NCVER

Australian vocational education and training statistics

Total VET students and courses 2023

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Highlights

In 2023, 5.1 million students were enrolled in nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET), up 10.8% from 2022. There were:

- 2.3 million students enrolled in nationally recognised programs
- 3.5 million students enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program.

In 2023, compared with 2022:

- student numbers increased by 10.8%
- students enrolled in nationally recognised programs increased by 6.9%
- students enrolled in stand-alone nationally recognised subjects increased by 14.0%
- full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) increased by 10.7% to 1.3 million.

An estimated 27.0% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in nationally recognised VET.

Over the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, students enrolled in nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) increased by 20.2%.

Students and full-year training equivalents (FYTEs)

Of the 5.1 million students enrolled in nationally recognised VET in 2023, some were enrolled in one or more programs, some in subjects that were not part of a nationally recognised program, and others in a combination of both.

In 2023, compared with 2022, students enrolled in:
▪ nationally recognised programs increased by 6.9% to 2.3 million
▪ subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program increased by 14.0% to 3.5 million.

Figure 1 Students enrolled in nationally recognised training, 2019 to 2023 ('000)
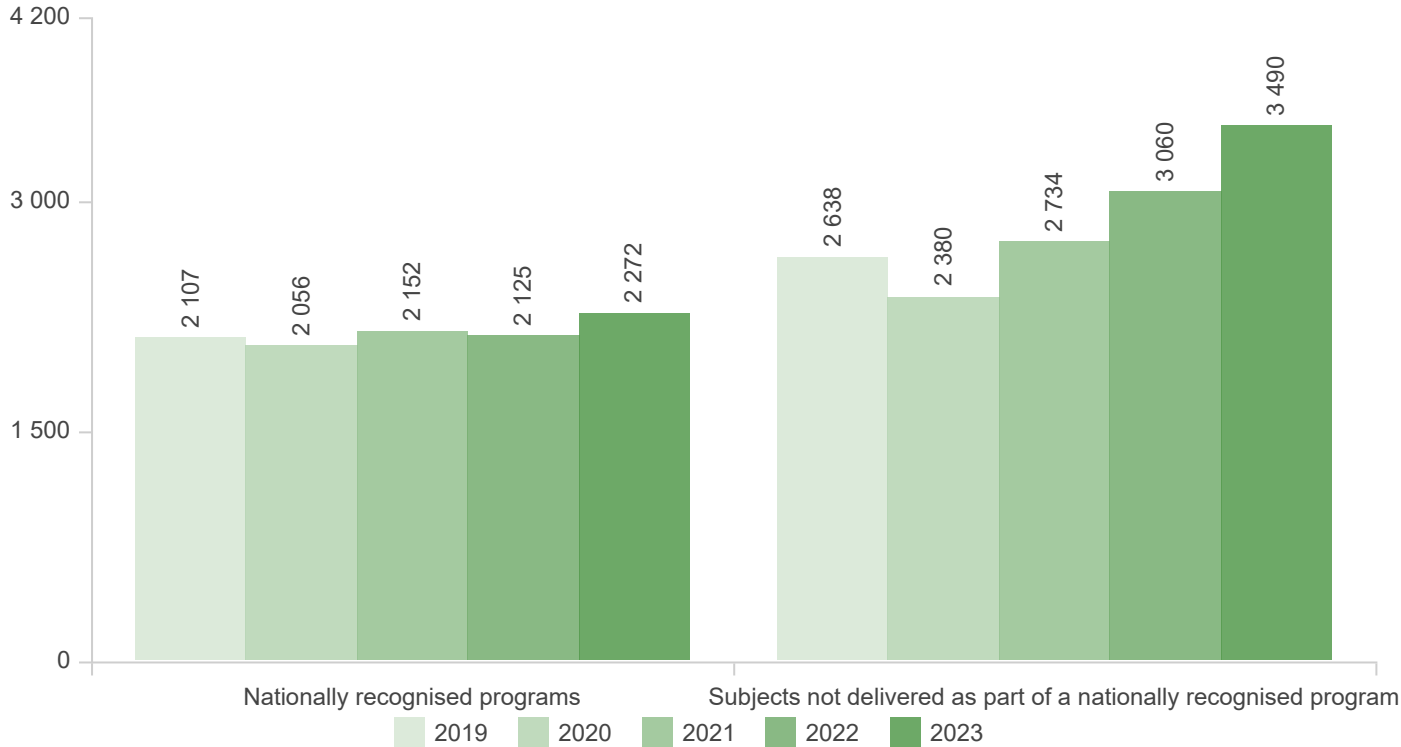
Note: The sum of students (n= 5.8 million in 2023) in the chart will not add to the 2023 total (5.1 million) as a student may have enrolled in multiple types of training in a calendar year.

In 2023, compared with 2022, students enrolled in nationally recognised VET increased by 10.8% to 5 056 845. Of those:

▪ 50.5% were male
▪ 3.5% were Indigenous
▪ 3.8% reported having a disability
▪ 22.3% were aged between 30 to 39 years old
▪ 22.5% had specified Year 12 as their previous highest education level.

Note: For more detailed information please refer to *Total VET students and courses 2023* DataBuilder
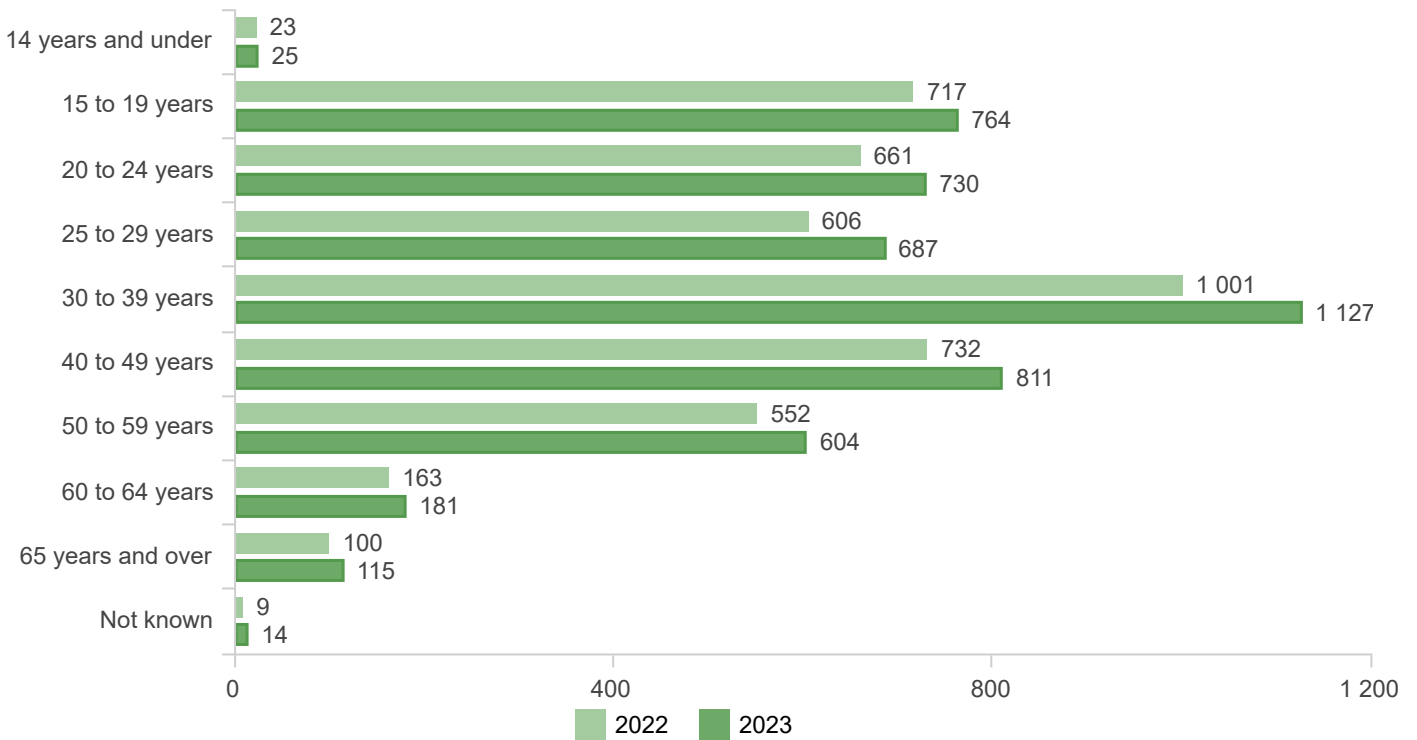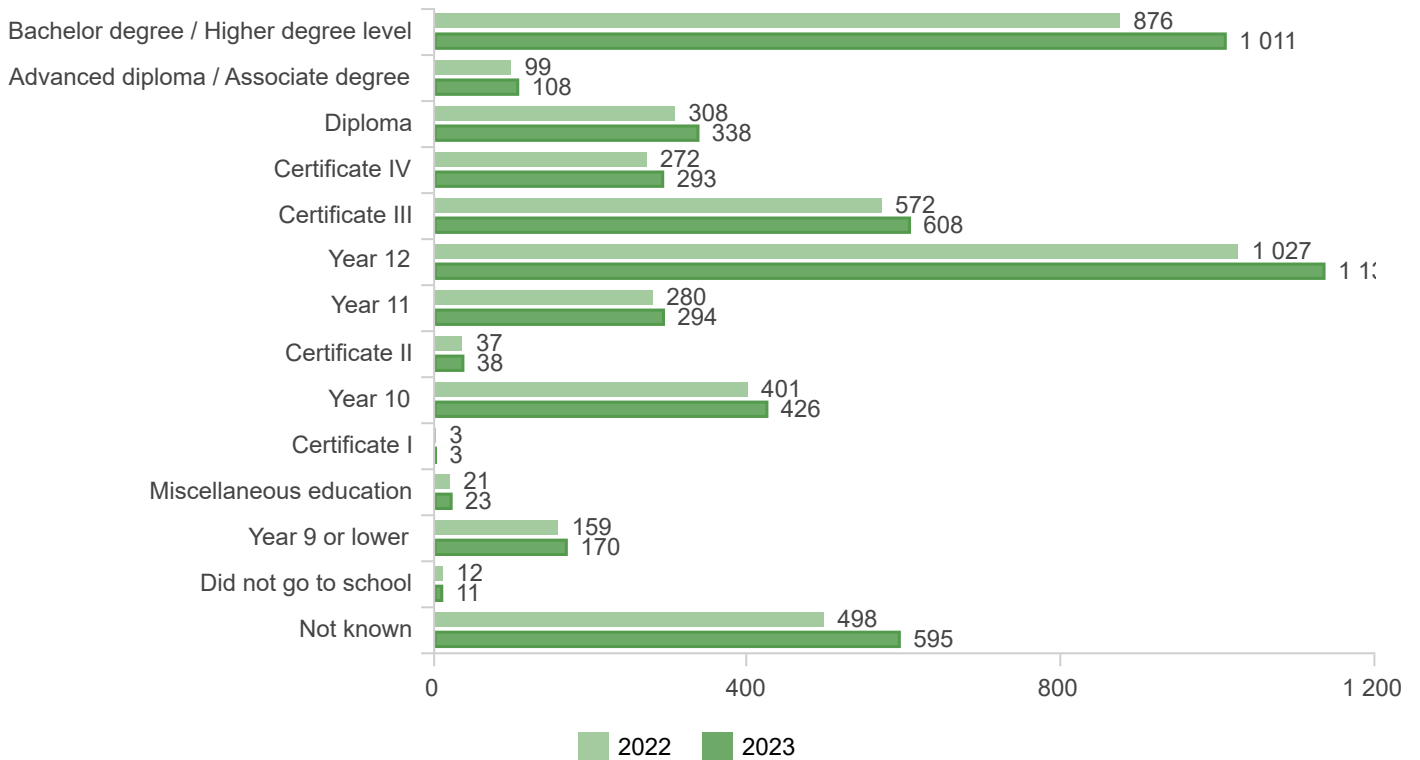
Figure 2 Students by age group, 2022 and 2023 ('000)

