SUPPORT DOCUMENT

Government funding   
of VET 2021: terms   
and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Revised October 2022

This document was produced as an added resource for the publication sourced from the National VET Funding Collection. The report is available on the NCVER’s Portal: <https://www.ncver.edu.au>.

**© Commonwealth of Australia, 2022**

[Creative Commons License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)

With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, the Department’s logo, any material protected by a trade mark and where otherwise noted all material presented in this document is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia <creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au> licence.

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (accessible using the links provided) as is the full legal code for the CC BY 3.0 AU licence <creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/legalcode>.

The Creative Commons licence conditions do not apply to all logos, graphic design, artwork and photographs. Requests and enquiries concerning other reproduction and rights should be directed to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

This document should be attributed as NCVER 2022, *Government funding of VET 2021: terms and definitions*, NCVER, Adelaide.

This work has been produced by NCVER on behalf of the Australian Government, and state and territory governments, with funding provided through the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of NCVER and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government or state and territory governments.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcomed and should be forwarded to NCVER.

Published by NCVER, ABN 87 007 967 311

Level 5, 60 Light Square, Adelaide, SA 5000  
PO Box 8288 Station Arcade, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

**Phone** +61 8 8230 8400

P:\PublicationComponents\logos\Social Media\Twitter_blackbox.png**Email** <vet\_req@ncver.edu.au> **Web** <https://www.ncver.edu.au> <<https://www.lsay.edu.au>>

P:\PublicationComponents\logos\Social Media\InBug-16px_0.png**Follow us:** <https://twitter.com/ncver> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncver>

# Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in *Government funding of VET 2021* publications and related data products. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand the specific data terms.

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 term
* Classification categories: where applicable, defined categories that apply to each term are listed
* Source: a description of the source of this information.

Unless stated otherwise, all data are sourced from the National VET Funding Collection. The National VET Funding Collection is an administrative collection governed by the *Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS):* the *Standard for VET Funding Data— release 1.1*. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS for VET Funding Data, which further define the data collected, are provided in the ‘Source’ section.

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>.

# Terms and definitions

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Classification categories** | **Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Accredited courses | Refer to nationally recognised courses accredited by VET regulators. They are courses that result in a statement of attainment outcome. The title of such courses commences with the words ‘Course in’. | Accredited courses | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package - accredited courses reporting line. |
| Apprentice/trainee status | Identifies whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship/ Traineeship Training Contract. | Apprenticeship  Non-apprenticeship  Unknown | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by apprenticeship status. |
| 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. |  | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by student remoteness; and provider remoteness. Provisions for VET student loans by student remoteness. |
| 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. |  |  |
| Capital funding | Funding provided by Australian government and state and territory governments for capital purposes that relate to VET matters. This includes major capital projects, equipment acquisition, and construction of industry-based and school-based skill centres. | Capital funding | The AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, new assets and existing asset capital expenditure by provider type and provider remoteness. |
| Australian Government ongoing specific-purpose payments | Commonwealth payments to state and territory governments under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory governments public VET systems, refer to the specific purpose payments for the long-term objectives as identified in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. | Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments | The AVETMISS government funding collection, government contributions. |
| Disability (including impairment or long-term condition) | Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment, or long-term condition. | With a disability  Without a disability  Not known | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by disability status. |

