for part or all tuition costs, where tuition costs have not been subsidised by government.	GFVET
Funding allocations	The allocation of Commonwealth national agreement payments to states and territories.	GFVET
Funding contributions	The jurisdictions' own direct revenue to vocational education and training for the calendar year.	GFVET
Funding distributions	The jurisdictions' expenditure of vocational education and training for the calendar year.	GFVET
Government funding	Funding provided by the Australian and state/territory departments responsible for training for VET including Commonwealth funding provided to states/territories under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009.	GFVET
Indigenous status	Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.	All
Intergovernmental Agreement	Commonwealth-state/territory funding agreements made through the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) system to support joint long-term objectives outlined in the National Skills Agreement. For more information about the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) system refer to Federal Financial Relations < https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au >.	GFVET
Level of education	The AQF qualification type of a program in which a student is enrolled. AQF qualification types are associated with an AQF level, with the level defining the relative complexity and depth of achievement. For more information about how the AQF levels and qualification types are related refer to the AQF < https://www.aqf.edu.au >.	All
National Agreement	The National Skills Agreement identifies the long-term objectives of the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments for skills and workforce development. For more information about the National Skills Agreement refer to Federal Financial Relations < https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au >.	GFVET
National Partnership Agreement	A national agreement between the Commonwealth and state/territory which defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance benchmarks or milestones for the agreed project, service delivery, improvement, or reform. For more information on National Partnership Agreements refer to Federal Financial Relations < https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au >.	GFVET

Term	Definition	Applies to
National Project Agreement	Like National Partnership Agreements, but where the project is of low value and low risk. For more information on National Project Agreements refer to Federal Financial Relations < https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au >.	GFVET
Nominal terms	Nominal terms are actual dollars with no adjustment for inflation.	GFVET
Non-award courses	Training courses that do not lead to a formal certification (e.g., AQF qualification) which denotes that the student has achieved a learning outcome or competency stipulated in the course rules. Non-award courses are often developed where a training need cannot be met through the delivery of available nationally recognised programs and/or subjects.	GFVET
Not attributable funding	Expenditures that do not directly link to the student or training attribute as the funding has broader objectives, or there is insufficient information to model for the attribute.	GFVET
Public VET asset base	The value of property, plant and equipment used for VET delivery by public VET entities	GFVET
Provider remoteness	Funding by the location of the training organisation that receives the capital funding using the Australia Bureau of Statistics' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure.	GFVET
Other provider	Refers to enterprise government and non- government, community-based adult education providers, schools: Catholic, government and independent, professional associations, industry associations, universities: government, non-government catholic and non-government independent.	GFVET
Other RTO	Refers to professional associations, industry associations, others not elsewhere classified.	GFVET
Other organisations (provider type)	Refers to organisations that are not registered training organisations (RTOs). Organisations not listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au)	GFVET
Private	Refers to privately-owned and operated training providers that are registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, or a state/territory accrediting body.	GFVET
Public	Refers to publicly-owned and operated training providers.	GFVET
Public VET assets	Refers to the balance sheet amounts of property, plant and equipment and captures the value of government assets used for VET delivery.	GFVET
Provider type University	Universities that provide vocational education and training, including government, non-government catholic and non-government independent.	GFVET
Provider type School	Schools that are a registered training organisation or schools that participate in VET, including catholic, government and independent.	GFVET
Recurrent funding	Revenues appropriated by the jurisdiction to cover training portfolio costs and VET programs.	GFVET
Registered training organisations (RTOs)	Training organisations listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au) and registered by VET regulators to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised certification documentation.	All
State and territory contributions to the Commonwealth	A funding transfer from a state or territory government to the Commonwealth for a VET related matter for example loan debt contribution or other contribution which may include transfers for a service, project or as part of a time-limited or ongoing funding agreement.	GFVET
State-subsidised students	A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay part tuition costs, where part tuition costs have been subsidised by government.	GFVET

Term	Definition	Applies to
Student assistance	Student support expenditure not directly linked to a training outcome. Reporting captures loans, grants and subsidy funding paid directly to student to assist with equipment, travel and other non-tuition costs associated with undertaking VET. Student support funding at the provider level is included within the VET delivery funding category.	GFVET
Student remoteness	Expenditure by student location based on a student's permanent address postcode and in line with the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).	GFVET
System administration & governance	Expenditure for authorities with a primary mission of supporting the national VET system and funding allocated to the training portfolio which is not subject to legislation for VET purposes such as system administration and governance within the jurisdiction's training portfolio.	GFVET
TAFE	Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFE) institutes are created by an Act of parliament and have responsibilities specified in that and other legislation and via ministerial directions. These institutes are public bodies in receipt of government funding and provide a range of technical and VET courses and other programs (for example, entry and bridging courses, language and literacy courses, adult basic education courses, senior secondary certificate of education courses, personal enrichment courses, and small business courses).	GFVET
Tax exemptions and rebates	Revenues that governments forego to assist employers to engage in VET or to provide support to eligible students whilst they are in training.	GFVET
Tax exemptions and rebates	Revenues that governments forego to assist employers to engage in VET or to provide support to eligible students whilst they are in training.	GFVET
Time-limited funding	Commonwealth National Partnership or Project Agreement payments to state and territory governments.	GFVET
Trade Support Loans	Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist apprentices and trainees working in skills need areas, to help cover living and learning costs. In 2024, the Trade Support Loans Program was renamed to the Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans Program.	GFVET
Training package qualification	Are nationally endorsed qualifications specified in a national training package	All
Training package skill sets	Are nationally recognised skill sets, specified in a national training package, based on groupings of units of competency which are combined to provide a clearly defined statement of the skills and knowledge required by an individual to meet industry needs or a licensing or regulatory requirement.	All
Training not elsewhere classified	Funding for training not classified as a training package, a non-award course or accredited course.	GFVET
Transfers between states and territories	Funding transfers from state and territory governments to other states or territories for VET related matters.	GFVET
Transfers for VET Student Loans	Funding transfers from state and territory governments to the Commonwealth government for Student Loan debt not expected to be repaid by state-subsidised students using the VET Student Loan program.	GFVET
VET delivery funding	Expenditure that directly delivers a training outcome. This includes subsidised training and other subsidies targeted at supporting access and recognising additional delivery costs. VET delivery includes funding payments for subsidies for training, block funding, VET in Schools funding, other funding, funding from other organisations, fee assistance funding, learner needs funding, community service funding and operational base funding.	GFVET

Term	Definition	Applies to
VET funding activities	Funding activities captures all public VET expenditure in scope within a jurisdiction regardless of the funding source and categorises that information based on funding activity and how it was funded.	GFVET
VET Student Loans	The VET Student Loans program provides loan support to eligible students studying higher level VET qualifications (diploma and above). Loan amounts are capped and only available for courses that address industry needs. Loans are income-contingent, with students repaying their loans through the Australian taxation system.	GFVET
VET Student Loans state-subsidised students	A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay part tuition costs, where part tuition costs have been subsidised by government.	GFVET
Vocational	Subjects or programs that are intended to develop competency in skills relevant to a workplace.	All
Vocational education and training (VET)	Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills.	GFVET
VET FEE-HELP	A VET loan scheme provided by the Australian Government from 2009 to 2016.	GFVET
VET FEE-HELP grandfathering	A clause to recognise students under the loan arrangement of the ceased VET FEE-HELP program.	GFVET