

2009

# OUTCOMES FROM THE PRODUCTIVITY PLACES PROGRAM

Australian vocational  
education & training statistics



Australian Government  
Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations



# Australian vocational education and training statistics

## Outcomes from the Productivity Places Program 2009

### Highlights

#### PPP graduates

- 23 692 students completed their training under the Productivity Places Program (PPP) during 2008.

#### Training

- 44.5% completed courses at certificate level II and 52.1% at certificate III.
- 71.8% of PPP graduates completed courses within four training packages. They were community services (26.7%), transport and logistics (19.2%), property services (14.3%) and retail services (11.6%).
- 45.3% of PPP graduates completed courses with an intended occupation of community and personal service workers.

#### Main reason for training

- 85.2% undertook the training for employment-related reasons, with 56.7% training to get a job and 16.5% training for a different career.

#### Employment

- 46.6% were employed after their training.
- Employment after training was highest (59.4%) for those completing courses in a community services training package.
- Employment after training was lowest (27.7%) for those completing courses in a telecommunications training package.

#### Further study

- 25.5% enrolled in further study after training.



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## Introduction

This publication presents information about the outcomes of students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) under the Productivity Places Program (PPP) during 2008. This is the first time a survey of PPP graduates has been conducted.

The Productivity Places Program is funded by the Australian Government. In 2008, the program was designed to raise the skill levels and employability of people who were not working but looking for work (job seekers), by funding training in areas of skill shortages. Funding was provided for training leading to nationally endorsed qualifications at certificate II, certificate III, certificate IV, and diploma level. The program commenced in April 2008 and was administered by the Australian Government.

In 2008, students could enrol in the program by applying through an Employment Services Provider, Australian Apprenticeship Centre, Australian Apprenticeships Access Provider, Community Development Employment Project, or directly to a registered training provider. Employers could also access the program for groups of employees who had been retrenched (under the Structural Adjustment Places component).

In making judgments about the effectiveness of the Productivity Places Program, it would be best to have a control group of similar people who did not take part in the program. Because PPP participants are purposefully selected no obvious control group exists. However, the Student Outcomes Survey has a ready-made comparison group in VET graduates who were not employed before their training (more precisely, who did not have a paid job at any time during the six months before training). Information on these graduates, derived from the 2009 Student Outcomes Survey and covering students who have an Australian address as their usual address and were awarded a qualification in 2008, is included in all tables to allow comparisons between the PPP and conventional VET graduates.

This publication presents the characteristics of PPP graduates and VET graduates not employed before training, what they have studied, employment outcomes, satisfaction with vocational education and training, and further study patterns.

## Scope

The Productivity Places Program Survey covered graduates who were awarded a qualification in 2008 with funding from the Productivity Places Program. In 2008, all PPP graduates were job seekers. A job seeker is a person aged 15 years or over who is not currently working but is seeking or intending to seek paid employment or self-employment after completing the qualification.

The Student Outcomes Survey is an annual survey that covers students who have an Australian address as their usual address and are awarded a qualification (VET graduates), or who successfully complete part of a course and then leave the VET system (module completers). Students who undertake recreational, leisure or personal enrichment (short) courses are excluded.

For information about the number of survey respondents and their characteristics, see tables 1 and 2.

## Technical notes

The Productivity Places Program Survey and Student Outcomes Survey were undertaken as stratified, randomly selected samples. The Productivity Places Program Information Management System (PIMS) was used as the sampling frame for the Productivity Places Program Survey. The National VET Provider Collection was used as the sampling frame for the Student Outcomes Survey. Survey responses were weighted to population benchmarks from the respective collections. Both surveys used the 2009 Student Outcomes Survey questionnaire.

As survey estimates are based on information provided by a sample rather than a population, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the estimates that would have been produced if all students had been included and responded to the survey.

For further technical details on the Productivity Places Program Survey, please refer to Technical notes (<<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2220.html>>). For further technical details on the Student Outcomes Survey, please refer to the survey Technical notes (<<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2180.html>>).

## More information

For additional data tables on PPP graduate outcomes, please refer to <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2220.html>>. These data tables include outcome information classified by a greater range of student characteristics. These tables contain the absolute number of responses and the estimated population. Confidence intervals are provided for key tables.

