

# Tertiary education and training in Australia 2010: terms and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This document was produced as an added resource for the publication *Tertiary education and training in Australia 2010*. The publication is available on NCVER's website: <http://www.ncver.edu.au>.

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

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2012



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 <<http://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 <<http://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 2012, *Tertiary education and training in Australia*, 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 Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

# Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in the *Tertiary education and training in Australia 2010* publication and its associated data tables. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users of the publication to understand the specific data terms used within it.

Terms that appear in the publication 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, including details of any calculations or derivations.

Unless stated otherwise, all vocational education and training (VET) data are sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and all higher education data are sourced from the Higher Education Statistics Collection.

The National VET Provider Collection is an administrative collection governed by the *Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard: VET Provider Collection specifications release 6.0* (AVETMISS release 6.0) and *AVETMISS Data element definitions, edition 2*, which are available at NCVER's website <<http://www.ncver.edu.au>>. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS release 6.0, which further define the data collected, are provided in the 'Source' section.

The Higher Education Statistics Collection is also an administrative collection. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) is responsible for the collection and dissemination of these data. The 2010 data are governed by the *2010 Data requirements: data elements*. References to the applicable field definitions within the 2010 Data requirements documentation, which further define the data collected, are provided in the 'Source' section. Further information on higher education data elements is available at <<http://heimshelp.deewr.gov.au/sites/heimshelp>>.

Terms and acronyms which have a broader tertiary education and training application have not been included in this document. Readers are referred to the VET glossary, which is available at NCVER's website <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/resources/glossary.html>>.

| Term  | Definition  | Classification categories   | Source  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age group   | The reporting of individual ages of the students (calculated as at 30 June of the collection year) in age ranges.   | 19 years and under<br>20 to 24 years<br>25 to 44 years<br>45 to 64 years<br>65 years and over<br>Not known  | VET: Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Date of Birth</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.<br>Higher education: Calculated based on data element 314 <i>Date of Birth</i> .  |
| AQF qualification level   | The level of an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) qualification in which a student is enrolled.<br>The AQF is a unified system of national qualifications in schools, vocational education and training (TAFE institutes and private providers) and the higher education sector (mainly universities). | Doctoral degree<br>Master's degree<br>Graduate certificate or graduate diploma<br>Bachelor degree (Pass and Honours)<br>Advanced diploma<br>Associate degree<br>Diploma<br>Certificate IV<br>Certificate III<br>Certificate I or II   | VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Qualification/Course Level of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Course</i> file.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 310 <i>Course of Study Type Code</i> .                   |
| Commencing students   | Whether the student is commencing in a course for the first time with a provider.   | Commencing students<br>Others   | VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Commencing Course Identifier</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.<br>Higher education: Based on data element 922 <i>Commencing Student Indicator</i> .                                       |
| Disability status (including impairment or long-term condition) | Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment or long term condition.  | With a disability<br>Others   | VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Disability Flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 386 <i>Disability</i> .   |
| Field of education  | Describes the broad area of study related to a qualification in which a student is enrolled.  | Natural and physical sciences<br>Information technology<br>Engineering and related technologies<br>Architecture and building<br>Agriculture, environmental and related studies<br>Health<br>Education<br>Management and commerce<br>Society and culture<br>Creative arts<br>Food, hospitality and personal services<br>Mixed field programs<br>Not applicable | VET: Collected in the field <i>Qualification/Course Field of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Course</i> file for qualification enrolments.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 461 <i>Field of Education Code</i> . |