Age group	2022	2023
14 years and under	23	25
15 to 19 years	717	764
20 to 24 years	661	730
25 to 29 years	606	687
30 to 39 years	1 001	1 127
40 to 49 years	732	811
50 to 59 years	552	604
60 to 64 years	163	181
65 years and over	100	115
Not known	9	14

Figure 3 Students by previous highest education level, 2022 and 2023 ('000)

| Education level	2022	2023
Bachelor degree / Higher degree level	876	1 011
Advanced diploma / Associate degree	99	108
Diploma	308	338
Certificate IV	272	293
Certificate III	572	608
Year 12	1 027	1 13
Year 11	280	294
Certificate II	37	38
Year 10	401	426
Certificate I	3	3
Miscellaneous education	21	23
Year 9 or lower	159	170
Did not go to school	12	11
Not known	498	595

Note: Caution should be used when using data with a high proportion of 'not known' responses.

Full-year training equivalents, or FYTEs, are a measure of activity undertaken by students on a full-time basis within a year. One FYTE is equal to 720 contact hours, which represents a full-time study load.

In 2023, compared with 2022, the number of FYTEs in:
▪ nationally recognised programs increased by 10.3% to 1 065 720
▪ subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program increased by 12.7% to 209 190.

Figure 4 FYTEs in nationally recognised training, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Nationally recognised programs	928	870	968	966	1 066
Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program	158	153	179	186	209
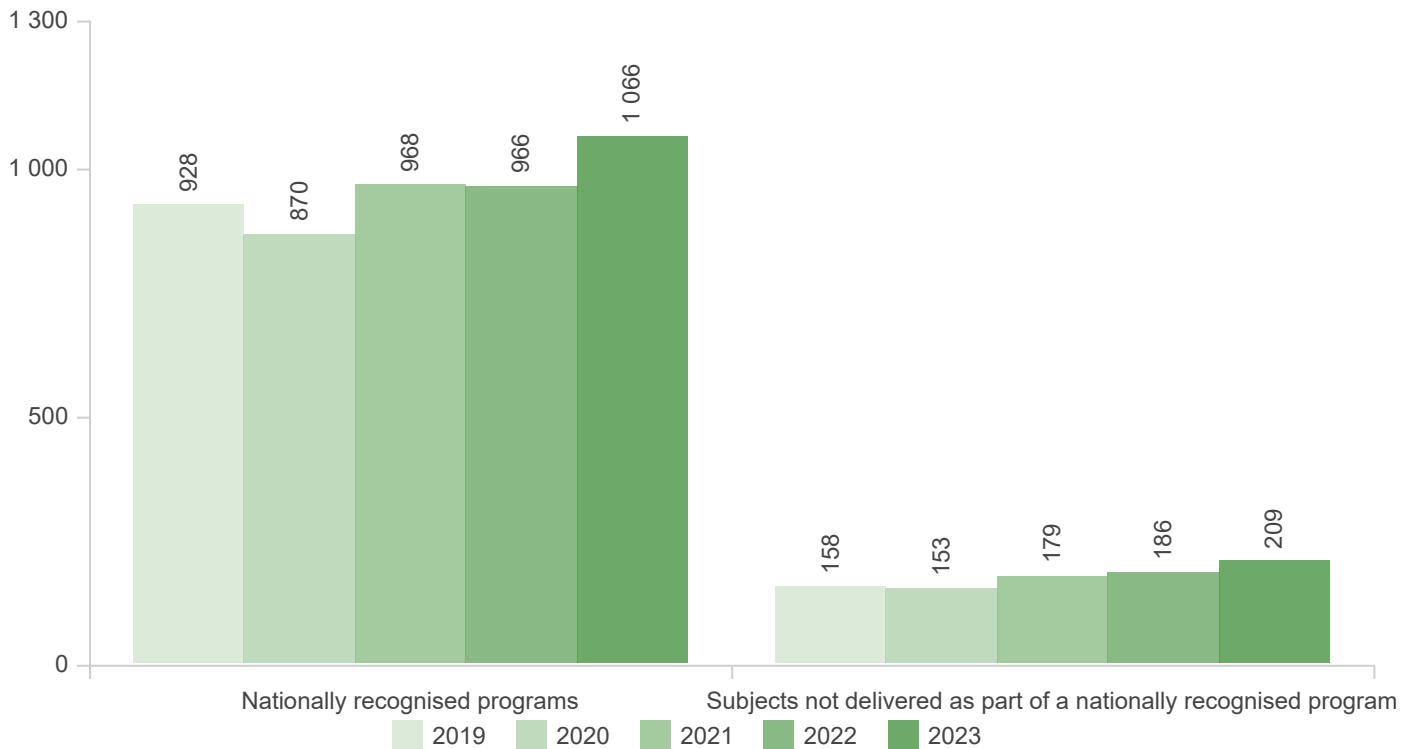
In 2023, 2.3 million students (44.9%) were enrolled in nationally recognised programs, consisting of:
▪ training package qualifications (2.0 million students)
▪ accredited qualifications (163 100 students)
▪ training package skill sets (115 285 students)
▪ accredited courses (113 260 students)
▪ subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program (3.5 million students).

Figure 5 Students enrolled in nationally recognised training, by type of training, 2023 ('000)
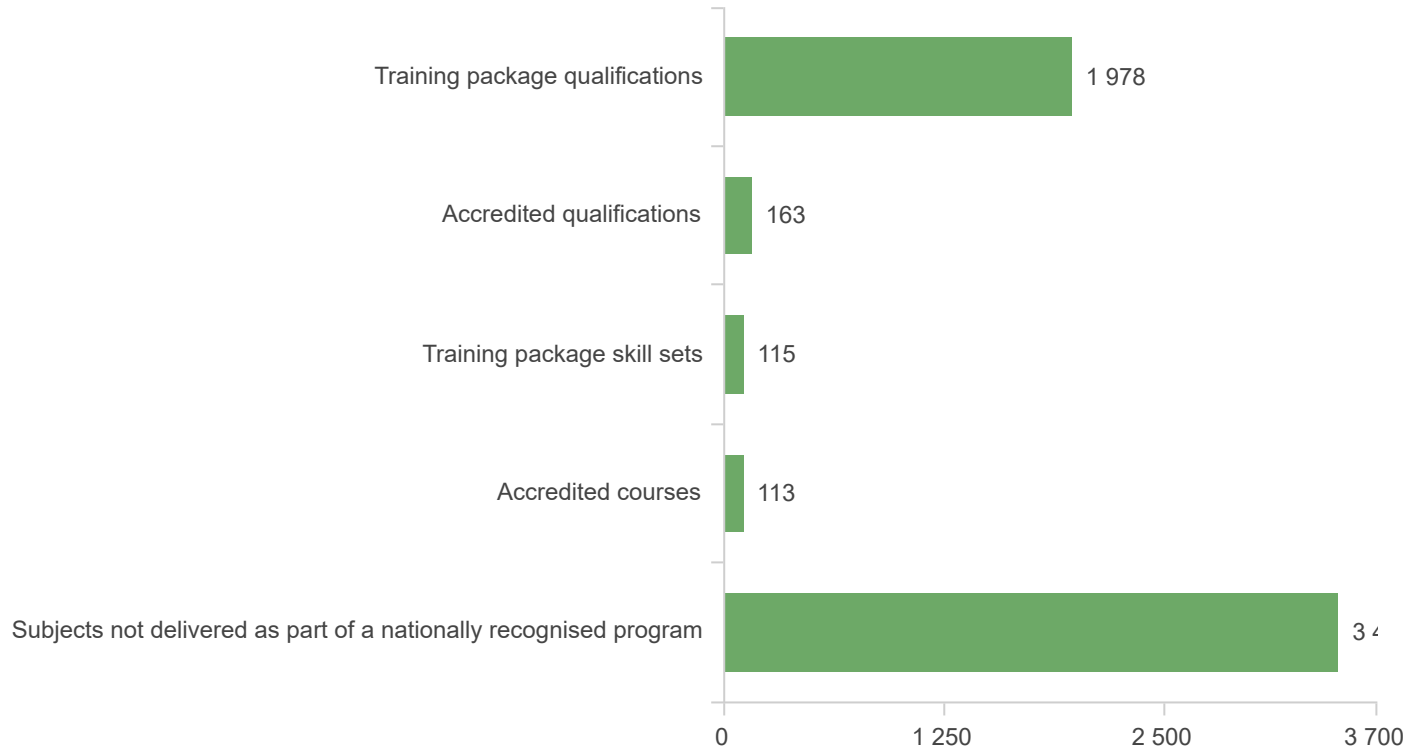
Note: The sum of students in the chart will be greater than the total number of students in 2023 (5.1 million) as students can enrol in multiple types of training.

