



Total VET students and courses: terms and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This document was produced as an added resource for the Total VET students and courses publication and data tables sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. The publication and data tables are available at NCVER's Portal: <<http://www.ncver.edu.au>>.

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Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in the *Total VET students and courses* publication and related data tools. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand the specific data terms.

Terms that appear in the publication and data items are listed in alphabetical order with the following information provided for each:

- Definition: a brief explanation of the term
- Classification categories: where applicable, defined categories that apply to each term are listed
- Source: a description of the source of this information, including details of any calculations or derivations.

Unless stated otherwise, all data are sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. The National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection are administrative collections governed by the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard: VET Provider Collection Specifications Release 8.0 (AVETMISS Release 8.0) and AVETMISS Data Element Definitions Edition 2.3, which are available at: <www.ncver.edu.au>. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS Release 8.0, which further define the data collected, are provided in the 'Source' section.

Terms that have a broader vocational education and training application have not been included in this document. Readers are referred to the VET glossary, which is available at NCVET's Portal: <<https://www.voced.edu.au/glossary-vet>>.

Terms and definitions

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|--|--|---|---|
| Accredited courses | Refer to nationally recognised courses accredited by VET regulators. They are courses that result in a statement of attainment outcome. The title of such courses commences with the words 'Course in'. | N/A | Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition Identifier</i> and <i>program level of education</i> identifier from the Program file. |
| Accredited qualifications | Refer to nationally recognised courses that lead to a qualification outcome not specified in a national training package. | N/A | Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition Identifier</i> and <i>program level of education</i> identifier from the Program file. |
| Age | The age of the student as at 30 June of the collection year. It is generally reported in age ranges. | 14 years and under 15 to 19 years 20 to 24 years 25 to 44 years 45 to 64 years 65 years and over Not known | Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Date of Birth</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| Apprentice/trainee status | Indicates whether a student is undertaking some off-the-job training under an apprenticeship/traineeship training contract. | Apprentices and trainees (undertaking off-the-job training) Not apprentices and trainees | Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Client identifier – apprenticeships</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) | The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a geographical framework created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. | State SA4 SA3 SA2 | NCVER reports data under the ASGS Main Structure Calculated based on the AVETMISS fields of <i>Address location – suburb, locality or town</i> and <i>Postcode</i> and <i>State</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| Community education providers | Are not-for-profit, community-based organisations with a primary focus on adult education. Community-based adult education delivers courses relating to leisure, personal and community development, employment skills, preparation for VET and nationally recognised programs of study. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training Organisation</i> file |
| Delivery mode | Identifies whether or not a subject comprises internal, external or workplace-based delivery – or a combination of these modes. A new matrix of delivery type was introduced in AVETMISS Release 8. This represents a break-in-series for reporting. | Internal only External only Workplace-based only Combination of internal and external Combination of internal and workplace-based Combination of external and workplace-based Combination of all modes Not applicable (RPL or credit transfer) | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Delivery mode identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Disability (including impairment or long-term condition) | Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment or long-term condition.. | With a disability Without a disability Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Disability flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|--|--|---|--|
| Domestic fee-for-service funding | Revenue provided by a student whose citizenship status is Australian, New Zealand or permanent resident for the purpose of undertaking education and training. | N/A | Calculated from the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file for subject enrolments |
| English (main language spoken at home) | Whether the student speaks a language other than English at home. | Non-English English Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Language identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. Language identifier must be a valid 4-digit Australian Standard Classification of Languages code. |
| Enrolment (program/subject) | Is the registration of a student for the purpose of undertaking a program or subject. | N/A | Calculated based on the AVETMISS fields <i>Program Identifier</i> and <i>Client Identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Enterprise providers | Are registered training organisations whose primary business is not the delivery of training and development. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training Organisation</i> file |
| Field of education | Describes the broad area of study related to a qualification or subject in which a student is enrolled. | Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programs Not assigned | For subject enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject field of education identifier</i> from the <i>Subject</i> file. For program enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program field of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file This classification is based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), ABS catalogue no.1272.0, 2001. |