| Term                             | Definition  | Classification categories  | Source   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Equivalent full-time students    | Measures the activity undertaken by a student on a full-time basis for one year.<br>In the VET sector, the measure is known as full-year training equivalents (FYTEs).<br>In the higher education sector, the measure is known as the equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL). The EFTSL is set by the higher education provider. | N/A  | VET: Calculated based on <i>Hours of delivery</i> (720 hours = 1 FYTE).<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 339 <i>Equivalent Full-Time Student Load</i> .  |
| Indigenous status                | Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.   | Indigenous<br>Others   | VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Indigenous Status Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 316 <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Code</i> .   |
| International status             | Whether a student is an international student.  | International<br>Domestic  | VET: Derived, based on information collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding Source – National</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.<br>Higher education: Derived, based on information collected in data element 358 <i>Citizen/Resident Indicator</i> .   |
| Main language spoken at home     | Whether the student speaks a language other than English at home.   | Non-English<br>Others  | VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Main Language other than English Spoken at Home Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 348 <i>Language Spoken at Home</i> .  |
| Previous highest education level | The highest level of education, including post-compulsory education, a student had successfully completed before commencing training.   | Bachelor degree or higher<br>Associate degree or advanced diploma<br>Diploma<br>Certificate IV<br>Certificate III<br>Year 12<br>Year 11<br>Certificate II<br>Year 10<br>Certificate I<br>Miscellaneous education<br>Year 9 or lower or did not go to school<br>Not known | VET: Calculated based on the hierarchical order of the classification collected as AVETMISS fields <i>Prior Educational Achievement Identifier</i> from the <i>Prior Educational Achievement</i> file and <i>Highest School Level Completed</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.<br>Higher education: Not collected. |

| Term  | Definition   | Classification categories   | Source   |
|---|--|---|--|
| Previous highest educational participation                              | The highest level of educational participation prior to the first enrolment in the course of study.  | Complete or incomplete higher education course<br>Complete VET course<br>Incomplete VET course<br>Complete final year of secondary education<br>Other complete or incomplete qualifications<br>No prior education<br>Not known    | VET: Not collected.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 493 <i>Highest Participation Prior to Commencement</i> .  |
| Prior VET for which credit or recognition of prior learning was offered | The level of VET study for which credit or recognition of prior learning was offered, for all students with a commencement date of 2008 or later.  | Graduate certificate or graduate diploma<br>Advanced diploma<br>Diploma<br>Certificate IV<br>Certificate III<br>Certificate I or II<br>Other recognised courses<br>No credit or recognition of prior learning was offered for VET | VET: Not collected.<br>Higher education: Collected in data element 563 <i>Level of Education of Prior VET Study for which Credit/RPL Offered</i> .   |
| Provider type   | The type of institution or organisation providing the education and training.<br>This information was derived for the <i>Tertiary Education and Training in Australia</i> publication. See appendix A for further information on the derivation. | Dual-sector universities<br>TAFE institutes<br>Public universities<br>Other providers<br>Students attending various providers   | VET: Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Training Organisation Type Identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file.<br>Higher education: Derived from data element 306 <i>Higher Education Provider Code</i> .   |
| Qualification completed   | Indicates that a student has completed a structured and integrated program of education or training.   | N/A   | VET: Calculated based on the AVETMISS file <i>Qualification Completed (NAT00130)</i> , excluding those qualifications that are associated with training provided by a school, non-VET qualifications, and qualifications that are classed as 'other education', including non-award courses and miscellaneous education.<br>Higher education: Collected from the <i>Award Course Completions</i> file. |

| Term  | Definition  | Classification categories   | Source  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Qualification level                                   | <p>The level of a qualification in which a student is enrolled.</p> <p>VET: For students with subject enrolments in more than one qualification level, a major qualification level is assigned, based on the hierarchical order presented under the classification categories.</p> <p>Higher education: For students with units in more than one qualification level, a major qualification level is assigned, based on the course which incurs the greatest student load. Where two or more courses incur equal student load, the major course is determined by the higher education provider.</p> | <p><i>AQF qualifications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctoral degree</li> <li>Master's degree</li> <li>Graduate certificate or graduate diploma</li> <li>Bachelor degree (Pass and Honours)</li> <li>Advanced diploma</li> <li>Associate degree</li> <li>Diploma</li> <li>Certificate IV</li> <li>Certificate III</li> <li>Certificate I or II</li> </ul> <p><i>Non-AQF qualifications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other recognised courses</li> <li>Non-award courses</li> <li>Subject only—no qualification</li> <li>Cross provider programs</li> </ul> | <p>VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Qualification/Course Level of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Course</i> file.</p> <p>Higher education: Collected in data element 310 <i>Course of Study Type Code</i>.</p>   |
| SEIFA – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage | <p>This index is a general socio-economic index that summarises information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area. This index focuses on disadvantage. A high score (or quintile) reflects a relative lack of disadvantage rather than relative advantage.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)</li> <li>Quintile 2</li> <li>Quintile 3</li> <li>Quintile 4</li> <li>Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged)</li> <li>Not known</li> </ul>  | <p>VET: Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file, and mapped to the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from Census information.</p> <p>Higher education: Calculated based on data element 320 <i>Location Code of Permanent Home Residence</i>, and mapped to the SEIFA – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from Census information.</p> |
| Sex   | <p>This reflects the gender of the student, as captured on their enrolment form.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Males</li> <li>Females</li> <li>Not known</li> </ul>   | <p>VET: Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Sex Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.</p> <p>Higher education: Collected in data element 315 <i>Gender Code</i>.</p>   |