Participation rates

In 2023, 27.0% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in nationally recognised VET, an increase from 25.2% in 2022. The highest participation group in 2023 was students aged 15 to 19 years (46.2%).

Table 1 Estimated participation rate of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years in VET, by state or territory of student residence, 2023 (%)

Age group	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
15 to 19 years	40.2	47.2	52.6	36.8	42.6	36.3	33.2	38.3	46.2
20 to 24 years	34.6	31.8	39.3	35.5	38.1	39.3	34.5	29.3	38.1
25 to 44 years	25.4	22.0	29.3	27.2	26.3	28.0	29.9	24.8	27.7
45 to 64 years	17.1	15.0	19.7	16.3	14.8	17.4	21.1	17.0	18.1
15 to 64 years	24.7	22.8	29.0	24.7	24.7	25.5	27.8	24.0	27.0

Sources: NCVER, National VET Provider 2024 and National VET in Schools 2023 collections; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (June) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted August 2024.

Notes: The estimated participation rate is 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. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to for training, work, or other purposes.

In 2023, 27.2% of the male and 25.1% of the female Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in nationally recognised VET.

Figure 6 Estimated participation rate of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years in VET, by gender, 2019 to 2023 (%)
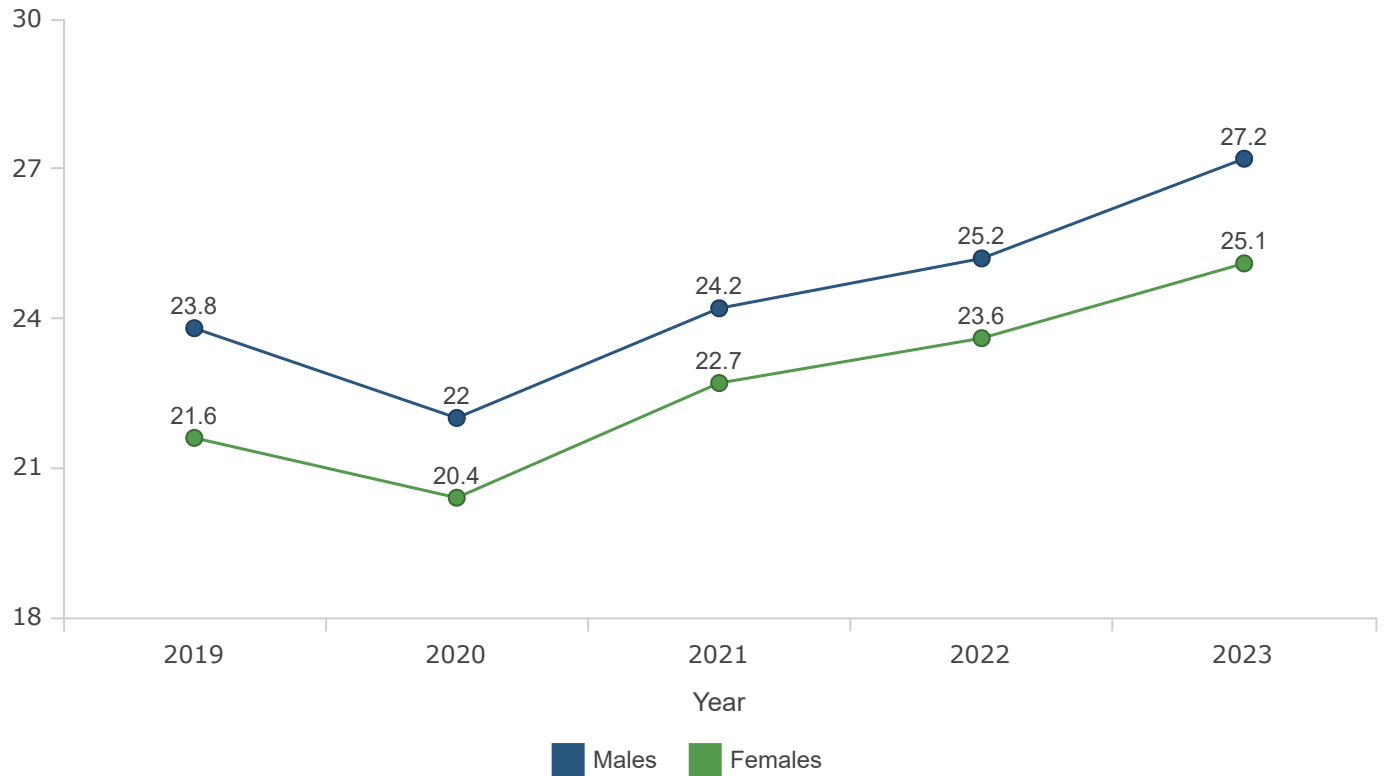
Sources: NCVER, National VET Provider 2024 and National VET in Schools 2023 collections; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (June) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted August 2024.
Notes: The estimated participation rate is 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. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to for training, work, or other purposes.
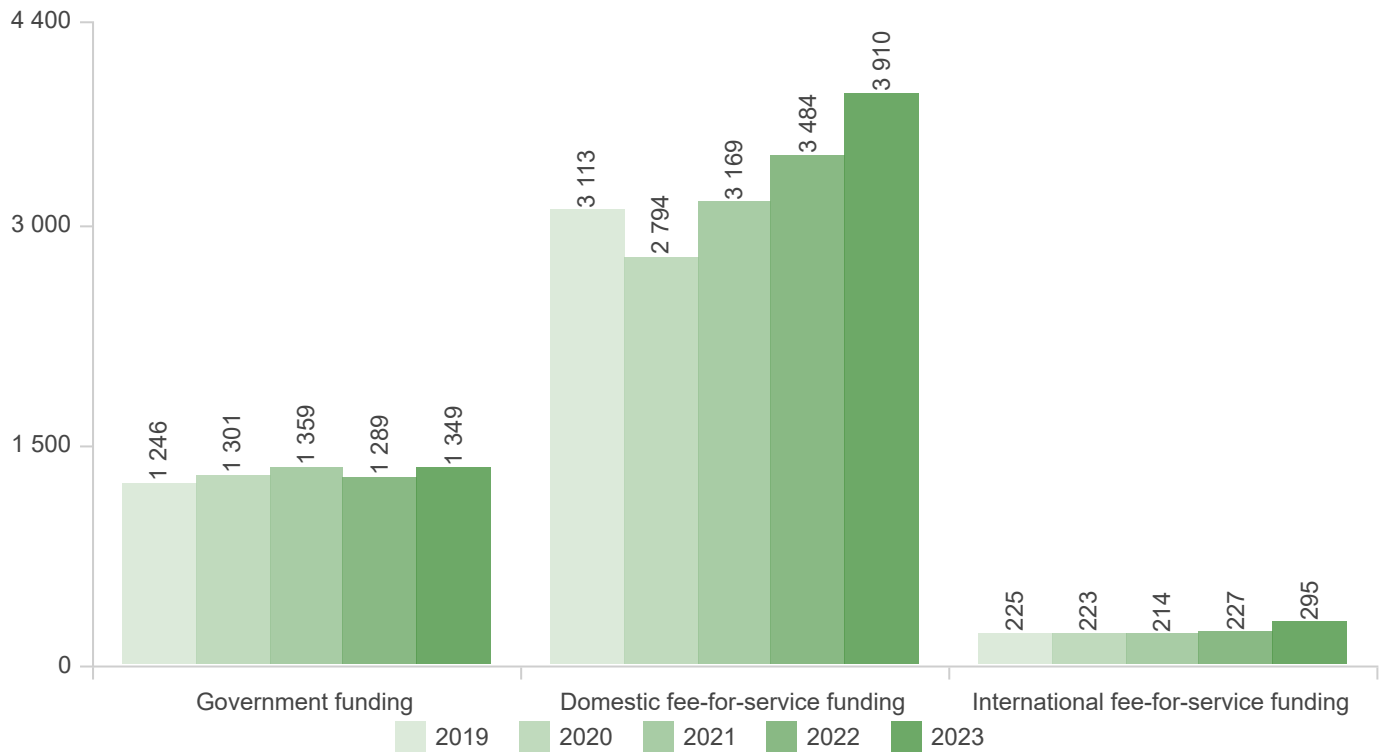
Funding source

Students

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

In 2023, compared with 2022,
▪ government-funded students increased by 4.7% to 1.3 million
▪ domestic full fee-paying students increased by 12.2% to 3.9 million
▪ international full fee-paying students increased by 30.1% to 294 815.

Figure 7 Students enrolled in nationally recognised training, by funding source, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

Note: The sum of students by funding source in the chart (n=5.6 million in 2023) will not add to the 2023 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 2023, the majority of:
▪ government-funded students (84.8% or 1.1 million) were enrolled in training package qualifications
▪ domestic full fee-paying students (86.4% or 3.4 million) were enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program
▪ international full fee-paying students (84.8% or 249 870) were enrolled in training package qualifications.

Table 2 Students enrolled in nationally recognised training by funding source and type of training, 2023

Type of training	Government funding	Domestic-fee-for-service funding	International fee-for-service funding
Training package qualifications	1 143 600	692 700	249 900
Accredited qualifications	115 700	41 400	8 600
Training package skill sets	23 800	91 100	900
Accredited courses	46 600	66 500	300
Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program	110 300	3 378 800	42 900

Note: The sum of students by type of training and funding source in the table (n=6.0 million in 2023) will not add to the 2023 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.

Full-year training equivalents (FYTEs)

In 2023, compared with 2022,
▪ government-funded FYTEs increased by 5.8% to 560 560
▪ domestic full fee-paying FYTEs increased by 10.6% to 538 280
▪ international full fee-paying FYTEs increased by 29.6% to 176 065.

Figure 8 FYTEs by funding source, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

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

In 2023, training package qualifications constituted:
▪ 87.5% (or 490 440) of government-funded FYTEs
▪ 60.0% (or 323 210) of domestic full fee-paying FYTEs
▪ 96.7% (or 170 195) of international full fee-paying FYTEs.

Table 3 FYTEs by funding source and type of training, 2023

| Type of training	Government funding	Domestic-fee-for-service funding	International fee-for-service funding
Training package qualifications	490 400	323 200	170 200
Accredited qualifications	45 700	12 200	4 000
Training package skill sets	3 000	7 100	200
Accredited courses	8 400	1 200	0
Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program	13 000	194 500	1 700

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

Students in nationally recognised programs

In 2023, compared with 2022, the number of students enrolled in nationally recognised programs increased by 6.9% to 2.3 million. The number of:
- government-funded students increased by 6.0% to 1.3 million
- domestic full fee-paying students increased by 4.0% to 868 955
- international full fee-paying students increased by 24.8% to 258 645.

