

2011

# STUDENT INTENTIONS

Australian vocational  
education & training  
statistics

 **NCVER**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations**



# Australian vocational education and training statistics

## Student intentions

# 2011

### Highlights

#### Intention at enrolment:

- 92.6% of students enrolled to start a VET course in February 2011 intend to complete it.
- 7.4% of students enrolled to start a VET course in February 2011 intend to complete subjects only.

#### Of those intending to complete the course:

- 82.5% were enrolled in courses at certificate III level or higher.
- 79.8% were enrolled in three or more subjects.
- 40.4% had completed a certificate III or higher-level qualification before training.
- 46.8% were living with parents or guardians.

#### Of those intending to complete subjects only:

- 65.9% were enrolled in courses at certificate III level or higher.
- 53.7% were enrolled in three or more subjects.
- 67.5% were employed and a further 16.7% were actively looking for work.
- 51.7% had completed a certificate III or higher-level qualification before training.
- 30.9% were living with parents or guardians.



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations

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## Introduction

This publication presents information on the intentions of students enrolled to start a vocational education and training (VET) course in February 2011. Along with July, February is a peak commencement period for VET and was selected to provide a sufficient sample for survey purposes.

The figures in this publication are derived from the Student Intentions Survey 2011. This is the first time this survey has been conducted.

## Scope

The Student Intentions Survey covered students who enrolled to start a VET course at certificate I level or higher in February 2011. The survey was conducted between May and July 2011.

The survey includes students enrolled:

- to start a VET course at certificate I level or higher in February 2011
- in publicly or privately funded training delivered by a TAFE institution
- in publicly funded training delivered by private providers in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory (coverage was limited to jurisdictions from which publicly funded enrolment data could be provided by state training authorities directly to NCVET).

The survey excludes students enrolled in:

- the same course of training from a previous year (continuing students)
- module only enrolments
- recreation, leisure and personal enrichment courses (non-vocational programs)
- privately funded training delivered by private providers
- training delivered at overseas campuses of Australian VET institutions
- training delivered by adult and community education (ACE) providers
- training delivered in schools
- publicly funded training delivered by private providers in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

For information about the number of survey respondents and their characteristics, see table 12.

## Technical notes

The Student Intentions Survey was undertaken as a randomly selected sample, stratified by type of training provider. Survey responses are weighted to population benchmarks from February 2011 course commencement data provided to NCVET by state training authorities and technical and further education (TAFE) institutions in March and April 2011. The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling variability as they are based on a sample of the population; that is, they may differ from the estimates that would have been produced if all students enrolled in a commencing course in February 2011 had been included and responded to the survey.

For further technical details, please refer to the Technical notes (<<http://www.ncvet.edu.au/publications/2425.html>>).

## More information

For data tables on student intentions, please refer to <<http://www.ncvet.edu.au/publications/2425.html>>. These data tables contain 95% confidence intervals.

## Training intentions at enrolment

- 92.6% of students enrolled to start a VET course in February 2011 intend to complete it. *Table 1*

The proportion of students who intend to complete the course:

- decreased with age, with 95.2% of students aged 15 to 19 years intending to complete their course compared with 87.8% of those aged 45 to 64 years *Table 1*
- increased with the level of the training, with 93.9% of students enrolled in a diploma or higher-level qualification intending to complete the course compared with 85.7% of those enrolled in a certificate I *Table 2*
- increased with the number of subjects enrolled in as part of their course, with 94.9% of students enrolled in three or more subjects intending to complete the course compared with 83.4% of those enrolled in only one subject *Table 2*
- was similar for publicly funded students at TAFE and private providers, at 92.6% and 93.6% respectively. *Table 2*

The proportion who intend to complete the course was high for: *Tables 1 & 2*

- students enrolled in the training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship (at 95.2%)
- full-time students, aged 25 years and under with a parent or guardian with a post-school qualification (at 97.0%)
- full-time students, aged 25 years and under with no post-school qualification (at 96.5%).

## Reasons for training

95.8% of students undertaking the training for general employment reasons intend to complete the course. *Table 3*

The proportion who intend to complete the course was highest for those:

- wanting to work in that type of job or industry (at 96.4%)
- wanting to start a different career or occupation (at 96.4%)
- wanting to get a job (at 95.7%).

