

Australian vocational education and training statistics

# VET qualification completion rates 2019

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



## Highlights

This publication presents observed actual completion rates for nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) qualifications that commenced in 2015 and 2016. Completion rates are projected for qualifications that commenced more recently.

Completion rates for VET qualifications commencing in 2016, the latest year for which observed actual rates are available, were:

- 43.4% for all qualifications
- 44.2% for training package qualifications
- 36.9% for accredited qualifications
- 48.4% for qualifications at certificate IV
- 52.9% for students at enterprise providers
- 46.7% for government-funded qualifications undertaken by domestic students
- 35.8% for fee-for-service qualifications undertaken by domestic students
- 64.3% for fee-for-service qualifications undertaken by international students.

# Summary

## Completion rates

**Observed actual** completion rates are only reported for qualifications that commenced four years prior to the most recent data collection period, based on the assumption that enough time has passed for all students who were going to complete their qualification to have done so.

**Projected** completion rates are an estimate of the proportion of VET qualifications commenced in a given year that will eventually be completed. Rates for the three most recent years are projected, to account for students taking different lengths of time to complete their qualification. Projected completion rates become more accurate over the three years until they become observed actual rates in the fourth year.

## Observed actual completion rates

Completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications commencing in 2016 were:

- 43.4% for all qualifications
- 44.2% for training package qualifications
- 36.9% for accredited qualifications.

By level of education, completion rates were highest for certificate IV qualifications (48.4%) followed by certificate III (45.2%) and diploma or higher (45.2%).

By training provider type, completion rates were highest for students at enterprise providers (52.9%) followed by schools (46.8%).

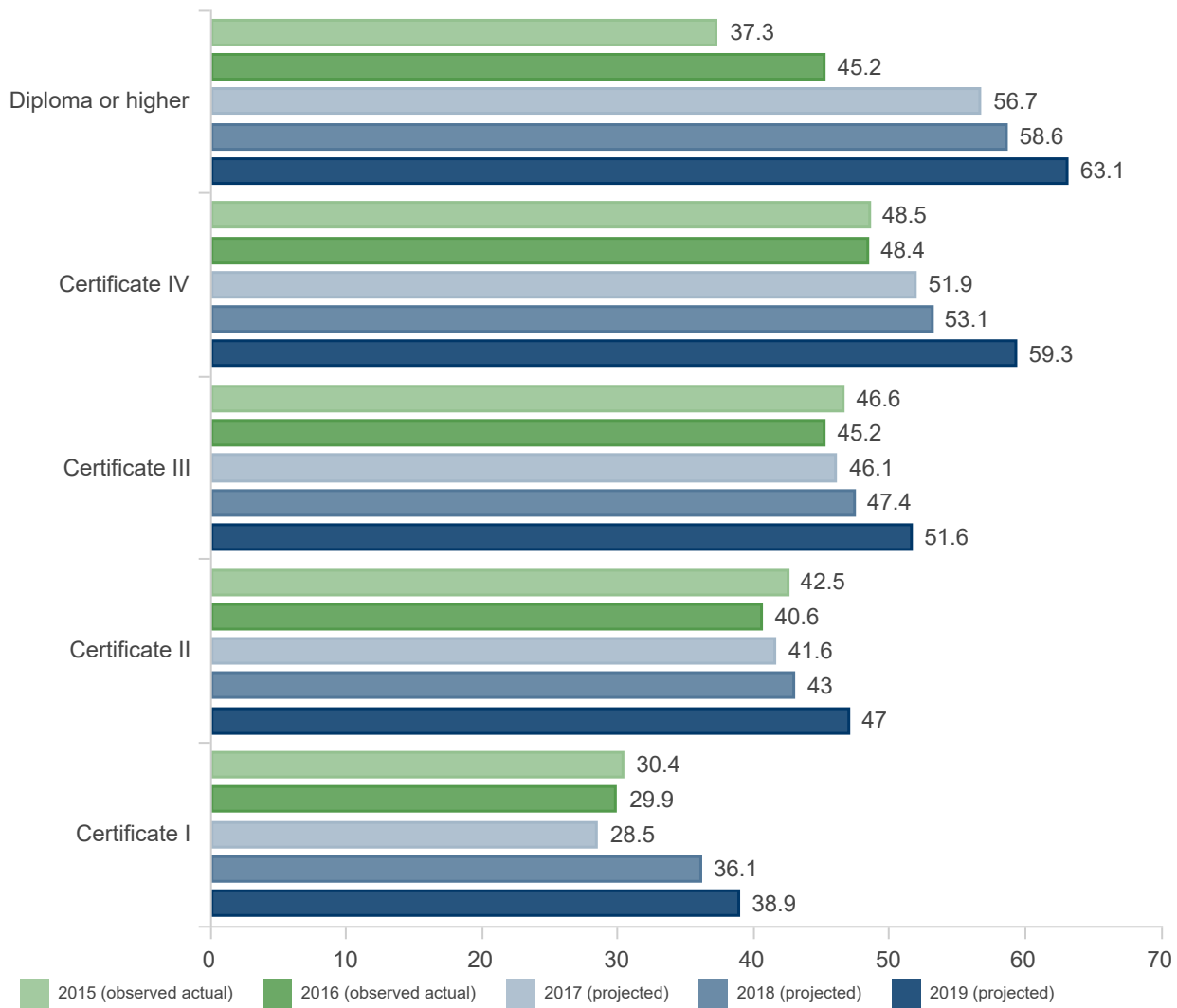
## Projected completion rates

The completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications that:

- commenced in 2017 is projected to be 46.0%
- commenced in 2018 is projected to be 48.2%
- commenced in 2019 is projected to be 52.9%.