Figure 9 Students enrolled in nationally recognised programs by funding source, 2019 to 2023 ('000)
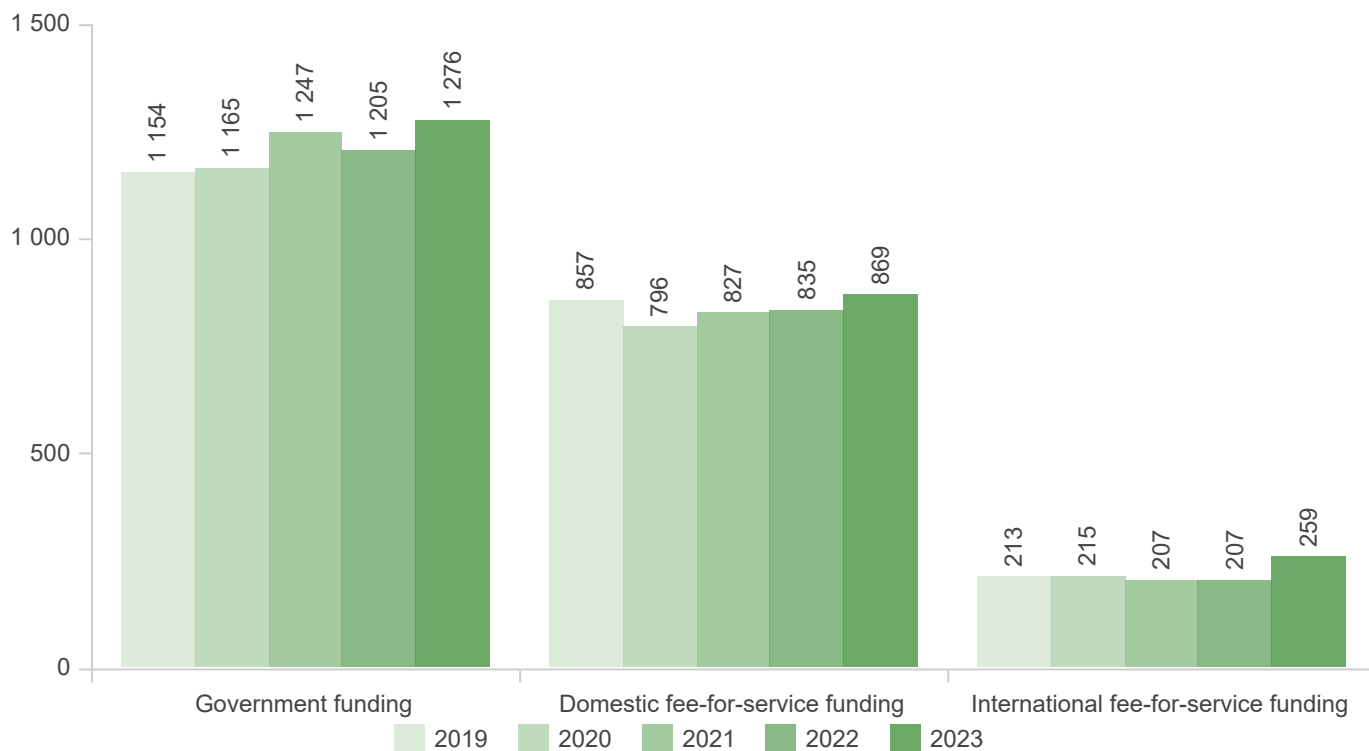
Note: The sum of students by funding source in the chart (n=2.4 million in 2023) will not add to the 2023 total (2.3 million) as a student may have multiple sources of funding in a calendar year.
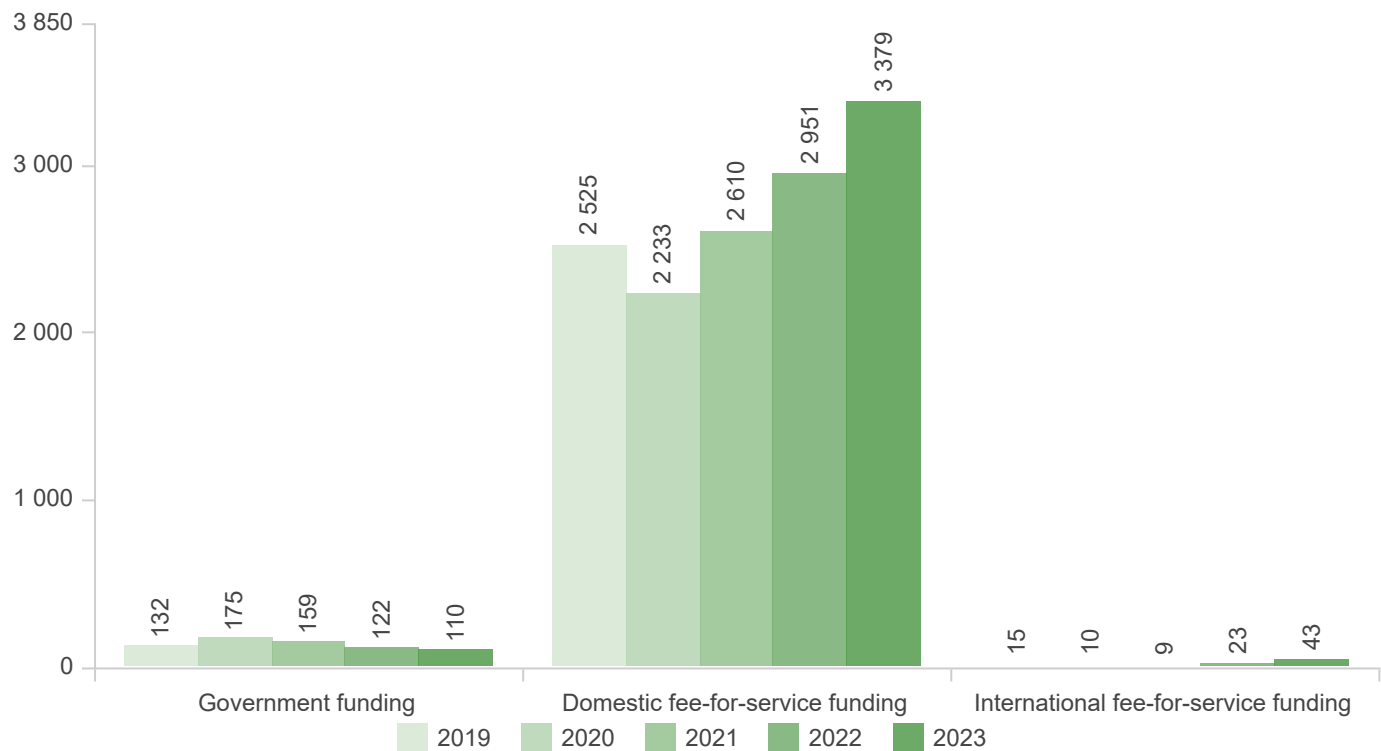
International-fee-for-service funding is a customised grouping consisting of all international fee-for-service values.

Students in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program

In 2023, compared with 2022, the number of students enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program increased by 14.0% to 3.5 million. The number of:
▪ government-funded students decreased by 9.7% to 110 265
▪ domestic full fee-paying students increased by 14.5% to 3.4 million
▪ international full fee-paying students increased by 83.3% to 42 875.

Figure 10 Students enrolled in subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program by funding source, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

Note: The sum of students by funding source (n=3.53 million in 2023) will not add to the 2023 total (3.49 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.

Training Providers

Provider counts

In 2023, there were 3607 registered training organisations (RTOs) that had an active registration and delivered nationally recognised VET.

Table 4 Provider type, 2019 to 2023

Provider type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAFE institutes	25	24	24	24	24
Universities	16	16	16	15	14
Schools	388	382	368	348	340
Community education providers	223	210	200	193	184
Enterprise providers	134	125	123	124	125
Private training providers	2 898	2 769	2 836	2 898	2 920
Total	**3 681**	**3 524**	**3 567**	**3 602**	**3 607**

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 5 Provider type by state or territory of head office, 2023

| 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	17	43	241	4	19	2	3	11	340
Community education providers	71	62	20	7	13	2	3	6	184
Enterprise providers	44	20	22	12	13	5	5	4	125
Private training providers	897	676	747	160	307	40	33	60	2 920
Total	**1 031**	**819**	**1 034**	**184**	**360**	**51**	**46**	**82**	**3 607**

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 Provider type by state or territory of delivery location, 2023

Provider type	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other	Aust.	Offshore	Total
TAFE institutes	9	14	2	10	7	4	3	2	0	24	9	24
Universities	4	7	5	2	4	2	4	0	0	14	1	14
Schools	20	44	242	7	21	3	4	12	0	340	0	340
Community education providers	79	69	37	18	22	7	10	13	0	184	0	184
Enterprise providers	57	41	40	31	36	15	16	11	1	125	2	125
Private training providers	1 311	1 029	1 080	542	614	266	212	232	7	2 916	50	2 920
Total	**1 480**	**1 204**	**1 406**	**610**	**704**	**297**	**249**	**270**	**8**	**3 603**	**62**	**3 607**

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.

In 2023, 77.6% of students were enrolled in nationally recognised training at private training providers, 15.1% at TAFE institutes, 10.5% at community education providers, 2.4% at enterprise providers, 2.2% at schools and 1.5% at universities.

