

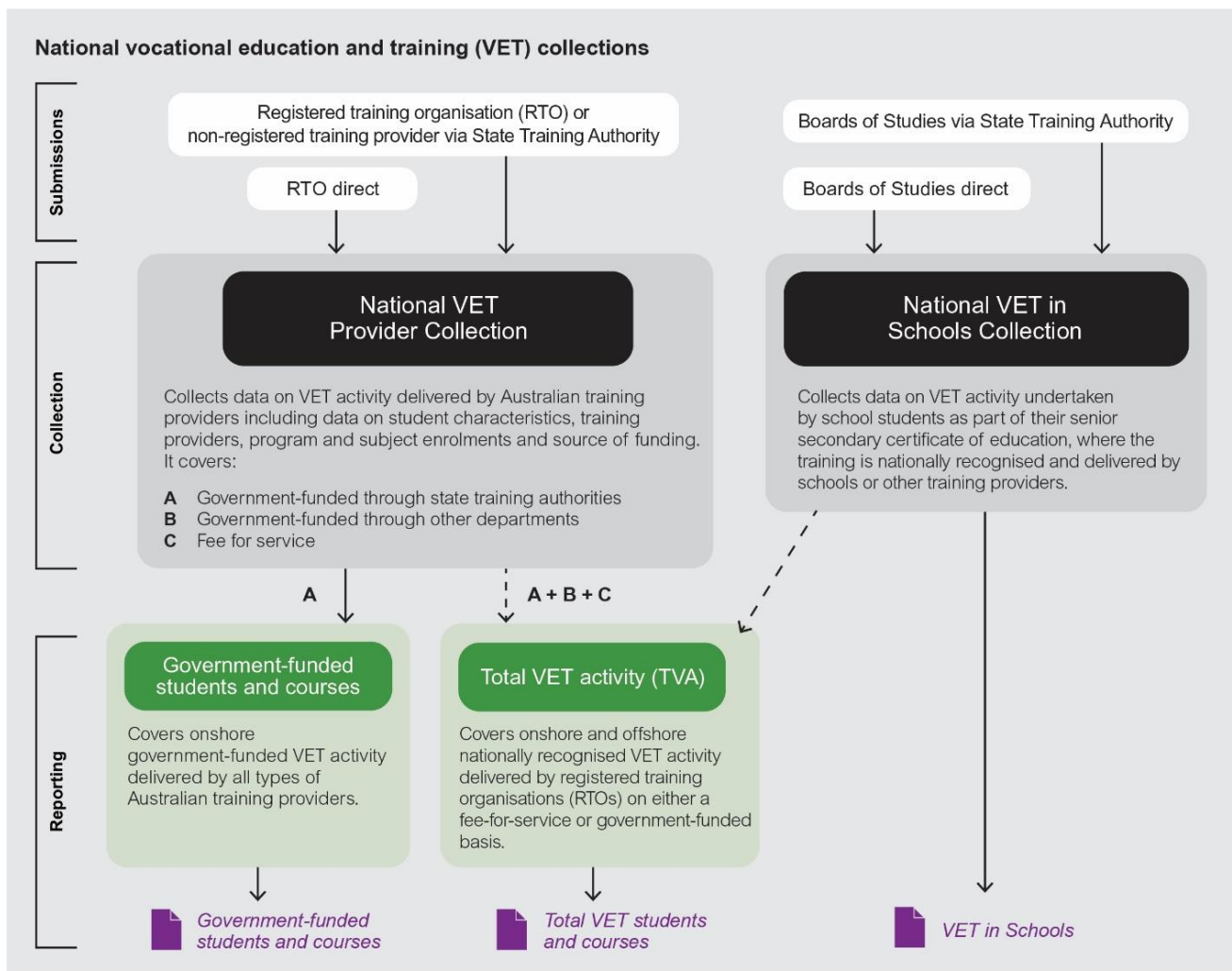


TVA FACT SHEET

De-duplication of training activity and student counts in ‘total VET activity’

Total VET activity (TVA) data are sourced from both the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. These collections are compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS).

The below diagram illustrates how TVA data are sourced and where duplicate training activity is removed.



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De-duplication of training activity

Since the introduction of total VET activity (TVA), the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has applied a process to identify and remove duplicate training activity where the same activity is reported for the same training provider in the same collection period via different data submitters.

When duplicate training activity is identified, the following hierarchy is applied such that only the training activity at the highest hierarchy level is reported:

- data submitted by a state training authority
- data submitted by a Board of Studies (or state training authority on behalf of a Board of Studies)
- data submitted directly to NCVER by a registered training organisation.

The results of the de-duplication process for subject enrolments are shown in table 1. The table shows the number of subject enrolments reported on data submission and the number after de-duplication of training activity. The last column shows the level of duplication. The table also shows the results of the de-duplication prior to total VET publication scope being applied (submitted data), and after total VET publication scope has been applied (published data). For further information on total VET publication scope, refer to the explanatory notes in the publication <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-students-and-courses>.