87.7% of students undertaking the training for specific employment reasons intend to complete the course.

The proportion who intend to complete the course was lowest for those:

- recommended or offered the training by their employer (at 78.2%)
- for whom training was a requirement of their job or employment (at 82.1%).

## Influences on intention to complete the training

The proportion who intend to complete the course was highest for those who cited the following as their greatest influence on undertaking the training: *Table 4*

- themselves or their own motivation to do the training (at 94.9%)
- family (at 93.7%).

The proportion who intend to complete the course was lowest for those who cited:

- friends (at 87.9%), work colleagues (at 87.3%), or an employer (at 88.7%) as their greatest influence on undertaking the training.

## Student characteristics

Of those intending to complete the course:

*Tables 5 & 6*

- 82.5% were enrolled in courses at certificate III level or higher
- 79.8% were enrolled in three or more subjects
- 63.0% were employed and a further 22.7% were actively looking for work
- 40.4% had been awarded a certificate III or higher-level qualification before training
- 46.8% were living with parents or guardians.

Of those intending to complete some subjects only:

*Tables 7 & 8*

- 65.9% were enrolled in courses at certificate III level or higher
- 53.7% were enrolled in three or more subjects
- 67.5% were employed and a further 16.7% were actively looking for work
- 51.7% had been awarded a certificate III or higher-level qualification before training
- 30.9% were living with parents or guardians.

## Knowledge of the training at enrolment

- 91.5% of students who intend to complete the course believe they have chosen the right course of study, compared to 88.6% for those intending to complete subjects only.
- 86.8% of students who intend to complete the course found it easy to find information about the training compared with 82.0% of those intending to complete subjects only.

*Table 9*

## Attitudes towards the training

- 90.4% of students who intend to complete the course believe the training is relevant to the occupation they want to work in compared with 79.9% of those intending to complete subjects only.
- 88.2% of students who intend to complete the course believe the training is highly valued amongst employers compared with 81.7% of those intending to complete subjects only.
- 38.2% of students who intend to complete the course believe the training to be financially challenging compared with 30.2% of those intending to complete subjects only.

*Table 10*



## Attitudes towards VET

- 89.4% of students who intend to complete the course believe they understand what they need to do to get a VET qualification compared with 83.4% of those intending to complete subjects only.
- 89.2% of students who intend to complete the course agree that it is better to complete a whole course than only parts of the course compared with 72.6% of those intending to complete subjects only.
- 60.9% of students who intend to complete the course believe that when it comes to VET, gaining skills is more important than gaining a qualification compared with 64.8% of those intending to complete subjects only.

*Table 11*

## Four months after training commences

Of those students who intended to complete the course:

*Table 6*

- 67.7% are still in training
- 18.5% report to have completed the course
- 12.4% left without completing the course.

Of those students who intended to complete some subjects only:

*Table 8*

- 46.5% are still in training
- 4.4% report to have completed the course
- 46.7% left without completing the course.