Figure 11 Students by provider type, 2019 to 2023 ('000)
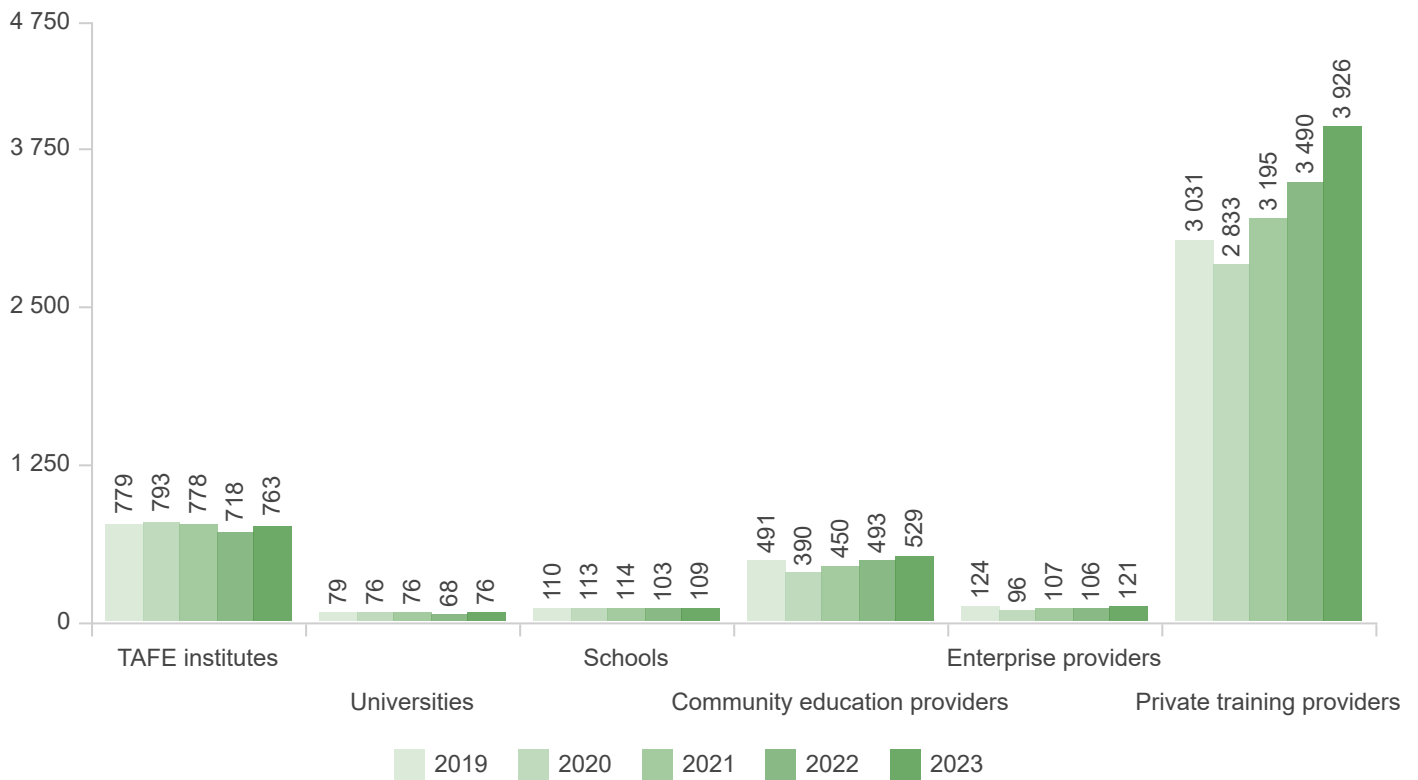
Note: The sum of students (n=5.5 million in 2023) in the chart will not add to the 2023 total (5.1 million) as a student may have enrolled in training with multiple provider types in a calendar year.

Programs

Program enrolments

In 2023, there were 2.9 million enrolments in nationally recognised programs. The majority 91.0% were in qualifications, of which 84.7% were in training package qualifications and 6.3% in accredited qualifications.

Compared with 2022,
▪ training package qualifications increased by 5.6% to 2.5 million
▪ accredited qualifications increased by 4.1% to 184 965
▪ training package skill sets increased by 13.1% to 123 640
▪ accredited courses increased by 7.0% to 140 585.

Figure 12 Nationally recognised program enrolments by type of training, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

By field of education, Management and commerce accounted for 18.7% (or 546 905) of nationally recognised program enrolments in 2023, followed by Society and culture at 16.5% (or 482 995) and Engineering and related technologies at 15.5% (or 454 060).

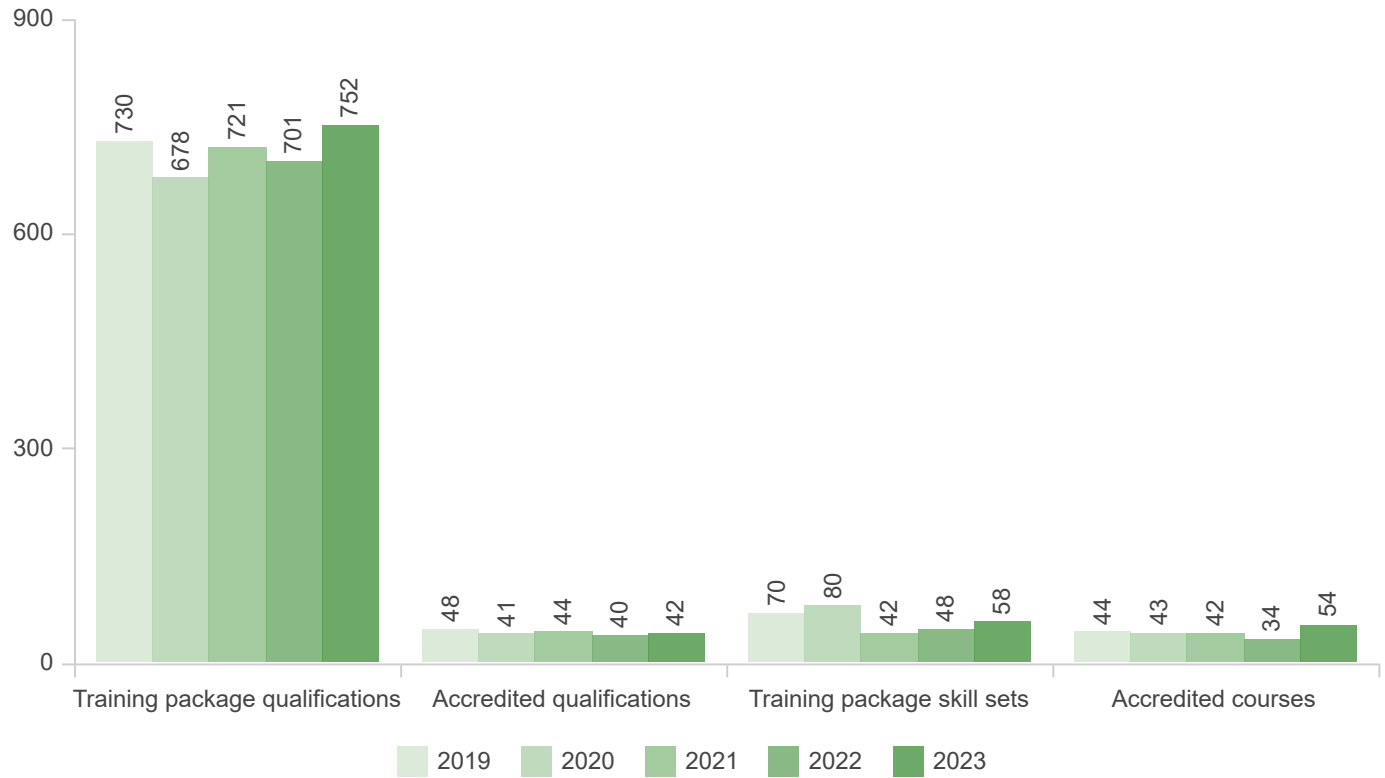**Figure 13 Nationally recognised program enrolments by field of education, 2022 and 2023 ('000)**
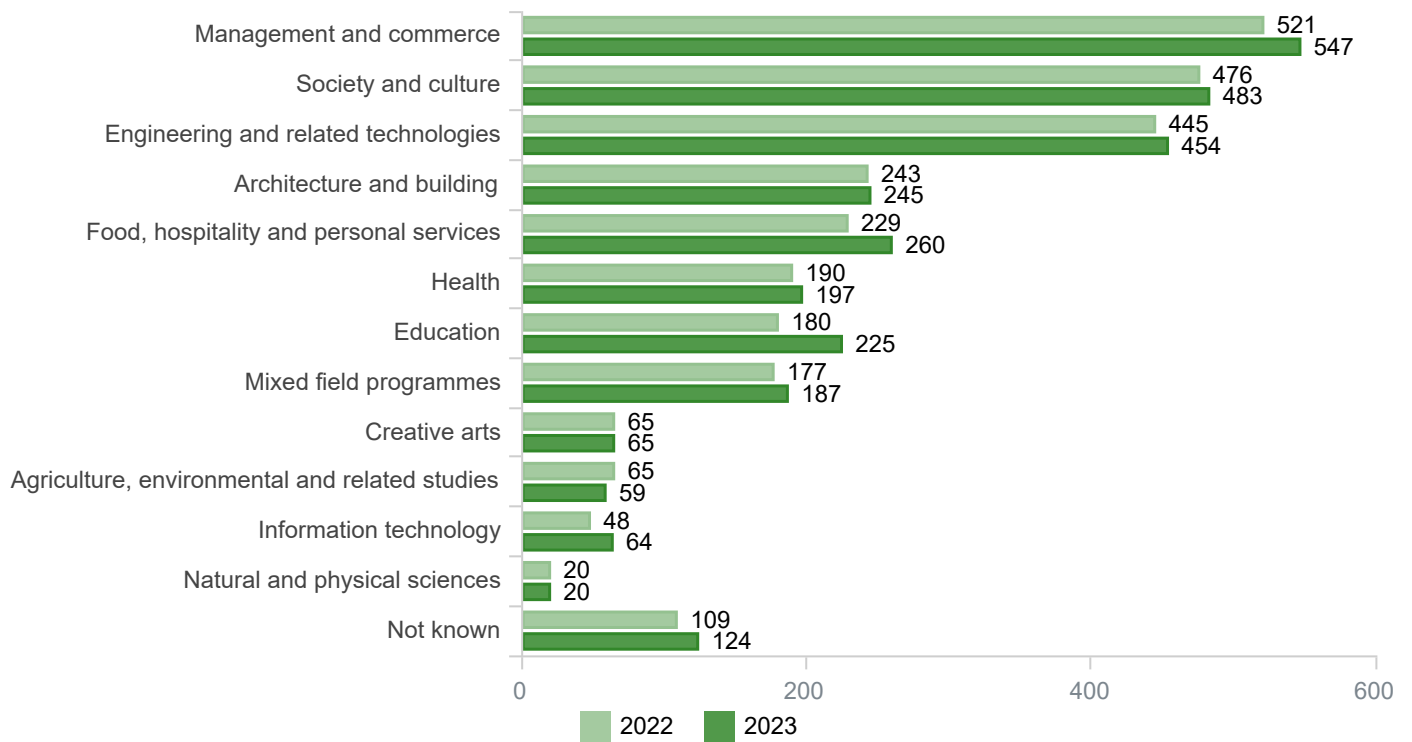
Program completions

In 2023, 905 885 nationally recognised programs were completed. Of these:
▪ 83.0% in training package qualifications
▪ 4.6% in accredited qualifications
▪ 6.4% in training package skills sets
▪ 6.0% in accredited courses.