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Classification categories** | **Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Employer assistance | A VET activity expenditure for VET programs that support employers to engage in VET by training their workforce or employing an apprentice or trainee by providing grants, incentives, tax rebates and support services. | General assistance for employers to engage in VET  Information and administrative support  Tax exemptions/offsets/rebates | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by employer assistance classification categories. |
| Funding allocations | VET Funding by jurisdiction including any intergovernmental payments from the Commonwealth. | Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments  Australian Government time-limited funding | AVETMISS government funding collection - funding allocations. |
| Funding distributions | The Funding activity expenditure is split by student or training attributes. Expenditures that do not directly link to the reporting categories are reported as not attributable funds. However not attributable funds are an indirect cost to the training and therefore must be considered when analysing the reporting categories. | Apprenticeship status  Indigenous status  Disability status  Student remoteness  Level of training  Training packages  Provider type  Provider remoteness | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activity and distributed by a student or training attribute. |
| Government funding | Funding provided by the Australian and state/territory Governments for Vocational Education and Training. | Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments  Australian Government time-limited funding  Recurrent funding  Capital funding | AVETMISS government funding collection, - governments’ contributions. |
| Government-funded VET | Relates to Commonwealth and state/territory funded activity delivered by TAFE institutes and other government providers, community education providers and other providers. | N/A | N/A |
| Indigenous status | Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. | Indigenous students  Aboriginal  Torres Strait Islander  Aboriginal & Torres Strait  Islander  Non-Indigenous  Not known | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by Indigenous status. |
| Intergovernmental funding arrangements | Commonwealth government support to states and territories with delivery of VET services. Payments made through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations with objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators defined in National, Partnership and Project Agreements. | N/A | Refer to  [www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au) |
| Jurisdictions that administer funding | The Australian Government and state and territory governments that administer funding for VET. | New South Wales  Victoria  Queensland  Western Australia  South Australia  Tasmania  Northern Territory  Australian Capital Territory  Australian Government | AVETMISS funding collection jurisdictions report on their own administered funding over the calendar year. |
| Level of education | Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels of education from certificate I through to graduate diploma including other non-award course, skill set, bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level and training not elsewhere classified. | Graduate diploma  Graduate certificate  Advanced diploma  Diploma  Certificate IV  Certificate III  Certificate II  Certificate I  Other-non-award course  Skill set  Bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level  Training not elsewhere classified  Funding not attributable by level of training | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by level of training. |
| National Agreement | The National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators for state and territory ongoing specific purpose payments authorised by the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009. | N/A | Refer to [www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au) |
| National Partnership Agreement Funding | Each National Partnership or Project Agreement defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators for time-limited Commonwealth payments to states and territories authorised by the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 and enabled through the COAG Reform Fund Act 2008 for VET purposes. | N/A | Refer to [www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au) |
| Nominal terms | Nominal terms report the actual totals with no adjustment for inflation. | N/A | N/A |
| Non-award program | Training programs that do not lead to a formal certification (e.g., AQF qualification) which denotes that the student has achieved learning outcomes or competencies stipulated in the course rules. Non-award programs are often developed where a training need cannot be met through the delivery of available nationally recognised programs and/or subjects. | Non-award courses | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – non award reporting line, and by level of training – other non-award courses reporting line. |
| Not attributable reporting | Expenditures that do not directly link to the student or training reporting categories are reported as not attributable funds. However not attributable funds are an indirect cost to the training in question and therefore must be considered when analysing the reporting categories.  Not attributable reporting varies across jurisdictions from year to year, therefore, national comparisons cannot be drawn from student or training attribute data. | Apprenticeship status  Indigenous status  Disability status  Student remoteness  Level of training  Training packages  Provider type  Provider remoteness | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activity and distributed by student or training attributes. |
| Public VET asset base | The value of property, plant and equipment used for VET delivery by public VET entities. | Land  Buildings  Plant and Equipment  Motor Vehicles  Other | AVETMISS government funding collection, public VET asset base. |
| Provider remoteness | Expenditure by provider head office location. | Major cities of Australia  Inner regional Australia  Outer regional Australia  Remote Australia  Very remote Australia  Migratory-offshore-shipping | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by provider remoteness. |
| Provider type 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. | N/A | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by provider type. |
| Provider type Other | Refers to enterprise government and non- government, community-based adult education provider, schools: Catholic, government and independent, professional association, industry association, non-government university, independent university. | Other | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – other. |
| Provider type Other Organisations | Refers to organisations that are not registered training providers | Other organisations | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – other organisation. |
| Provider type Private | Refers to privately-owned and operated training providers that are registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, or a state/territory accrediting body. | Private | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – private. |
| Provider type Public | Refers to TAFE institutes and Universities – Government | Public | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – public. |