| Full-time students | Students whose program of study constitutes at least 75% of the normal full-time study load. The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) regarded a full-time study load as 720 contact hours in a year. Therefore, any student undertaking 540 hours or more is regarded as a full-time student. | N/A | The derived field <i>student full time flag</i> is calculated from the <i>Reporting hours</i> derived field. |
| Full year training equivalent (FYTE) | Measures the training activity undertaken by a student on a full-time basis for one year. | N/A | Derived field calculated based on <i>Reporting hours</i> (1 FYTE = 720 hours). |
| Gender | Whether the student identifies as male, female or other. Not known gender includes not specified responses as well as individuals who may have mixed or non-binary sexual characteristics; identify as gender diverse; or identify as neither male nor female. | Males Females Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Gender</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Government funding | Relates to Commonwealth and state/territory funded activity delivered by registered training providers (RTOs). | Commonwealth and state general purpose recurrent Commonwealth specific funding programs State specific funding program | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file for subject enrolments. |
| Indigenous status | Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. | Indigenous students Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Non-Indigenous Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Indigenous Status Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| International fee-for-service funding | Revenue provided by a client who holds a student visa or a temporary residency permit or who resides in an overseas country for the purpose of undertaking education and training. | International client – other revenue | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file for subject enrolments. |
| Labour force status | Describes a student's employment status. | Employed Unemployed Not in the labour force Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Labour force status identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| Locally developed programs | Include non-nationally recognised courses and skill sets developed to meet an identified training need. | Locally recognised skill sets Locally developed courses | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. |
| Nationally recognised program | Includes training package qualifications, accredited qualifications, training package skill sets and accredited courses that are listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). | Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package Nationally recognised accredited course, other than a qualification specified in a national training package Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. |
| Nationally recognised subject | Includes accredited units of competency or modules that are listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). | Module Unit of competency | Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Nationally recognised training (NRT) | Training that leads to vocational qualifications and credentials that are recognised across Australia, that are delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs). Nationally recognised training is listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). | Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package Nationally recognised accredited course, other than a qualification specified in a national training package Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package Module Unit of competency | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|--|--|---|---|
| Nominal hours | Are values assigned to a program or subject and nominally represents the anticipated hours of supervised training deemed necessary to conduct the training and assessment activities associated with the program or subject. | N/A | Sourced from the Victorian training package purchasing guides or collected in the <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file. Collected in the <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Program</i> file. |
| Non-nationally recognised training (non-NRT) | Includes locally developed courses, higher level qualifications and locally developed skill sets. Non-nationally recognised training are not listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). | Locally developed courses Higher-level qualification, other than training package qualification or nationally recognised accredited course Locally developed skill sets Module Unit of competency | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Occupation (ANZSCO) group | The intended occupational outcome of a program. Occupations are classified using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) First Edition, Version 1.2. | 1 - Managers 2 - Professionals 3 - Technicians and Trades Workers 4 - Community and Personal Service Workers 5 - Clerical and Administrative Workers 6 - Sales Workers 7 - Machinery Operators and Drivers 8 - Labourers Occupational on-specific – general education Non-industry specific training Non-VET course – No Occupational Outcome | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>ANZSCO Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. |
| Off-the-job training | for apprentices and trainees refers to training that takes place away from a person's job, usually off the premises (for example, at TAFE) but may also be on the premises (for example, in a special training area). | Apprentices and trainees (undertaking off-the-job training) Not apprentices and trainees | Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Client identifier – apprenticeships</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Parent training package | Refers to industry groupings of current and superseded training packages for the reporting of training package enrolments over time. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Participation rates | <p>Are derived by calculating the number of VET students with a usual residential address in an Australian state or territory, <i>other Australian territories or dependencies</i> and where the state/territory is <i>Not known</i> as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups.</p> <p>Offshore international students are excluded from the calculation.</p> <p>Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to for training, work, or other purposes.</p> | N/A | Figures are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population figures (catalogue number 3201.0). |