| Term                              | Definition  | Classification categories  | Source  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Student remoteness (ARIA+) region | <p>The degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia.</p> <p>Using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), postcodes are assigned to Remoteness Areas based on ARIA+ scores for postcodes.</p> <p>ARIA+ is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia.</p> <p>The ASGC divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It groups locations together into comparative classes of remoteness so that data can be collected, analysed and disseminated for broad regions which are more or less remote.</p> | <p>Major cities</p> <p>Inner regional</p> <p>Outer regional</p> <p>Remote</p> <p>Very remote</p> <p>Outside Australia</p> <p>Not known</p> | <p>VET: Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Postcode</i> from the <i>Client</i> file, and mapped to the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+), developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA).</p> <p>Higher education: Calculated based on data element <i>320 Location Code of Permanent Home Residence</i>, and mapped to the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+), developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA).</p> |
| Study mode                        | Whether a student undertakes full-time or part-time study.  | <p>Full-time</p> <p>Part-time</p>  | <p>VET: Calculated based on nationally agreed nominal hours for all enrolments and aggregated for each student. A student who undertakes 540 hours of delivery or more annually is considered a full-time student.</p> <p>Higher education: Collected in data element <i>330 Type of Attendance Code</i>.</p>   |



# Appendix A: provider type

| Provider type category   | Institute identifier in the higher education data | Institute identifier in the VET data         | Institute name   |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Dual-sector universities | 3001  | 0373   | Charles Darwin University  |
|                          | 3034  | 3046   | RMIT University  |
|                          | 2177  | 3059   | Swinburne University of Technology                                     |
|                          | 2154  | 4909   | University of Ballarat   |
|                          | 3007  | 3113   | Victoria University  |
| TAFE institutes          |   | 0656   | Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE   |
|                          | 2246  | 0383   | Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education                   |
|                          | 7082  | 3077   | Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE                                     |
|                          | 4366  | 4687   | Box Hill Institute of TAFE & Box Hill Institute                        |
|                          |   | 30837  | Brisbane North Institute of TAFE                                       |
|                          | 4406  | 0101   | Canberra Institute of Technology                                       |
|                          | 7068  | 0417   | Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE                                    |
|                          | 7072  | 1988   | Central Institute of Technology  |
|                          |   | 0438   | Central Queensland Institute of TAFE                                   |
|                          |   | 4265   | Challenger Institute of Technology                                     |
|                          | 7073  | 0260   | Chisholm Institute   |
|                          |   | 1980   | CY O'Connor College of TAFE  |
|                          |   | 2065   | Durack Institute of Technology   |
|                          | 7115  | 3070   | East Gippsland Institute of TAFE                                       |
|                          | 7101  | 0083   | Gold Coast Institute of TAFE   |
|                          | 4372  | 3044   | Gordon Institute of TAFE   |
|                          | 7145  | 3094   | Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE                                       |
|                          |   | 2056   | Great Southern TAFE  |
|                          | 4383  | 0416   | Holmesglen Institute of TAFE   |
|                          | 7130  | 0306   | Kangan Institute/ Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE                      |
|                          |   | 1932   | Kimberley TAFE   |
|                          |   | 31397  | Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE                                   |
|                          |   | 0071   | Mount Isa Institute of TAFE  |
|                          | 4363  | 3075   | Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE                                   |
|                          |   | 0353   | Pilbara TAFE   |
|                          | 4385  | 1979   | Polytechnic West   |
|                          |   | 31396  | Skillstech Australia   |
|                          | 7142  | 3120   | South West Institute of TAFE   |
|                          |   | 2433   | South West Regional College of TAFE/South West Institute of Technology |
|                          | 4408  | 0275   | Southbank Institute of Technology                                      |
|                          |   | 0526   | Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE                                  |
|                          | 7102  | 4693   | Sunraysia Institute of TAFE  |
|                          | 0418  | Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE             |  |
|                          | 90002   | TAFE NSW – Hunter Institute                  |  |
|                          | 90006   | TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute               |  |
|                          | 90001   | TAFE NSW – New England Institute             |  |
|                          | 90010   | TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute             |  |
|                          | 90011   | TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute         |  |
|                          | 90004   | TAFE NSW – Open Training & Education Network |  |
|                          | 90005   | TAFE NSW – Riverina Institute                |  |