**Figure 14 Program completions by type of training, 2019 to 2023 ('000)**

Note: The number of program completions in recent years will be revised with the subsequent releases of Total VET students and courses.

Qualification enrolments

Nationally recognised qualifications are comprised of training package and accredited qualifications.
In 2023, the highest number of qualification enrolments were in certificate III level qualifications (41.1% or 1.1 million), followed by certificate IV (21.1% or 561 505).
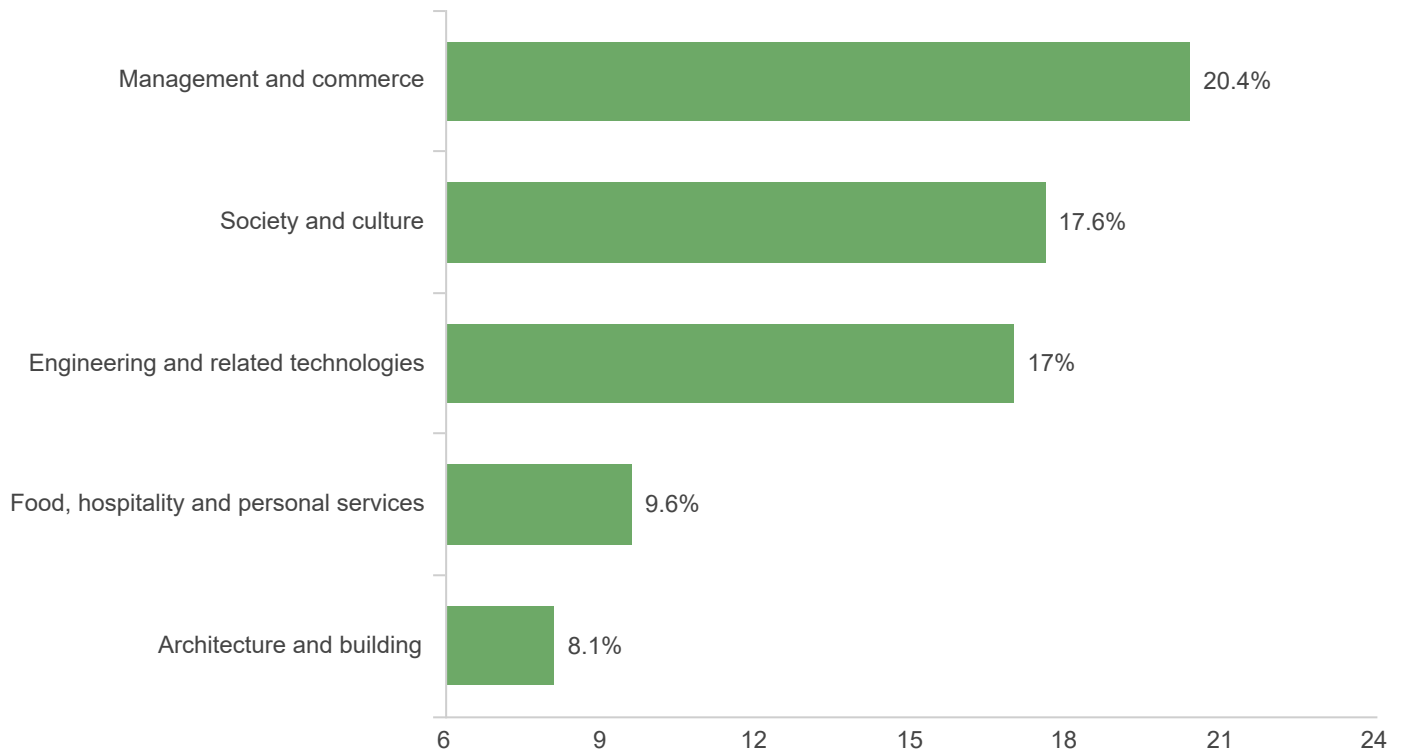
Figure 15 Qualification enrolments by level of education, 2019 to 2023 ('000)
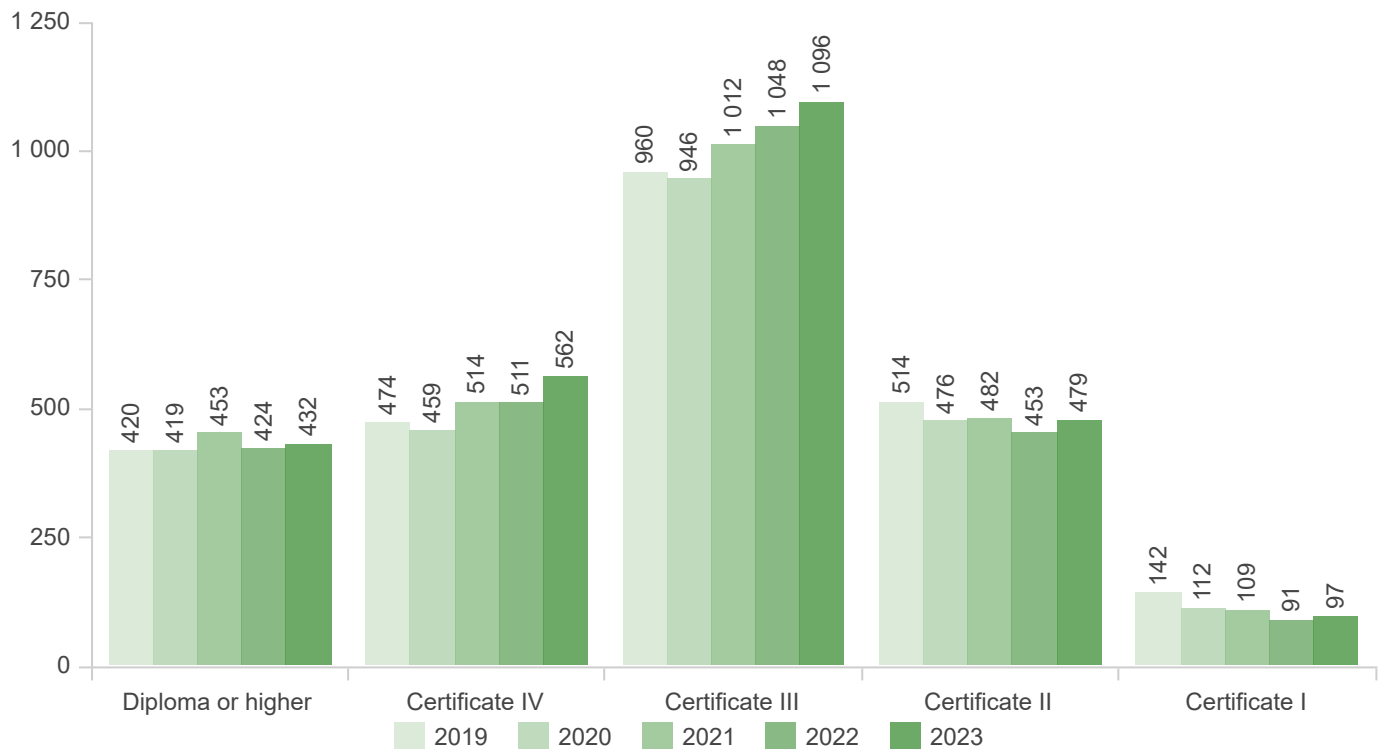
Note: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only.

By field of education, Management and commerce accounted for 20.4% (or 544 755) of nationally recognised qualification enrolments in 2023, followed by Society and culture at 17.6% (or 468 850) and Engineering and related technologies at 17.0% (or 452 085).
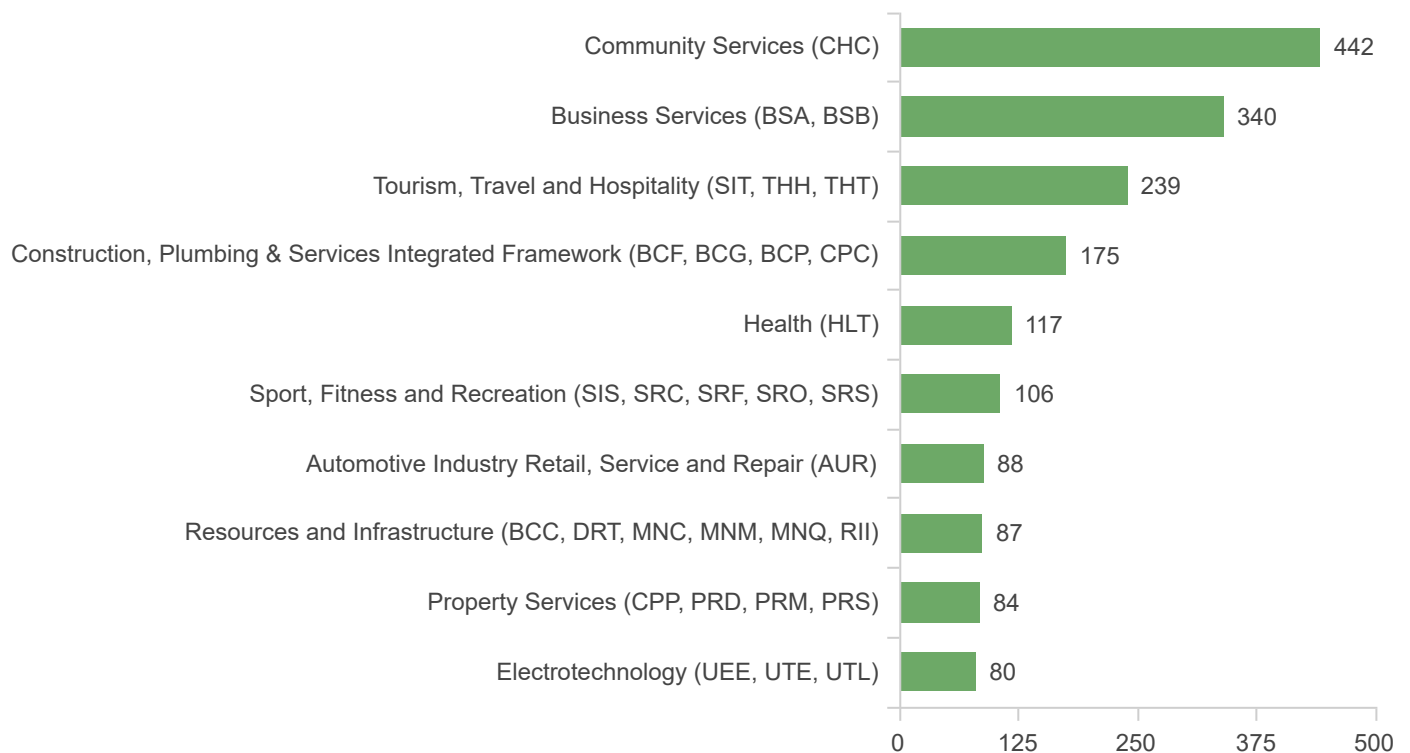
Figure 16 Qualification enrolments in the top 5 fields of education, 2023 (%)

Management and commerce — 20.4%

Society and culture — 17.6%

Engineering and related technologies — 17%

Food, hospitality and personal services — 9.6%

Architecture and building — 8.1%

(x-axis: 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24)

Note: Data in the figure above are based on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications only. Other programs such as training package skill sets and accredited courses are excluded.