| Private training providers | Refer to privately-owned and operated training providers that are registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, or a state/territory accrediting body. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file |
| Programs | Refer to structured study where associated subjects are grouped together as qualifications, courses or skill sets. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. |
| Program funding source | Is the source of funding for a program enrolment. Where a program enrolment has subject enrolments in more than one funding category, funding source is assigned according to the following hierarchical order: government-funding, international fee-for-service funding, domestic fee-for-service funding. | Government funding Domestic fee-for-service funding International fee-for-service funding | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Program level of education | <p>The level of education identifies the level of a program in which a student is enrolled.</p> <p>It identifies the degree of complexity of the program of study.</p> | Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I Statement of attainment | <p>Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.</p> <p>This classification is based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), ABS catalogue no.1272.0, 2001.</p> |
| Provider type | Refers to the type of institution or organisation providing the training. | TAFE institutes Universities Schools Community education providers Enterprise providers Private training providers | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training Organisation Type Identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file. |
| Qualifications | In the VET sector refer to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels of education from certificate I through to graduate diploma. | Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I | <p>Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.</p> <p>For more details of the AQF, go to http://www.aqf.edu.au</p> |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|---|--|---|---|
| Qualification completions | Refer to the formal certification that is awarded by an accredited authority in recognition of the successful completion of the units of competency or modules that comprise an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification, as specified by a nationally endorsed training package or an accredited course that provides training for that qualification. | Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program completed</i> file. |
| Registered training organisation (RTO) | A training provider registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or, in some cases, a state or territory registering and accrediting body, to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised qualifications in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework or the VET Quality Framework. | N/A | The RTO is listed on training.gov.au (TGA) |
| Reporting hours | Are based on the nominal hour allocations for training package units of competency from the Victorian training package purchasing guides or the median value of nominal hours for accredited course units and modules submitted to NCVET. | | Derived field based on standard nominal hour values for national reporting, which is sourced from Victorian training package purchasing guides or collected in <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file. |
| Schools | Are established or recognised under an Act of parliament for the purpose of providing courses of instruction in preschool, primary or secondary education. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file |
| School status | Whether a student is still at school or not. | At school Not at school Not known | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>At school flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage (IRSD) | This index is a general socio-economic index that summarises information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area. This index focuses on disadvantage. A high score (or quintile) reflects a relative lack of disadvantage rather than relative advantage. | Quintile 1 – Most disadvantaged Quintile 2 Quintile 3 Quintile 4 Quintile 5 – Least disadvantaged Unknown | SEIFA 2016 was released in March 2018 and has been backdated to 2016. It is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). SEIFA 2011 was released in March 2013 and has been backdated to 2011. It is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). Data for 2006-2010 are mapped to the SEIFA indexes using ABS ASGC Statistical Local Areas (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|--|---|--|---|
| State/territory of student residence | The state or territory in which the student usually resides. | Domestic New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other (inc. <i>Australian territories or dependencies</i> and <i>Not known</i>) International | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| State/territory of delivery location | Is the state or territory relating to the specific training location where the activity was delivered. For online delivery it must be the location from which the training delivery is coordinated. | Australia (onshore) New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other (inc. <i>Australian territories or dependencies</i> and <i>Not known</i>) Offshore | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation delivery location</i> file. |
| State/territory of training provider's head office | This is the state or territory of the training provider's head office. | Australia (onshore) New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other (inc. <i>Australian territories or dependencies</i> and <i>Not known</i>) Offshore | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file. |