## Tables

**Table 1 Training intention at time of enrolment by personal characteristics, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	92.0	8.0
Female	93.1	6.9
<b>Age</b>		
15 to 19 years	95.2	4.8
20 to 24 years	94.6	5.4
25 to 44 years	91.3	8.7
45 to 64 years	87.8	12.2
65 years and over	75.4	24.6*
<b>Student remoteness (ARIA+) region</b>		
Major cities	93.3	6.7
Inner and outer regional	91.3	8.7
Remote and very remote	86.9	13.1*
<b>Indigenous status</b>		
Indigenous	94.1	5.9*
Not Indigenous	92.6	7.4
<b>Disability status (including impairment or long-term condition)</b>		
With a disability	92.2	7.8
Without a disability	92.9	7.1
<b>Speak a language other than English at home</b>		
Other language	93.1	6.9
English	92.8	7.2
<b>Highest qualification before training</b>		
Diploma or higher	88.2	11.8
Certificate III/IV	92.5	7.5
Year 12	94.4	5.6
Year 11/certificate I/II	92.1	7.9
Year 10 and below	94.0	6.0
<b>Current employment status<sup>1</sup></b>		
Employed	92.1	7.9
Part-time	91.2	8.8
Full-time	93.0	7.0
Not employed	93.4	6.6
Actively looking for work	94.4	5.6
Not actively looking for work	91.5	8.5
<b>Current living arrangement</b>		
Living alone	90.6	9.4
Living with friends or in a share house	93.3	6.7
Living with parents or guardians	95.0	5.0
Living with a partner or children	89.9	10.1
Other	88.9	11.1*
<b>Full-time students, aged 25 years and under</b>		
With no post-school qualification	96.5	3.5
With parent/guardian with a post-school qualification	97.0	3.0
<b>All enrolled students<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 2 Training intention at time of enrolment by training characteristics, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
<b>Qualification level</b>		
Diploma or higher	93.9	6.1
Certificate IV	93.1	6.9
Certificate III	94.7	5.3
Certificate II	86.7	13.3
Certificate I	85.7	14.3
<b>Field of education</b>		
Natural and physical sciences	96.6	3.4*
Information technology	95.7	4.3*
Engineering and related technologies	90.0	10.0
Architecture and building	95.0	5.0
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	89.2	10.8
Health	93.4	6.6
Education	94.8	5.2*
Management and commerce	94.2	5.8
Society and culture	96.6	3.4
Creative arts	89.6	10.4
Food, hospitality and personal services	91.8	8.2
Mixed field programs	83.3	16.7
<b>Apprenticeship/traineeship status</b>		
Training part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	95.2	4.8
Training not part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	92.1	7.9
<b>Institute type<sup>3</sup></b>		
TAFE	92.6	7.4
Private provider	93.6	6.4
<b>Number of subjects enrolled in</b>		
Enrolled in 3 or more subjects	94.9	5.1
Enrolled in 2 subjects	85.8	14.2
Enrolled in 1 subject only	83.4	16.6
<b>Training delivery</b>		
Classes at the training provider	92.3	7.7
Classes at the workplace	87.6	12.4
Classes at the training provider and the workplace	96.1	3.9
External study or self-paced learning	92.9	7.1
Other	91.6	8.4*
<b>Training status four months after commencement</b>		
Still in training	94.8	5.2
Completed the course	98.1	1.9
Left without completing the course	76.9	23.1
Did not start the training	87.9	12.1*
<b>All enrolled students<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 3 Training intention at time of enrolment by main reason for undertaking the training, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
General employment opportunities	95.8	4.2
Want to work in that type of job/industry	96.4	3.6
Want to get a job	95.7	4.3*
To start a different career or occupation	96.4	3.6*
Improve job prospects/opportunities for promotion	91.6	8.4
Improved pay once qualified	83.6	**
Specific employment reasons	87.7	12.3
To upgrade or gain extra skills for current job	89.7	10.3
A requirement of job/employment	82.1	17.9
Recommended/offered by employer (not mandatory)	78.2	21.8*
Personal interest or self-development	87.0	13.0
Own business or apprenticeship/traineeship	95.4	4.6
Further study related	93.3	6.7
Financial incentive	90.4	9.6*
To gain a recognised qualification/certificate	95.1	4.9*
To improve numeracy and literacy skills	82.7	17.3
Other reasons	86.5	13.5
<b>All enrolled students<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 4 Training intention at time of enrolment by greatest influence on undertaking the training, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete only some subject(s)
Personal interest/self-directed	94.9	5.1
Myself	95.0	5.0
Always wanted to train in this field	94.7	5.3
Wanted to try something different	95.5	4.5*
Family, friends, colleagues	91.7	8.3
Family	93.7	6.3
Friends	87.9	12.1
Work colleagues	87.3	12.7*
Employer/employment-related	88.7	11.3
School/VET practitioners	90.6	9.4
Financial benefit	93.6	**
Nothing at all	92.9	7.1*
Other reasons	89.2	10.8
<b>All enrolled students<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 5 Personal characteristics of those who intend to complete the course at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	46.4
Female	53.6
<b>Age</b>	
15 to 19 years	33.4
20 to 24 years	18.9
25 to 44 years	33.7
45 to 64 years	13.4
65 years and over	0.6
<b>Student remoteness (ARIA+) region</b>	
Major cities	67.8
Inner and outer regional	30.8
Remote and very remote	1.3
<b>Indigenous status</b>	
Indigenous	2.8
Not Indigenous	97.2