By training package, Community services accounted for 17.8% (or 441 850) of training package qualification enrolments in 2023, followed by Business services (13.7% or 339 735) and Tourism, travel and hospitality (9.7% or 239 360).

Figure 17 Top 10 training packages by nationally recognised qualification enrolments, 2023 ('000)

Community Services (CHC) — 442

Business Services (BSA, BSB) — 340

Tourism, Travel and Hospitality (SIT, THH, THT) — 239

Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework (BCF, BCG, BCP, CPC) — 175

Health (HLT) — 117

Sport, Fitness and Recreation (SIS, SRC, SRF, SRO, SRS) — 106

Automotive Industry Retail, Service and Repair (AUR) — 88

Resources and Infrastructure (BCC, DRT, MNC, MNM, MNQ, RII) — 87

Property Services (CPP, PRD, PRM, PRS) — 84

Electrotechnology (UEE, UTE, UTL) — 80
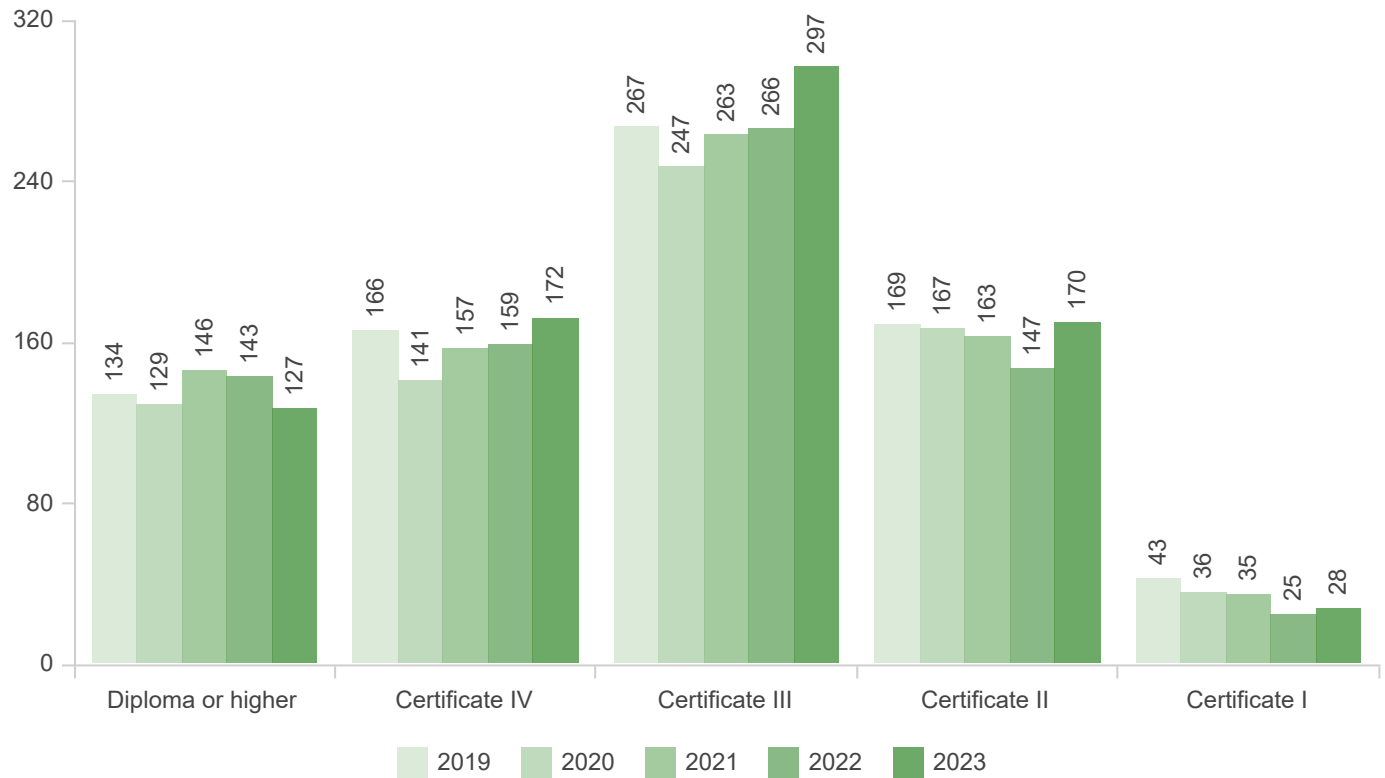
(x-axis: 0, 125, 250, 375, 500)

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

Qualification completions

In 2023, 793 485 nationally recognised qualifications were completed.

The highest number of qualification completions were at certificate III level (37.4%), followed by certificate IV (21.6%) and certificate II (21.4%) level qualifications.

Figure 18 Qualification completions by level of education, 2019 to 2023 ('000)

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

Subjects

In 2023, there were 8.5 million enrolments in stand-alone subjects. The majority of which were delivered by private training providers (6.9 million or 81.7%).

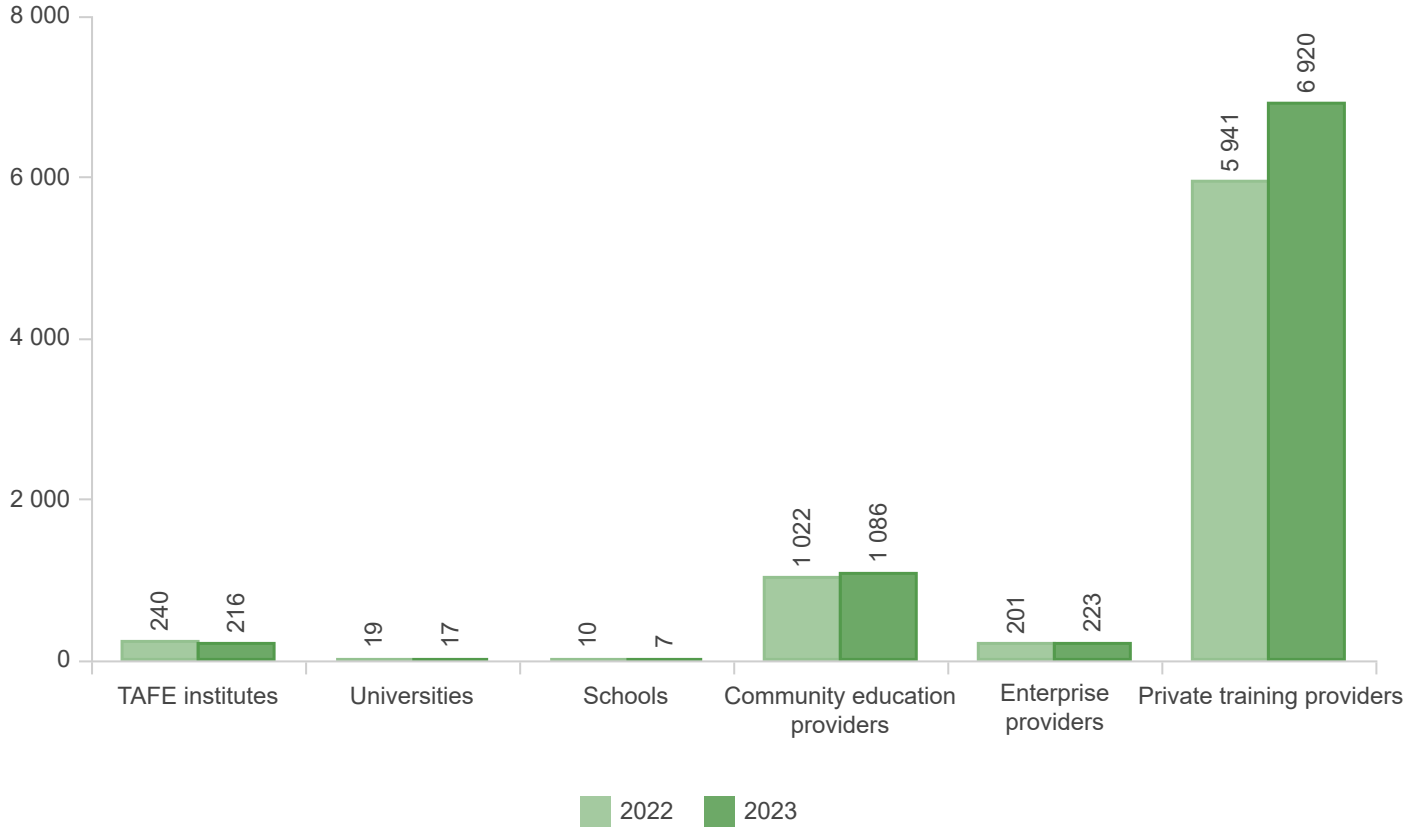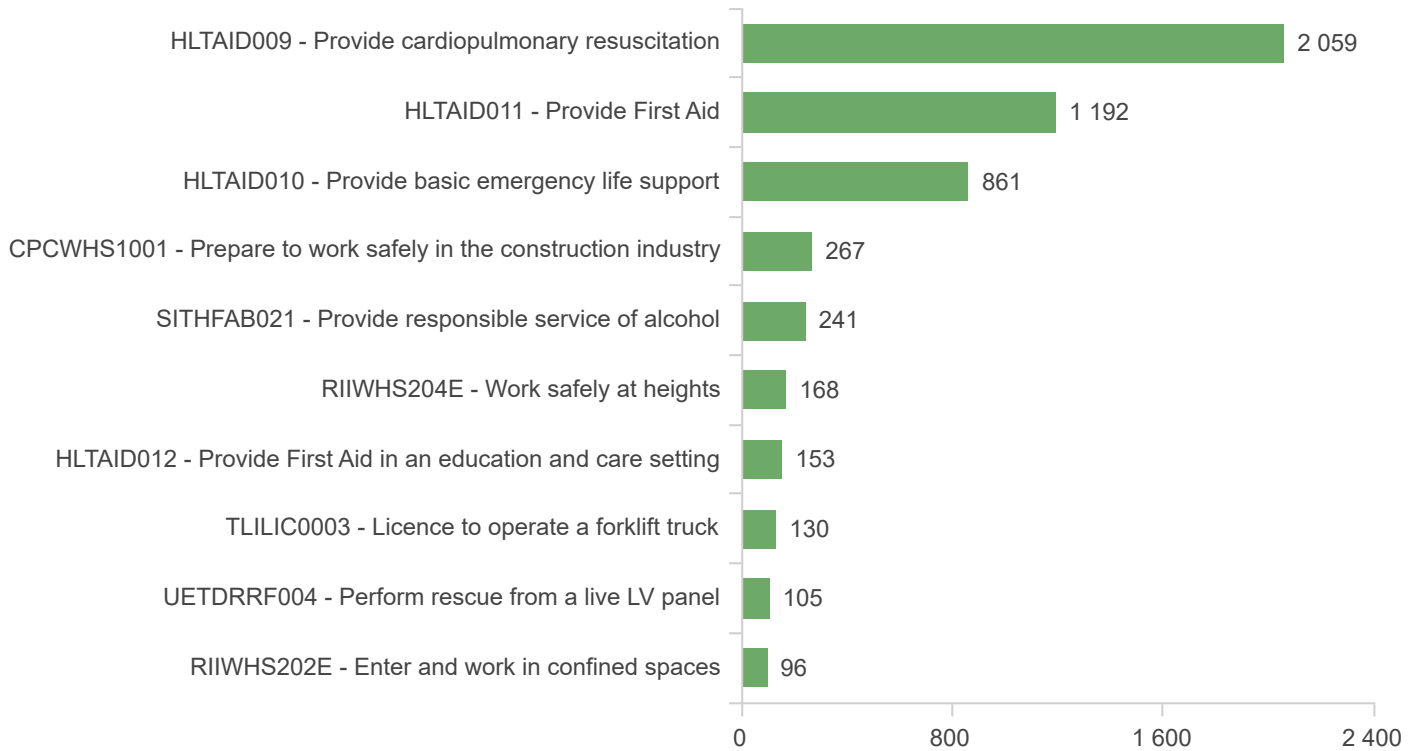**Figure 19 Stand-alone nationally recognised subjects by provider type, 2022 and 2023 ('000)**

