

What are the differences between total VET and government-funded student outcomes?

The National Student Outcomes Survey is undertaken as a stratified, randomly selected sample from the National VET Provider Collection. In 2016, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) will release two publications containing data from the National Student Outcomes Survey:

- *Government-funded student outcomes (original publication)*
- *Total VET graduate outcomes (new publication).*

There are distinct differences in the data reported in these two publications.

Government-funded student outcomes

Government-funded student outcomes provides information on the outcomes of students who completed government-funded vocational education and training (VET) in Australia, broadly defined as all activity delivered by government providers and government-funded activity delivered by community education and private training providers (see scope matrix below).

This publication presents data on the outcomes of government-funded graduates and those who successfully completed part of a course and then left the VET system (subject completers). Time-series information is available.

Scope matrix Government-funded student outcomes

	TAFE and other government providers ¹	Community education providers	Private training providers
Commonwealth and state funding	✓	✓	✓
Domestic fee-for-service	✓	✗	✗
International fee-for-service	✗	✗	✗

Note: 1 In the Government-funded student outcomes publication, universities are reported as 'TAFE and other government providers'.

Total VET graduate outcomes

Total VET graduate outcomes provides information on the outcomes of graduates who completed their VET in Australia. For the first time, this publication reports the outcomes of all graduates – those in receipt of Commonwealth or state funding as well as those who paid for their training (see scope matrix below). The mandatory reporting of nationally recognised training activity to the National VET Provider Collection provided a sampling frame to expand the scope of the National Student Outcomes Survey to include fee-for-service graduates from private training and community education providers. Fee-for-service graduates are those who paid for the training or whose employer paid for the training.

Scope matrix Total VET graduate outcomes

	TAFE	University	Community education provider	Private training provider
Commonwealth and state funding	✓	✓	✓	✓
Domestic fee-for-service	✓	✓	✓	✓
International fee-for-service	✗	✗	✗	✗

As this is the first year of the broader scoped survey, information on total VET graduate outcomes is only available for 2016.

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The expansion of the survey in 2016 was undertaken as a trial involving graduates only but with the possibility of expanding the survey to include all subject completers in future years if the trial was successful. An evaluation of this trial was conducted in late 2016 to determine the feasibility of sourcing contact details and the quality of the resulting survey data for fee-for-service students at private training and community education providers. Findings suggest it is possible to broaden the scope of the survey to include all graduates and subject completers.

How do these publications differ?

There are distinct differences between the data reported in the two publications, as described below.

Table 1 Key differences between the government-funded student outcomes publication and the total VET graduate outcomes publication

	Government-funded student outcomes	Total VET graduate outcomes
Scope	<p>Students who completed training in Australia's government-funded VET system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth and state government-funded training delivered by TAFE institutes, other government providers, community education and private training providers fee-for-service training delivered by TAFE institutes and other government providers. <p>It does not include students who completed fee-for-service training delivered by community education and private training providers.</p>	<p>Graduates who completed their VET in Australia and were awarded a qualification, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth or state funded training fee-for-service training.
Students groups	<p>Includes subject completers and graduates, with graduates defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students who completed all the requirements for a qualification self-reported graduates – students selected as subject completers who self-reported completing a qualification and were determined as eligible for that qualification (via a logistic model). <p>For more information refer to the Technical notes supporting documentation which can be found at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2891.html>.</p>	<p>Includes graduates only, defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students who completed all the requirements for a qualification.
State or territory	The state or territory that administered the funding of that training.	The state or territory in which the student usually resides.
Provider type	<p>Provider type is determined using a matrix developed by NCVER— in consultation with the state training authorities in each jurisdiction — to determine how different types of training providers are reported in each state and territory.</p> <p>Provider type is based on a combination of the submitter identifier and the training organisation type identifier reported to the National VET Provider Collection. For example, training delivered by a TAFE in its own jurisdiction is reported as being delivered by a TAFE. However, if the TAFE successfully competes for funding contracts in other jurisdictions, then any training delivery is reported as being delivered by 'private training provider' in that jurisdiction.</p>	Provider type is based on the 'training organisation type' data element, as defined in the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS).



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Notice of reporting scope change

The 2016 annual publication of *Government-funded student outcomes* will be the last time this publication is reported under the current scope. Commencing in 2017, the scope of the government-funded publication will be amended to exclude students who completed fee-for-service training at TAFE and other government providers in line with the change in scope to *Government-funded students and courses*.