## Personal characteristics

- 23 692 students completed their training with funding from the Productivity Places Program during 2008. *Table 1*
- Compared with VET graduates not employed before training, a higher proportion of PPP graduates:
  - were aged 25 years or older (78.8% compared with 48.6%) *Table 1*
  - had a disability (20.7% compared with 16.0%) *Table 1*
  - spoke a language other than English at home (34.3% compared with 26.8%). *Table 1*

## Training characteristics

- 96.6% of PPP graduates completed courses at certificate levels II and III. *Table 2*
- 67.6% of VET graduates not employed before training completed courses at certificate levels II and III. *Table 2*
- 71.8% of PPP graduates completed courses within four training packages. They were community services (26.7%), transport and logistics (19.2%), property services (14.3%) and retail services (11.6%). *Table 2*

## Reasons for training

- 85.2% of PPP graduates undertook their training for employment-related reasons, with 56.7% training to get a job and 16.5% training for a different career. *Table 4*
- 65.8% of VET graduates not employed before training undertook their training for employment-related reasons, with 35.9% training to get a job and 8.4% training for a different career. *Table 4*

## Employment outcomes

- 46.6% of PPP graduates were employed after training compared with 42.7% of VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 3*
- Employment outcomes were better for PPP graduates who applied directly to an approved training provider—self-referred (51.5%)—compared with those referred by an employment service provider (42.5%). *Table 5*
- PPP graduates completing courses at certificate III and above had higher levels of employment after training than those completing certificate II (at 57.2% for certificate IV and above, 49.5% for certificate III, and 41.8% for certificate II). *Table 6*
- The proportion of PPP graduates employed after training was highest for those completing courses within a community services training package (59.4%), and training and assessment (58.9%), followed by property services (55.0%). *Table 6*
- The proportion of PPP graduates employed after training was lowest for those completing courses within a telecommunications training package (27.7%), followed by those in retail services, and tourism, hospitality and events (both at 34.8%). *Table 6*

## Intended occupation

- PPP graduates completing courses with an intended occupation of personal carers and assistants had better employment outcomes after training than any other group (with 64.6% employed after training). *Table 7a*
- 19.7% of PPP graduates were employed in the same occupation group as their training course. The match was highest for those training as personal carers and assistants at 44.7%. *Table 7a*
- 18.6% of VET graduates not employed before training were employed in the same occupation group as their training course. The match was 38.6% for personal carers and assistants. *Table 7b*

## Satisfaction and training relevance

- 88.0% of PPP graduates were satisfied with the overall quality of their training, compared with 89.8% for VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 5*
- 65.8% of PPP graduates reported achieving their main reason for undertaking the training, compared with 79.6% for VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 5*
- 71.6% of PPP graduates employed after training reported that the training was relevant to their current job, compared with 74.2% of VET graduates not employed before training. *Tables 3 and 4 (available online)*

## Further study outcomes

- 25.5% of PPP graduates were enrolled in further study after training compared with 39.2% of VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 3*

## Recognition of prior learning

- 38.8% of PPP graduates had prior experience and skills related to the training they undertook, compared with 42.9% for VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 8*
- 9.1% of PPP graduates had their training shortened based on prior experience and skills compared with 13.4% for VET graduates not employed before training. *Table 8*



## Tables

**Table 1 Number of respondents and estimated population of PPP and VET graduates not employed before training, by personal characteristics<sup>1</sup>, 2009**

Personal characteristics	Respondents		Proportion of estimated population	
	PPP graduates <i>n</i>	VET graduates not employed before training <i>n</i>	PPP graduates %	VET graduates not employed before training %
Age:				
• 15–19 years	289	4 025	6.7	30.4
• 20–24 years	387	2 141	14.5	21.0
• 25–44 years	1 426	3 596	48.2	30.3
• 45 years and over	1 549	2 659	30.6	18.3
Female	2 025	7 609	53.3	55.5
Indigenous	124	506	3.2	4.0
With a disability	828	1 965	20.7	16.0
Speak a language other than English at home	1 045	3 192	34.3	26.8
From remote/very remote areas	43	531	1.2	3.2
Method of referral				
• Employment Service Provider (ESP)	1 970	na	51.9	na
• Directly to a registered training provider (self-referral)	1 651	na	47.4	na
• Australian Apprenticeships Access Provider	14	na	0.3	na
• Structural Adjustment Places	16	na	0.4	na
• Australian Apprenticeships Centre	0	na	0.0	na
• Community Development Employment Project	0	na	0.0	na
Highest qualification before training:				
• Diploma and above	680	1 913	18.1	14.4
• Certificate IV	175	521	4.5	3.8
• Certificate III	476	1 144	14.0	9.1
• Certificate I/II	545	1 833	14.6	14.7
• Senior secondary <sup>2</sup>	533	2 822	15.1	23.1
• Miscellaneous education <sup>3</sup>	1 103	3 978	29.9	31.9
• Unknown	139	242	3.9	2.9
<b>Total respondents (n)</b>	<b>3 651</b>	<b>12 453</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Estimated population (N)</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>23 692</b>	<b>121 320</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 2 Number of respondents and estimated population of PPP and VET graduates not employed before training, by training characteristics<sup>1</sup>, 2009**