<b>Disability status (including impairment or long-term condition)</b>	
With a disability	11.9
Without a disability	88.1
<b>Speak a language other than English at home</b>	
Other language	19.5
English	80.5
<b>Highest qualification before training</b>	
Diploma or higher	16.6
Certificate III/IV	23.8
Year 12	34.9
Year 11/certificate I/II	9.9
Year 10 and below	14.3
<b>Current employment status<sup>1</sup></b>	
Employed	63.0
Part-time	31.6
Full-time	30.8
Not employed	37.0
Actively looking for work	22.7
Not actively looking for work	13.5
<b>Current living arrangement</b>	
Living alone	7.5
Living with friends or in a share house	9.0
Living with parents or guardians	46.8
Living with a partner or children	35.7
Other	0.9
<b>Full-time students, aged 25 years and under</b>	
With no post-school qualification	17.4
With parent/guardian with a post-school qualification	26.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 6 Training characteristics of those who intend to complete the course at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course
<b>Qualification level</b>	
Diploma or higher	22.8
Certificate IV	24.7
Certificate III	34.9
Certificate II	13.7
Certificate I	3.8
<b>Field of education</b>	
Natural and physical sciences	2.0
Information technology	4.4
Engineering and related technologies	13.6
Architecture and building	7.1
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	3.1
Health	5.1
Education	3.2
Management and commerce	23.5
Society and culture	16.2
Creative arts	9.1
Food, hospitality and personal services	5.6
Mixed field programs	7.0
<b>Apprenticeship/traineeship status</b>	
Training part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	19.2
Training not part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	80.8
<b>Institute type<sup>3</sup></b>	
TAFE	90.1
Private provider	9.9
<b>Number of subjects enrolled in</b>	
Enrolled in 3 or more subjects	79.8
Enrolled in 2 subjects	9.1
Enrolled in 1 subject only	11.1
<b>Training delivery</b>	
Classes at the training provider	73.6
Classes at the workplace	3.9
Classes at the training provider and the workplace	12.5
External study or self-paced learning	8.8
Other	1.2
<b>Training status four months after commencement</b>	
Still in training	67.7
Completed the course	18.5
Left without completing the course	12.4
Did not start the training	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 7 Personal characteristics of those who intend to complete subject(s) only at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	<b>Intend to complete subject(s) only</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	50.5
Female	49.5
<b>Age</b>	
15 to 19 years	20.8
20 to 24 years	13.5
25 to 44 years	40.0
45 to 64 years	23.1
65 years and over	2.6*
<b>Student remoteness (ARIA+) region</b>	
Major cities	60.7
Inner and outer regional	36.8
Remote and very remote	2.5*
<b>Indigenous status</b>	
Indigenous	2.3*
Not Indigenous	97.7
<b>Disability status (including impairment or long-term condition)</b>	
With a disability	13.1
Without a disability	86.9
<b>Speak a language other than English at home</b>	
Other language	18.7
English	81.3
<b>Highest qualification before training</b>	
Diploma or higher	27.6
Certificate III/IV	24.1
Year 12	25.9
Year 11/certificate I/II	10.5
Year 10 and below	11.3
<b>Current employment status<sup>1</sup></b>	
Employed	67.5
Part-time	37.9
Full-time	29.1
Not employed	32.5
Actively looking for work	16.7
Not actively looking for work	15.7
<b>Current living arrangement</b>	
Living alone	9.7
Living with friends or in a share house	8.1
Living with parents or guardians	30.9
Living with a partner or children	49.8
Other	1.5*
<b>Full-time students, aged 25 years and under</b>	
With no post-school qualification	8.1
With parent/guardian with a post-school qualification	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 8 Training characteristics of those who intend to complete subject(s) only at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete subject(s) only
<b>Qualification level</b>	
Diploma or higher	18.4
Certificate IV	22.9
Certificate III	24.5
Certificate II	26.2
Certificate I	7.9
<b>Field of education</b>	
Natural and physical sciences	0.8*
Information technology	2.5*
Engineering and related technologies	18.8
Architecture and building	4.7
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	4.7
Health	4.5
Education	2.2*
Management and commerce	17.9
Society and culture	7.0
Creative arts	13.2
Food, hospitality and personal services	6.2
Mixed field programs	17.4
<b>Apprenticeship/traineeship status</b>	
Training part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	12.1
Training not part of an apprenticeship or traineeship	87.9
<b>Institute type<sup>3</sup></b>	
TAFE	91.4
Private provider	8.6
<b>Number of subjects enrolled in</b>	
Enrolled in 3 or more subjects	53.7
Enrolled in 2 subjects	18.7
Enrolled in 1 subject only	27.6
<b>Training delivery</b>	
Classes at the training provider	76.9
Classes at the workplace	6.9
Classes at the training provider and the workplace	6.3
External study or self-paced learning	8.5
Other	1.4
<b>Training status four months after commencement</b>	
Still in training	46.5
Completed the course	4.4
Left without completing the course	46.7
Did not start the training	2.4*
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.