| <b>Provider type category</b> | <b>Institute identifier in the higher education data</b> | <b>Institute identifier in the VET data</b> | <b>Institute name</b>  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
|                               |  | 90008                                       | TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney Institute                                |
|                               |  | 90003                                       | TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute  |
|                               |  | 90009                                       | TAFE NSW – Western Institute   |
|                               |  | 90000                                       | TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute                                      |
|                               |  | 40161                                       | TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute   |
|                               |  | 40319                                       | TAFE SA Adelaide South Institute   |
|                               |  | 40320                                       | TAFE SA Regional   |
|                               |  | 60143                                       | Tasmanian Polytechnic  |
|                               |  | 60142                                       | Tasmanian Skills Institute   |
|                               |  | 0713  | The Bremer Institute of TAFE   |
|                               |  | 0542  | Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE                              |
|                               |  | 2536  | West Coast Institute of Training   |
|                               |  | 0657  | Wide Bay Institute of TAFE   |
|                               | 4394   | 3045  | William Angliss Institute of TAFE  |
|                               | 7118   | 3097  | Wodonga Institute of TAFE  |
| Public universities           | 3006   | 3578  | Australian Catholic University   |
|                               | 2200   |   | Central Queensland University  |
|                               | 3005   |   | Charles Sturt University   |
|                               | 2236   | 2465, 52335                                 | Curtin University of Technology/Vocational Training and Education Centre |
|                               | 3030   | 3752  | Deakin University  |
|                               | 2235   | 4756  | Edith Cowan University/ WA Academy of Performing Arts                    |
|                               | 3032   | 31608                                       | Griffith University  |
|                               | 1019   |   | James Cook University  |
|                               | 3020   | 3899  | La Trobe University  |
|                               | 3025   |   | Macquarie University   |
|                               | 3035   | 3552  | Monash University  |
|                               | 1034   |   | Murdoch University   |
|                               | 3042   |   | Queensland University of Technology                                      |
|                               | 3038   |   | Southern Cross University  |
|                               | 3033   |   | The Australian National University                                       |
|                               | 3029   |   | The Flinders University of South Australia                               |
|                               | 3010   | 40080                                       | The University of Adelaide   |
|                               | 3036   |   | The University of Melbourne  |
|                               | 3039   |   | The University of New England  |
|                               | 3013   |   | The University of New South Wales  |
|                               | 3014   |   | The University of Newcastle  |
|                               | 3019   | 1511, 30688                                 | The University of Queensland   |
|                               | 3040   |   | The University of Sydney   |
|                               | 1055   |   | The University of Western Australia                                      |
|                               | 2241   | 5088  | University of Canberra   |
|                               | 3027   |   | University of South Australia  |
|                               | 2201   |   | University of Southern Queensland  |
|                               | 3045   | 60131                                       | University of Tasmania/Australian Maritime College                       |
|                               | 3016   |   | University of Technology, Sydney   |
|                               | 3043   |   | University of the Sunshine Coast   |
|                               | 3004   |   | University of Western Sydney   |
|                               | 1058   | 91159                                       | University of Wollongong   |

| <b>Provider type category</b>        | <b>Institute identifier in the higher education data</b> | <b>Institute identifier in the VET data</b>   | <b>Institute name</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Students attending various providers | Not applicable   | Applicable only to institutes where VET students can be reported as attending more than one provider. |                       |
| Other providers                      | All other providers                                      |   |                       |