Figure 20 Stand-alone nationally recognised subjects by top 10 subjects, 2023 ('000)

Subject	Value
HLTAID009 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation	2 059
HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid	1 192
HLTAID010 - Provide basic emergency life support	861
CPCWHS1001 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry	267
SITHFAB021 - Provide responsible service of alcohol	241
RIIWHS204E - Work safely at heights	168
HLTAID012 - Provide First Aid in an education and care setting	153
TLILIC0003 - Licence to operate a forklift truck	130
UETDRRF004 - Perform rescue from a live LV panel	105
RIIWHS202E - Enter and work in confined spaces	96

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>.

Historical time series

Time series data from 2015 to 2023 for students and FYTEs in nationally recognised training.

Figure 21 Students and FYTEs in nationally recognised training, 2015 to 2023 (million)
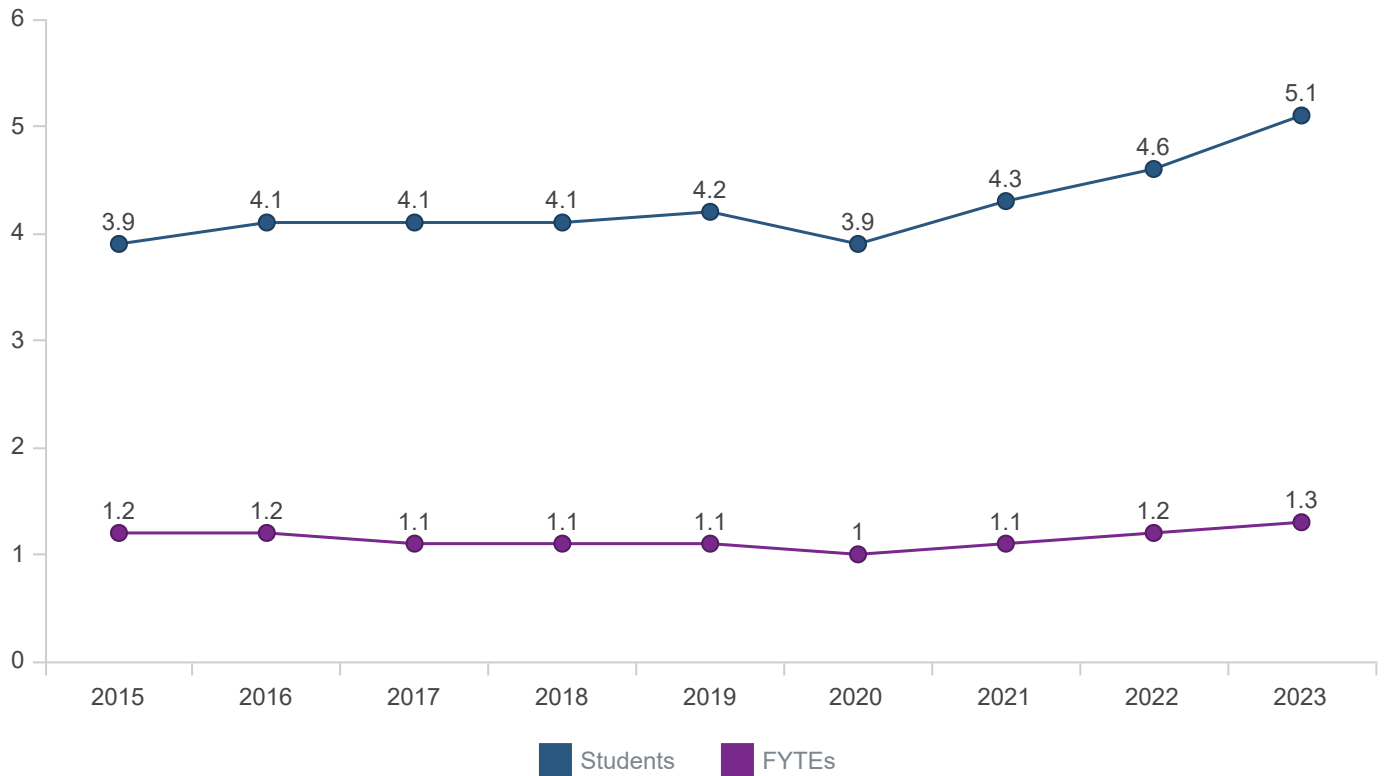
Time series data from 2015 to 2023 for qualification enrolments and qualification completions in nationally recognised training.

Figure 22 Qualification enrolments and completions in nationally recognised training, 2015 to 2023 (million)
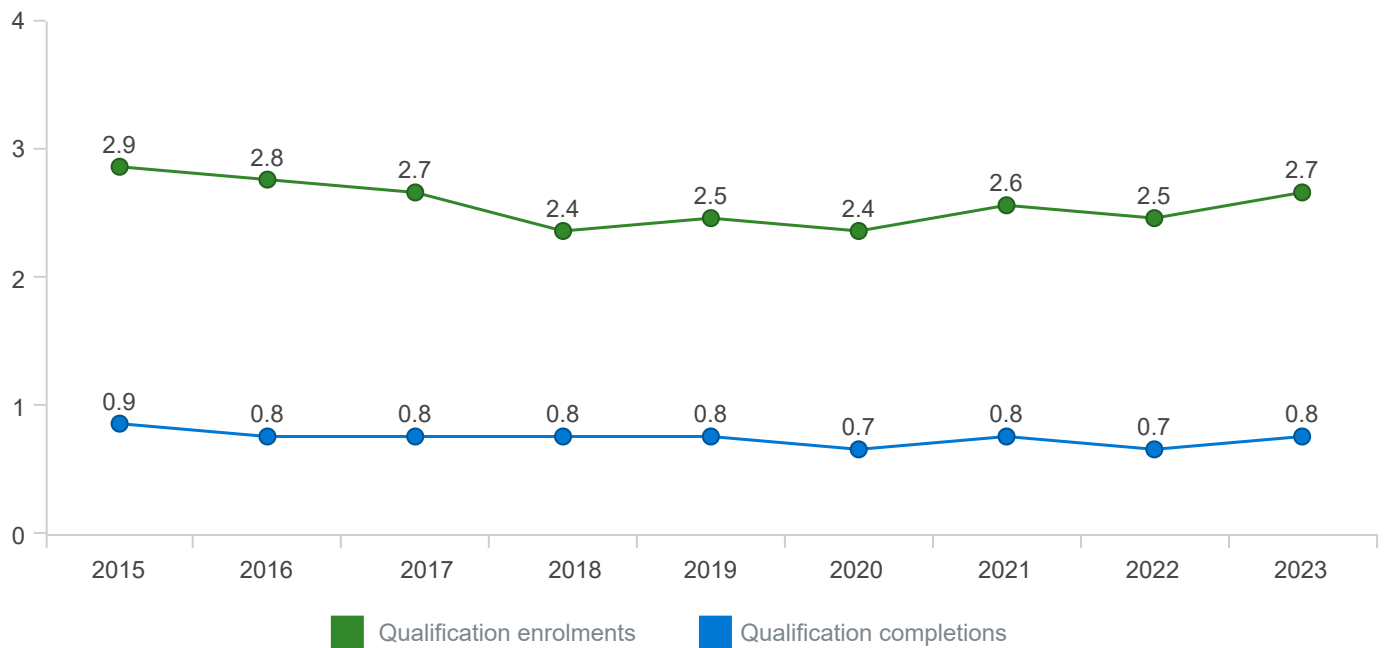
Note: Qualification completions will be revised with subsequent releases of *Total VET students and courses*.