Projected completion rates, particularly for qualifications commencing in 2019, are likely to be overstated due to the high proportion of continuing students in the forecast calculations. As time passes, projections come closer to observed actuals as more records reach their final state of “completed” or “discontinued”. Any trend analysis must be made with caution due to the preliminary nature of the most recently submitted data.

**Figure 1 Observed actual and projected completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications commencing in 2015 to 2019 by level of education (%)**



### Subject load pass rates

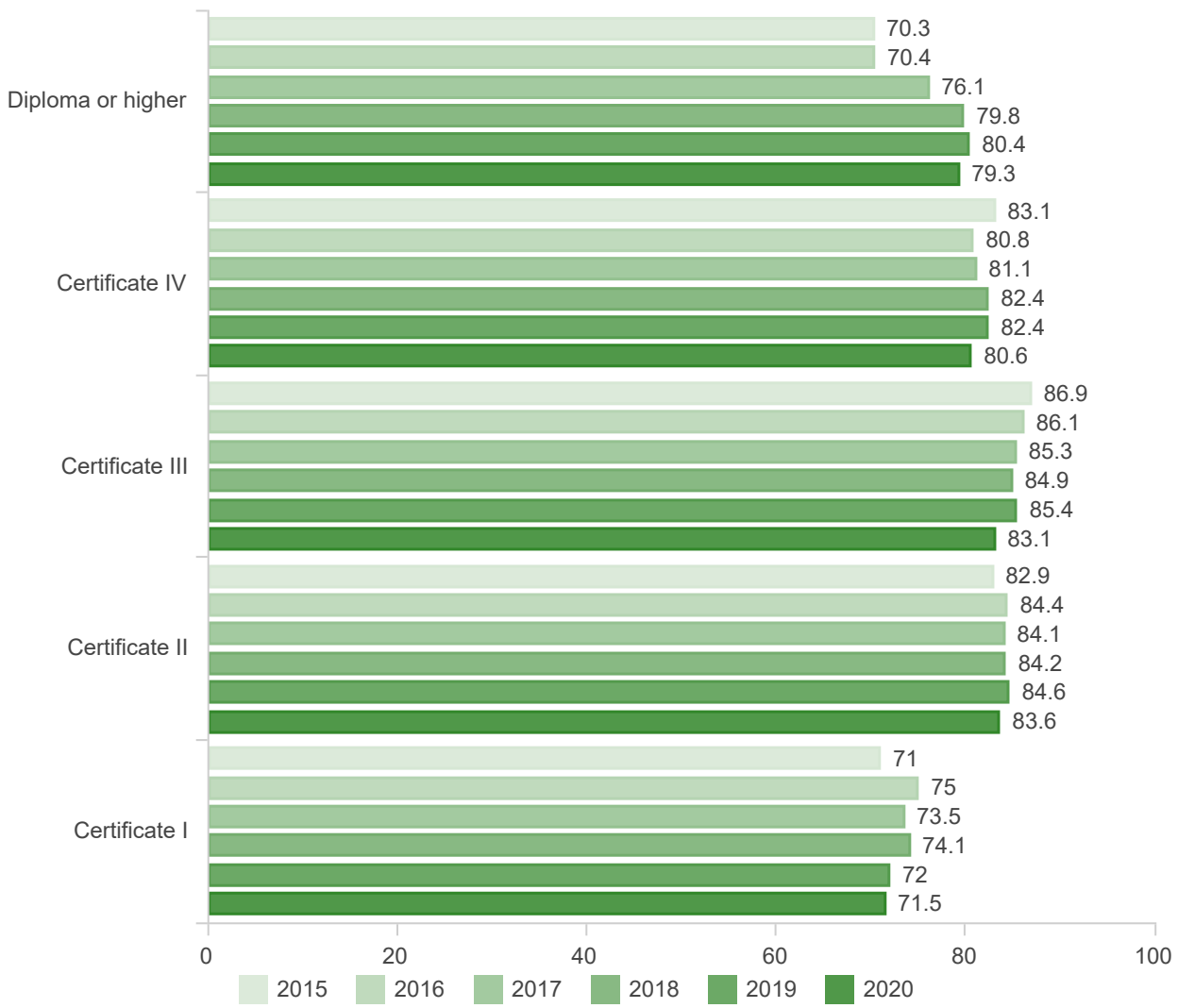
A VET qualification is made up of a number of subjects, also referred to as ‘modules’ or ‘units of competency’. The subject load pass rate is weighted to account for the fact that subjects are of different lengths. The calculation is based on the annual nominal hours (or full year training equivalent – FYTE) for each assessable module or unit of competency. A **subject load pass rate** is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

For qualifications in 2020, subject load pass rates were:

- 81.4% for all qualifications
- 82.3% for training package qualifications
- 68.9% for accredited qualifications.

By level of education, subject load pass rates were highest for certificate II qualifications (83.6%) followed by certificate III (83.1%) qualifications that commenced in 2020. Subject load pass rates have generally remained steady over the last six years for all qualification levels with the exception of diploma or higher level qualifications where rates increased by 9.0 percentage points between 2015 and 2020.

**Figure 2 Subject load pass rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications in 2015 to 2020 by level of education (%)**



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