Training characteristics	Respondents		Proportion of estimated population	
	PPP graduates	VET graduates not employed before training	PPP graduates	VET graduates not employed before training
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	%	%
<b>Qualification</b>				
Diploma and above	8	1 241	0.2	9.7
Certificate IV	276	1 465	3.2	10.5
Certificate III	1 722	4 410	52.1	34.9
Certificate II	1 644	3 800	44.5	32.7
<b>Training package<sup>4</sup></b>				
Asset Maintenance	181	60	5.0	0.5
Business Services	118	1 460	2.0	11.6
Community Services	817	1 315	26.7	9.9
Financial Services	208	399	5.2	3.0
Property Services	576	128	14.3	0.9
Retail Services	479	449	11.6	3.4
Telecommunications	92	28	2.8	0.3
Tourism, Hospitality and Events	151	1 172	3.7	10.8
Training and Assessment	244	123	2.6	0.7
Transport and Logistics	520	143	19.2	1.4
Other training package	264	4 451	6.9	35.7
<b>Intended occupation of training activity</b>				
Managers and professionals	256	1 831	3.1	15.5
Technicians and trades workers	55	2 018	1.3	20.7
Community and personal service workers	1 561	2 836	45.3	24.4
• Carers and aids	788	1 114	25.8	8.9
o Child carers	226	293	9.1	2.5
o Personal carers and assistants	562	730	16.7	5.8
• Protective service workers	576	118	14.3	1.0
o Prison and security officers	576	95	14.3	0.8
• Other community and personal service workers	197	1 604	5.3	14.5
Clerical and administrative workers	420	2 352	9.9	20.8
• Inquiry clerks and receptionists	211	131	4.8	1.4
• Numerical clerks	204	257	5.0	2.3
Sales workers	479	525	11.6	4.8
Machinery operators and drivers	591	216	21.2	2.1
• Road and rail drivers	186	49	7.0	0.5
o Delivery drivers	186	47	7.0	0.5
• Storepersons	333	75	12.2	0.8
• Other machinery operators and drivers	72	92	2.0	0.8
Labourers	288	1 263	7.6	11.6
<b>Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>263</b>	<b>2 450</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>Total respondents (n)</b>	<b>3 651</b>	<b>12 453</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Estimated population (N)</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>23 692</b>	<b>121 320</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 3 Employment and further study outcomes, 2009 (%)**

<b>Employment and further study outcomes</b>	<b>PPP graduates</b>	<b>VET graduates not employed before training</b>
Employed after training	46.6	42.7
Not employed after training <sup>6</sup>	53.4	57.3
• Unemployed	39.1	27.3
• Not in the labour force	12.0	29.0
Employed or in further study after training <sup>5</sup>	60.8	67.8
Enrolled in further study after training <sup>5</sup>	25.5	39.2
• Studying at university	2.4	6.4
• Studying at TAFE institute	8.3	24.2
• Studying at private provider or other registered provider	14.2	8.4

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 4 Main reason for undertaking the training, 2009 (%)**

<b>Main reason for undertaking the training</b>	<b>PPP graduates</b>	<b>VET graduates not employed before training</b>
Employment-related outcome	85.2	65.8
• Get a job	56.7	35.9
• Try for a different career	16.5	8.4
• Get a better job or promotion	4.0	2.3
• Develop an existing business or start own business	1.8	3.9
• A requirement of my job	1.6	9.7
• Gain extra skills for current job	4.6	5.5
Further study outcome	2.0	7.0
Personal development outcome	12.8	27.2

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 5 Findings for PPP graduates and VET graduates not employed before training by various personal characteristics, 2009 (%)**