| Provider type Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFE) | 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). | TAFE | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – TAFE. |
| Provider type University | Universities that provide vocational education and training, including government, non-government catholic and non-government independent. | University | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – university. |
| Provider type School | Schools that are a registered training organisation or schools that participate in VET, including catholic, government and independent. | Public | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – public. |
| Recurrent funding | Revenues appropriated by the jurisdiction to cover training portfolio costs and VET programs. | Recurrent funding | AVETMISS funding collection, governments contribution. |
| Registered training organisations (RTOs) | Training providers registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or, in some cases, a state or territory registering and accrediting body, to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised qualifications in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework or the VET Quality Framework. | N/A | The RTO is listed on training.gov.au (TGA) |
| State and territory contributions to the Commonwealth | A funding transfer from a state or territory government to the Commonwealth for a VET related matter. | Loan debt expenses  Other | AVETMISS funding collection, governments contribution. |
| Student assistance for equipment, travel and other – loan values | 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. | Loan values  Grants/subsidies  Rebates  Wrap-around services  Student incentive payments | AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, student support by classification categories. |
| Student remoteness | Expenditure by student location based on a student’s permanent address postcode. | Major cities of Australia  Inner regional Australia  Outer regional Australia  Remote Australia  Very remote Australia  Migratory-offshore-shipping | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by student remoteness. |
| 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. | Employee expenses  Supplies and services  Training system infrastructure  Note: employee expenses and supplies and services that relate directly to VET training delivery are reported under VET Delivery expenditure. | AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure by systems administration and governance by training portfolio, and training system infrastructure. |
| Tax exemptions and rebates | Are revenues that governments forego in order to assist employers to engage in VET or to provide support to eligible students whilst they are in training. | Tax exemptions, offsets, and rebates | AVETMISS funding collection, government expenditure by employer assistance, and student assistance - reporting line as classification category. |
| Time-limited funding | Payments associated with a National Partnerships or Project Agreements. | Time-limited funding | AVETMISS funding collection, government contribution. |
| Trade Support Loans | Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist apprentices and trainees working in skills need area, to help cover living and learning costs. | Trade Support Loans | AVETMISS funding collection. government allocations, provision for VET loans. |
| Training packages | Are developed by Service Skills Organisations (formerly by Industry Skills Councils) to meet the training needs of an industry, or a group of industries. Each training package is made up of three components: units of competency, qualifications framework levels of education and assessment guidelines. For further information refer to http://www.training.gov.au.  Training package category is used to identify the amount of funding provided for qualifications and units of competency under each training package and provides an indication of funding support for those industries and sectors to which the training package relates. Training packages are listed on the National Training Register, www.training.gov.au. | As training package code | AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – as listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). |
| Training package skill set | 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. They may be either a training package skill set or a locally developed skill set. | Skill set | AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by level of training – skill set. |
| Training not elsewhere classified | Funding for training not classified as a training package, a non-award course or accredited course. | Training not elsewhere classified | AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – reporting line training not elsewhere classified. |
| Transfers between states and territories | Funding transfers from state and territory governments to other states or territories for VET related matters. | State and territory payments to other states or territories | AVETMISS funding collection, jurisdictional contributions – reporting line as classification category. |
| 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. | VET delivery  Employer assistance  Student assistance  Capital funding  System administration and governance | AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activities. |
| 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. | Debt not expected to be repaid | AVETMISS funding collection, jurisdictional contributions – reporting line as classification category. |
| 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. | Subsidy funding for training places  Block funding  VET in Schools funding  Other – VET portfolio  Other – other agency  Fee assistance  Learner needs funding  Community service payments  Operational/base supplementary funding | AVETMISS funding collection, VET delivery expenditure by classification categories. |
| 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. | Full fee-paying students  State-subsidised students | AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by level of training, training package, provider type, student remoteness, indigenous status, and disability status  For details on the VET Student Loans program refer to Department of Employment and Workplace Relations |
| VET Student Loans 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. | N/A | AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by full fee-paying students. |
| 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. | N/A | AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by state subsidised students. |
| Wrap-around services for students | Expenditure for non-learning support to target/priority groups specific to training. Expenditure is not linked directly to enrolments and instead provides the RTO or other service provider with the capacity to offer wrap-around services on an as-required basis. | Grants/subsidies  Other | AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure student support – reporting line as classification categories. |
| Vocational education and training (VET) | Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. | N/A | N/A |
| VET FEE-HELP | A VET loan scheme provided by the Australian Government from 2009 to 2017.  In 2017 the VET Student Loans program replaced the VET FEE-HELP scheme. | N/A | Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - help with the cost of training |
| Grandfathered VET FEE-HELP | Grandfathered VET FEE-HELP payments are included loan totals for reporting years 2017, 2018 and 2019. | N/A | AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans. |