Table 1 De-duplication of subject enrolments, 2018

	Subject enrolments		
	Before de-duplication	After de-duplication	Duplication
Submitted data	30 019 200	29 127 200	892 000
Published data	27 508 500	26 677 500	831 000

Source: National VET Provider Collection, 2018, National VET in Schools Collection, 2018

Note: Submitted data has no publication scope applied, while published data has scope applied.

De-duplication of student counts

Vocational education and training (VET) by nature is diverse, spanning a wide range of learning engagements from full-time programs across multiple years, short 'skill set' programs, to single subject enrolments. Student participation can also be wide ranging, with some students receiving training from multiple training providers within the same year.

Prior to 2015, if a student was enrolled with more than one training provider during a collection period, it was possible for them to be counted more than once. From 1 January 2015, all new and continuing students undertaking nationally recognised VET in Australia are required to have a unique student identifier (USI) to receive a qualification or statement of attainment. The USI is a randomly generated alpha-numeric code recorded against any nationally recognised training undertaken and remains with an individual for life.

The implementation of the USI provides a mechanism with which to better estimate student counts by identifying and potentially removing duplicate student records. The NCVER has used a two-step process to de-duplicate student counts in *Total VET students and courses 2018*, which uses the USI where available and a count of distinct client identifiers within each submission for the residual data.

Table 2 shows the number of students with subject enrolments or program completions that were reported with a USI by submission pathway prior to total VET publication scope being applied.

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Table 2 The number of students with subject enrolments or program completions that were reported with a USI by submission pathway

Submission pathway	2015					2016					2017					2018				
	USI reported		USI missing		Total students	USI reported		USI missing		Total students	USI reported		USI missing		Total students	USI reported		USI missing		Total students
	('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)	('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)	('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)	('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)
State training authority	1 592.9	70.9	655.3	29.1	2 248.1	1 871.4	85.1	328.3	14.9	2 200.0	1 917.1	91.9	169.1	8.1	2 086.2	1 817.0	94.4	108.8	5.6	1 925.8
Boards of studies	102.1	48.1	110.2	51.9	212.3	126.0	60.1	83.7	39.9	209.7	118.2	60.6	76.9	39.4	195.1	118.6	63.7	67.5	36.3	186.1
Direct submitter	1 715.1	74.1	600.3	25.9	2 315.4	2 302.5	83.0	471.2	17.0	2 773.7	2 842.3	94.8	156.3	5.2	2 998.6	3 089.7	97.6	76.2	2.4	3 165.9
Total	3 410.1	71.4	1 365.7	28.6	4 775.8	4 300.0	83.0	883.2	17.0	5 183.1	4 877.6	92.4	402.3	7.6	5 279.9	5 025.3	95.2	252.5	4.8	5 277.7

Note: Includes all reported training activity. Does not take in to account training activity that is exempt from reporting a USI. No reporting scope has been applied to the figures in the table.

Data may be revised up or down in the following collection year

The total student number reported for Boards of studies is post deduplication of training activity and is therefore lower than the reported number of VET in Schools students.

Sources: National VET Provider Collection, 2015–18, National VET in Schools Collection, 2015–18.

Table 3 provides estimated student counts before and after the application of the two-step de-duplication process, and prior to the total VET publication scope being applied.

Table 3 Estimated student counts before and after application of the two-step de-duplication process

	Estimated students		
	Before de-duplication	After de-duplication	% deduplicated
2015	4 775 800	4 181 300	12.4
2016	5 183 100	4 338 000	16.3
2017	5 279 900	4 363 600	17.4
2018	5 277 700	4 241 300	19.6

Note: Includes all reported training activity. Does not take in to account training activity that is exempt from reporting a USI. No reporting scope has been applied to the figures in the table.

Sources: National VET Provider Collection, 2015–18, National VET in Schools Collection, 2015–18.

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Caution must be used when comparing year-on-year de-duplicated student counts and participation rates based on these estimated student counts, due to differing rates of duplication across reported variables (for example, age, state or territory of student residence), which in part could be due to varying rates of USI provision. It is worth noting, that although instances of missing USIs are decreasing over time, the number is unlikely to reach zero while valid exemptions exist. In addition, it is possible for students to have multiple USIs and although a mechanism exists to account for this in the USI Transcript Service, it can result in small numbers of duplication within the data.

The de-duplication process has been applied to estimated student counts in all Total VET students and courses 2018 data products and tools. It has, however, only been applied to a limited number of demographic variables and for this reason some data products and tools do not contain estimated student counts (for example, estimated student counts are not available in VOCSTATS).

It is also important to note that the information presented in the 'Atlas of total VET' data visualisation tool pertains to the student's usual residence, which is based on the statistical area level 2 (SA2). Using the SA2 of the student's usual residence as the basis of analysis means that there will be differences in training activity counts at the state or territory level from those published in *Total VET students and courses 2018*, where information is primarily reported on the state or territory of where the training was delivered.

For further information on the de-duplication of student counts in *Total VET students and courses 2018*, refer to the technical paper *Counting students in total VET students and courses*, available at https://www.ncver.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/796213/Technical-paper-Counting-students-in-Total-VET-students-and-courses.pdf.