	PPP graduates				VET graduates not employed before training			
	Employed after training	Employed or in further study	Achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfaction with the training	Employed after training	Employed or in further study <sup>5</sup>	Achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfaction with the training
<b>Age</b>								
15–19 years	42.0	59.9	74.1	93.1	44.7	69.9	82.6	90.9
20–24 years	48.6	63.7	68.3	89.9	54.8	77.7	82.6	89.1
25–44 years	48.0	62.3	67.4	86.8	40.2	64.9	75.6	89.3
45 years and over	44.2	57.3	60.3	87.8	30.0	56.5	78.4	89.8
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	43.4	58.3	61.5	86.2	45.5	69.0	80.3	89.7
Female	49.3	63.0	69.6	89.5	40.4	66.8	79.1	89.9
<b>Indigenous status</b>								
Indigenous	29.0	48.6	67.5	90.2	35.7	62.0	82.7	94.1
Not Indigenous	46.9	61.1	65.4	87.9	43.0	68.1	79.4	89.6
<b>Disability status</b>								
With a disability	31.8	47.0	59.5	83.8	26.0	57.6	74.5	87.6
Without a disability	50.4	64.5	67.3	89.0	45.8	69.7	80.6	90.1
<b>Main language spoken at home</b>								
Speak a language other than English	42.7	59.4	63.3	87.0	32.1	61.9	76.3	89.9
English only	48.1	61.2	66.7	88.4	46.8	70.1	80.8	89.8
<b>Method of referral</b>								
Employment Service Provider	42.5	56.7	63.7	87.9	na	na	na	na
Self	51.5	65.5	68.8	88.2	na	na	na	na
<b>Highest level of prior educational attainment</b>								
Diploma and above	50.6	65.6	67.6	86.8	34.1	63.3	76.6	89.6
Certificate IV	60.1	69.7	60.8	84.9	42.5	74.7	76.0	87.9
Certificate III	51.5	66.9	70.6	87.8	40.9	68.6	75.4	90.3
Certificate I/II	46.4	61.4	65.9	85.4	42.1	67.2	79.0	89.7
Senior secondary <sup>2</sup>	44.5	56.7	65.6	91.0	50.7	72.6	80.6	89.5
Miscellaneous education <sup>3</sup>	40.0	55.5	62.9	88.6	41.4	65.7	82.2	90.1
Unknown	57.4	62.1	69.0	91.8	44.5	66.9	79.5	92.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>89.8</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 6 Findings for PPP graduates and VET graduates not employed before training by various training characteristics, 2009 (%)**

	PPP graduates				VET graduates not employed before training			
	Employed after training	Employed or in further study	Achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfaction with the training	Employed after training	Employed or in further study <sup>5</sup>	Achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfaction with the training
<b>Training package<sup>4</sup></b>								
Asset Maintenance	49.1	57.1	57.4	92.1	55.3	65.3	72.6	91.9
Business Services	40.0	61.5	62.7	83.6	42.7	68.1	73.8	89.0
Community Services	59.4	68.5	78.7	91.2	55.7	75.0	83.2	90.7
Financial Services	42.0	61.6	56.7	79.9	27.2	71.7	54.3	88.2
Property Services	55.0	68.9	66.2	89.1	51.0	69.7	72.1	90.3
Retail Services	34.8	52.5	59.1	90.6	54.3	67.9	78.8	91.8
Telecommunications	27.7	48.0	68.0	80.4	63.0	76.5	90.9	94.1
Tourism, Hospitality and Events	34.8	54.3	67.2	87.7	41.1	63.2	79.4	91.1
Training and Assessment	58.9	78.0	57.6	87.7	45.1	74.8	67.9	88.0
Transport and Logistics	36.1	50.6	59.8	85.8	47.9	62.5	68.6	92.2
Other training package	42.9	62.0	58.9	82.1	46.3	69.1	82.7	89.3
<b>Qualification</b>								
Certificate IV and above	57.2	72.7	60.1	87.8	41.7	72.9	73.6	88.8
Certificate III	49.5	61.4	68.9	89.0	55.8	74.4	83.8	89.5
Certificate II	41.8	58.9	62.5	86.7	35.9	62.0	78.2	90.6
<b>Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship<sup>5</sup></b>								
Yes	44.4	59.5	72.8	86.6	69.5	80.2	91.0	89.0
No	46.7	60.8	65.4	88.1	35.7	64.3	76.3	89.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>89.8</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 7a Occupational destination and training relevance for PPP graduates by intended occupation of training activity, 2009 (%)**