**Table 9 Knowledge of the training<sup>4</sup> by training intention at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
Chose the right course of study for me	91.5	88.6
Understood time and effort involved in the training	86.6	84.5
Easy to find information about the training	86.8	82.0
Clear idea of the career I wanted when I chose the training	81.6	75.4

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 10 Attitudes towards the training<sup>4</sup> by training intention at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
Confident in my ability to complete the training	96.5	94.8
Friends and family encourage me to complete the training	87.5	75.6
Completing the training does not fit in with my family and other commitments	19.6	23.5
Undertaking the training is financially challenging	38.2	30.2
Completing the training will be personally rewarding	94.9	92.9
Need to complete the training to get into the kind of job I want	79.5	63.0
Need to complete training to get into the further study I want to do	70.7	51.4
Training relevant to occupation I want to work in	90.4	79.9
The training is highly valued amongst employers	88.2	81.7

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 11 Attitudes towards VET<sup>4</sup> by training intention at time of enrolment, 2011 (%)**

	Intend to complete the course	Intend to complete subject(s) only
VET can be used as a stepping stone to other types of study or training	97.6	97.4
VET qualifications are recognised around Australia	92.3	91.9
VET qualifications are as highly regarded as university degrees	50.2	46.5
I understand what I need to do to get a VET qualification	89.4	83.4
It is better to complete a whole course than only part of the course	89.2	72.6
When it comes to VET, gaining skills is more important than gaining a qualification	60.9	64.8

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

**Table 12** Number of respondents and proportion of estimated population by personal characteristics, 2011 (%)

	Respondents	Proportion of estimated population
	n	%
Age		
15 to 19 years	4 073	32.3
20 to 24 years	1 868	18.5
25 to 44 years	3 261	34.2
45 to 64 years	1 588	14.1
65 years and over	83	0.8
Female	5 810	53.3
Indigenous	259	2.9
With a disability	1 082	12.1
Speak a language other than English at home	1 551	19.5
From remote/very remote areas	105	1.4
Highest qualification before training		
Diploma or higher	1 664	17.5
Certificate III/IV	2 438	23.7
Year 12	3 855	34.1
Year 11/certificate I/II	1 237	9.9
Year 10 and below	1 602	14.1
Full-time students, aged 25 years and under		
With no post-school qualification	1 930	16.6
With parent/guardian with a post-school qualification	2 677	25.1
<b>Total respondents (n)</b>	<b>10 873</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Estimated population (N)</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>210 070</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 17.

## Terms

For more information, please see Terms and definitions, and other supporting documents at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2425.html>.

**All enrolled students** are persons enrolled in a VET course commencing in February 2011.

**Completed the course** refers to a person who reported that they had finished the course and was no longer undertaking the training.

**Did not start the training** refers to a person who reported as having not started their training.

**Left without completing the course** refers to a person who reported that they started the training but since dropped out, withdrew or deferred, and may have completed subject(s) of the training.

**Still in training** refers to a person who reported as currently undertaking the training.

**TAFE** refers to technical and further education institutes, polytechnics and skills institutes.

**Training intention** refers to a person's intent to complete the training required to gain the qualification for the course or complete only some subject(s) of the course.

**VET** refers to vocational education and training.

**VET qualifications** refers to qualifications that are delivered by registered training organisations such as TAFE, private providers and vocational divisions of universities that are nationally recognised.

## Notes on tables

- \* The estimate has a relative standard error greater than 25% and therefore should be used with caution.
- \*\* NCVER does not report on estimates based on less than five respondents because the estimates are unreliable.
- 1 Excludes some respondents for whom employment status or employment hours were not known.
- 2 Excludes some respondents for whom training intention was not known.
- 3 Includes publicly funded activity in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory only.
- 4 Shown as the proportion of respondents who 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with each statement.



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