| Students | Individuals who were enrolled in a stand-alone subject and/or program during the reporting period. | N/A | |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Student remoteness (ARIA+) region | <p>The degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia.</p> <p>ARIA+ is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia.</p> <p>The ASGC divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It groups locations together into comparative classes of remoteness so that data can be collected, analysed and disseminated for broad regions which are more or less remote.</p> | <p>Major cities Inner regional Outer regional Remote Very remote Overseas Not known</p> | <p>Student remoteness (ARIA+) regions are mapped to the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+), which was developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA) at the University of Adelaide. From 2011, Student remoteness (ARIA+) is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). Data for 2006-2010 were mapped to Student remoteness (ARIA+) using the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). This constitutes a break-in-series for reporting Student remoteness (ARIA+).</p> |
| Study mode | Whether a student undertakes full-time or part-time study. A student who undertakes 540 hours of delivery or more annually is considered a full-time student. | <p>Full-time Part-time</p> | Calculated from the <i>Reporting hours</i> derived field for all enrolments and aggregated for each student |
| Subject funding source | Refers to the source of funding for a subject enrolment. | <p>Government funding Domestic fee-for-service funding International fee-for-service funding</p> | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Subject load pass rate | <p>A calculation of the proportion of subjects that were successfully completed, measured in hours.</p> <p>(20 - Competency achieved/pass + 51 Recognition of prior learning – granted) <i>as a proportion of</i> (20 - Competency achieved/pass + 30 - Competency not achieved/fail + 40 - Withdrawn/discontinued + 51 Recognition of prior learning – granted) <i>x 100.</i></p> | N/A | <p>Calculated using the AVETMISS field Outcome Identifier – National from the Enrolment file.</p> <p>Measured using <i>Reporting hours</i>.</p> |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|---|--|--|---|
| Subject result | The result that is recorded against a student's subject enrolment for that reporting period. | Competency achieved/pass Competency not achieved/fail Withdrawn/discontinued Incomplete due to RTO closure Recognition of prior learning granted Recognition of prior learning not granted Credit transfer/national recognition Superseded subject Continuing activity Non-assessable enrolment – satisfactorily completed Non-assessable enrolment – withdrawn or not satisfactorily completed Not yet started | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Outcome Identifier – National</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. |
| Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program | Includes stand-alone nationally recognised subject enrolments and enrolments in nationally recognised subjects that are delivered as part of a non-nationally recognised program. | Module Unit of competency Locally developed course Higher-level qualification, other than training package qualification or nationally recognised accredited course Locally recognised skill set | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file. Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. |
| TAFE institutes (technical and further education) | TAFE institutes are created by an Act of parliament and have responsibilities specified in that and other legislation and via ministerial directions. These institutes are public bodies in receipt of government funding and provide a range of technical and VET courses and other programs (for example, entry and bridging courses, language and literacy courses, adult basic education courses, senior secondary certificate of education courses, personal enrichment courses, and small business courses). | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file |
| Total VET activity (TVA) | All nationally recognised training (incorporating both government-funded and fee-for-service activity) delivered by registered training providers. | N/A | Derived from the National VET Provider Collection and National VET in Schools Collection, with duplicated activity removed. |
| Training packages | Are developed by Service Skills Organisations (formerly by Industry Skills Councils) to meet the training needs of an industry, or a group of industries. Each training package is made up of three components; units of competency, qualifications framework levels of education and assessment guidelines. For further information refer to < http://www.training.gov.au >. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). |

| Term | Definition | Classification categories | Source |
|--|--|--|---|
| Training package qualifications | Are nationally endorsed qualifications specified in a national training package. | Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). |
| Training package skill set | Are nationally recognised skill sets, specified in a national training package. Based on groupings of units of competency which are combined to provide a clearly defined statement of the skills and knowledge required by an individual to meet industry needs or a licensing or regulatory requirement. | Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file. Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au). |
| Unique Student Identifier (USI) | The Unique Student Identifier (USI) uniquely identifies an individual who accesses vocational education and training over his or her lifetime. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Unique Student Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. |
| Universities | Include Australia's universities, which have been established or recognised under state or territory legislation, except the Australian National University, which is constituted under an Act of the federal parliament. | N/A | Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file. |
| Victorian training package purchasing guides | Contain nominal hour allocations for units of competency; maximum hour allocations for qualifications within training packages and sample training programs that have been developed for nationally endorsed training packages. | N/A | For more information refer to https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/rto/Pages/purchasingguides.aspx . |
| Vocational education and training (VET) | Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. VET also included programs which provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs. | N/A | . |