PPP graduates	Employed				Total employed <sup>8</sup>	Not employed <sup>6</sup>	Total
	In same occupation group <sup>7</sup> (as training course)	In different occupation (to training course)—training was relevant to current job	In different occupation (to training course)—training was not relevant to current job	Occupation after training not known			
Intended occupation of training activity <sup>7</sup>							
Managers and professionals (1, 2)	8.1	33.4	18.0	**	59.9	40.1	100.0
Technicians and trades workers (3)	18.6*	**	15.0*	**	46.9	53.1	100.0
Community and personal service workers (4)	33.6	9.5	10.7	1.9	55.7	44.3	100.0
• Carers and aids (42)	41.7	8.4	7.9	2.2*	60.3	39.7	100.0
o Child carers (421)	32.5	8.7*	9.3*	**	52.1	47.9	100.0
o Personal carers and assistants (423)	44.7	10.0	7.4	2.5*	64.6	35.4	100.0
• Protective service workers (44)	28.8	9.9	14.7	1.6*	55.0	45.0	100.0
o Prison and security officers (442)	28.8	9.9	14.7	1.6*	55.0	45.0	100.0
• Other community and personal service workers	6.1*	13.6	13.7	**	35.6	64.4	100.0
Clerical and administrative workers (5)	3.4*	16.6	14.6	1.6*	36.7	63.3	100.0
• Inquiry clerks and receptionists (54)	3.2*	18.2	7.5	**	31.8	68.2	100.0
• Numerical clerks (55)	3.6*	14.8	22.1	**	41.8	58.2	100.0
Sales workers (6)	9.9	14.6	9.2	1.1*	34.8	65.2	100.0
Machinery operators and drivers (7)	5.4	17.1	14.0	1.5*	38.2	61.8	100.0
• Road and rail drivers (73)	9.7*	20.5	11.2	**	43.6	56.4	100.0
o Delivery drivers (732)	2.4*	25.0	14.2	**	43.6	56.4	100.0
• Storepersons (74)	2.6*	13.2	14.4	1.8*	31.9	68.1	100.0
• Other machinery operators and drivers	**	28.1*	20.6*	0.0	56.4	43.6	100.0
Labourers (8)	20.6	11.0	6.8*	3.5*	41.9	58.1	100.0
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 7b Occupational destination and training relevance for VET graduates<sup>2</sup> not employed before training, by intended occupation of training activity, 2009 (%)**

VET graduates not employed before training	Employed				Total employed <sup>8</sup>	Not employed <sup>6</sup>	Total
	In same occupation group <sup>7</sup> (as training course)	In different occupation (to training course)—training was relevant to current job	In different occupation (to training course)—training was not relevant to current job	Occupation after training not known			
Intended occupation of training activity <sup>7</sup>							
Managers and professionals (1, 2)	4.6	21.4	12.2	0.8*	39.0	61.0	100.0
Technicians and trades workers (3)	39.9	10.3	9.2	0.9*	60.4	39.6	100.0
Community and personal service workers (4)	25.3	12.2	9.5	1.3	48.3	51.7	100.0
• Carers and aids (42)	42.6	7.1	5.0	1.5*	56.2	43.8	100.0
o Child carers (421)	45.0	6.2*	5.1*	**	57.0	43.0	100.0
o Personal carers and assistants (423)	38.6	8.8	5.6	1.8*	54.8	45.2	100.0
• Protective service workers (44)	21.6	12.7*	10.4*	**	48.7	51.3	100.0
o Prison and security officers (442)	25.3	11.3*	12.3*	**	52.5	47.5	100.0
• Other community and personal service workers	15.0	15.4	12.1	0.9*	43.5	56.5	100.0
Clerical and administrative workers (5)	5.4	16.0	11.8	0.9	34.2	65.8	100.0
• Inquiry clerks and receptionists (54)	7.8*	13.1*	14.0	**	35.2	64.8	100.0
• Numerical clerks (55)	8.4	6.5*	10.4	**	25.4	74.6	100.0
Sales workers (6)	19.4	24.8	8.2	1.7*	54.1	45.9	100.0
Machinery operators and drivers (7)	10.9	16.3	10.2	**	38.4	61.6	100.0
• Road and rail drivers (73)	21.0*	18.8*	9.6*	0.0	49.4	50.6	100.0
o Delivery drivers (732)	**	37.9	10.0*	0.0	51.0	49.0	100.0
• Storepersons (74)	14.0*	18.3*	5.8*	**	39.8	60.2	100.0
• Other machinery operators and drivers	**	12.6*	15.0*	**	30.1	69.9	100.0
Labourers (8)	9.9	18.8	12.2	1.9	42.9	57.1	100.0
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For Notes on tables, see page 16.

**Table 8 Recognition of prior experience and skills for PPP graduates and VET graduates not employed before training<sup>5</sup>, 2009 (%)**

	PPP graduates	VET graduates not employed before training
<b>With prior experience and skills related to the training</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>42.9</b>
Training shortened	9.1	13.4
• Based on both prior study and previous experience and skills	4.9	5.7
• Based on prior study only	1.8	5.1
• Based on previous experience and skills only	2.4	2.6
Training not shortened	29.7	29.4
• Training provider did not offer to assess prior experience and skills	16.3	14.8
• Did not accept offer to have prior experience and skills assessed	6.3	7.2
• Experience and skills assessed but training not shortened	7.1	7.5
<b>No prior experience and skills related to the training</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>57.1</b>
Training provider offered to assess prior experience and skills	37.5	35.0
Training provider did not offer to assess prior experience and skills	23.7	22.2

For Notes on tables, see page 16.



## Terms

For more information, please see Technical notes, Terms and definitions and other supporting documents at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2220.html>.

**Apprentice or trainee** is a person who undertook a contract of training with an employer and a training provider.

**Intended occupation of training activity** is based on the occupation code of the qualification.

**Job seeker** refers to a person aged 15 years or over who is either:

- registered with an Employment Services Provider (ESP)
- an income support recipient who is not currently required to meet activity test or participation requirements
- a participant in a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme
- a participant in the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program
- not currently working but is seeking or intending to seek paid employment or self-employment after completing the qualification.

**Method of referral** refers to the way a student enrolled in training under the Productivity Places Program. In 2008, students could enrol in the program:

- through an Employment Services Provider (ESP)
- through an Australian Apprenticeship Centre
- through an Australian Apprenticeships Access Provider
- through a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme
- directly to a registered training provider (self-referral).

Employers could also access Structural Adjustment Places for groups of employees who had been retrenched.

**Occupation** is defined by the Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO 2006). This is an Australian Bureau of Statistics classification that identifies occupations according to their primary purpose. Occupation is defined based on survey responses.

**PPP graduate** refers to students who are reported as completing all requirements for a qualification and whose training was funded by the Commonwealth Productivity Places Program. PPP graduates were all job seekers at the time of enrolment.

**Previous experience and skills** refers to relevant job or life experience that was gained before enrolling in the training.

**Prior study** refers to relevant study at university, TAFE, private provider, secondary school or elsewhere that was undertaken before enrolling in the training.

**Productivity Places Program** refers to funding by the Commonwealth under the Skilling Australia for the Future initiative, which provides training places in areas of skills shortage.

**'Satisfied with the overall quality of training'** means that the respondent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' on a 5-point scale with the statement: 'Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of the training'.

**Structural Adjustment Places** refers to training that is specifically available for groups of workers who have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn. The places can be accessed by employers or employees' representatives (e.g. business associations and unions).

**VET graduate not employed before training** refers to students surveyed as part of the 2009 Student Outcomes Survey who are reported as completing all requirements for a qualification or students who self-identify as having completed all requirements, and did not have a paid job at any time during the six months before training.

## 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.
- na Not applicable
- 1 Information on the actual population of PPP graduates is shown for sex, method of referral, and qualification. The remaining figures are derived from survey responses and represent the estimated population of PPP graduates.
- 2 Comprises Years 11 and 12.
- 3 Includes statement of attainment, certificates of competency, pre-vocational training and secondary schooling up to and including Year 10.
- 4 The most common training packages associated with the Productivity Places Program are listed. Remaining training packages have been grouped into the 'Other training package' category.
- 5 These questions are not asked of VET graduates from community education providers. Therefore, the percentage reported represents the proportion of VET graduates excluding those from community education providers.
- 6 'Not employed' is defined as unemployed (looking for full-time or part-time work), not in the labour force, or not employed (no further information).
- 7 Occupation is defined by the Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO 2006). This is an Australian Bureau of Statistics classification that identifies occupations according to their primary purpose. Matching between the intended occupation of the training activity and the occupation after training occurs at the ANZSCO sub-major group level for occupations at the major and sub-major group level, and at the ANZSCO minor group level for occupations at the minor group level.
- 8 Totals include instances where training relevance is not known.
- 9 Totals exclude a small number of students with an unknown intended ANZSCO. As a result, figures for 'Total employed' and 'Not employed' differ from those contained within other tables where the base is all graduates. For VET graduates, totals also exclude graduates from community education providers (for whom occupation after training is not captured).



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