

TVA FACT SHEET

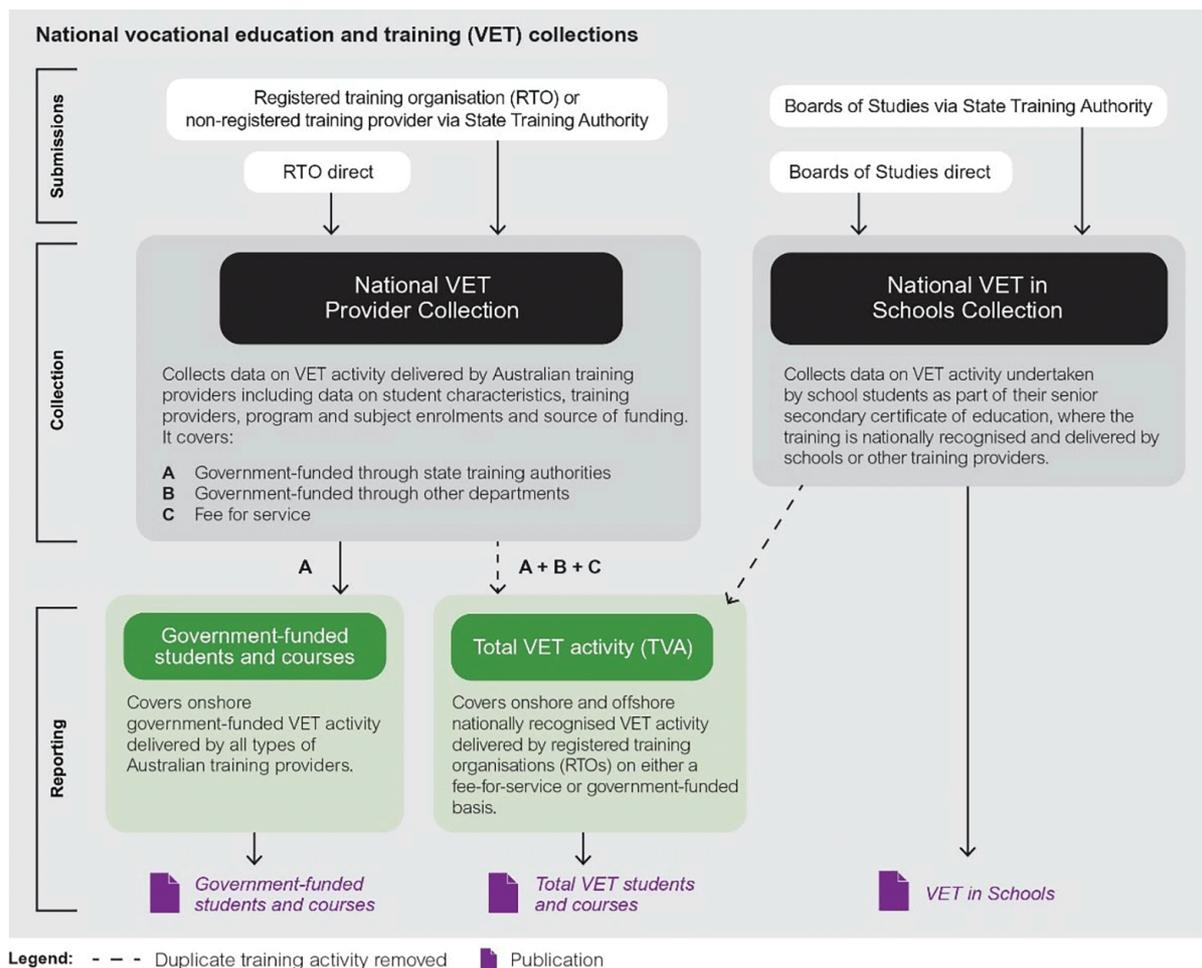


Comparing data from other national VET collections with ‘total VET activity’

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) manages four national collections on different aspects of vocational education and training (VET) in Australia. These are:

- National VET Provider Collection (from which data on *Government-funded students and courses* and *Total VET students and courses* [‘total VET activity’] are reported)
- National VET in Schools Collection (data from which are also reported in *Total VET students and courses*)
- National Apprentice and Trainee Collection
- National VET Funding Collection.

The diagram below illustrates how data are submitted, collected and reported for the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. There are a number of differences in the collections and publications, some of which relate to scope and others to the way fields are classified and reported. As a result, some data reported in *Total VET students and courses* (‘total VET activity’) may differ from data reported in other NCVER publications.



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Differences between *Total VET students and courses* and *Government-funded students and courses*

The diagram highlights some of the differences in scope between the *Total VET* and *Government-funded students and courses*. The main differences are:

- Total VET students and courses includes:
 - nationally recognised training delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs)
 - both government-funded and fee-for-service VET
 - VET delivered both on and offshore
 - VET activity reported by state training authorities, RTOs and Boards of Studies, including through the National VET in Schools Collection.
- Government-funded students and courses includes:
 - both nationally recognised and non-nationally recognised training delivered by Australian training providers
 - government-funded VET
 - VET delivered onshore
 - VET activity reported by state training authorities.

Total VET students and courses 2019 reported a higher number of government funded students (1.25 million) and full-year training equivalents (548 900) than *Government-funded students and courses 2019* (1.15 million and 490 500 respectively) as it includes data from the National VET in Schools Collection and a small amount of Commonwealth specific funding program activity that is submitted directly to NCVET by RTOs.

In addition to differences in scope between the two publications, the way some fields are classified and reported varies in some instances (e.g. state/territory and provider type), further limiting the ability to make comparisons between the two series.

VET in Schools students

The *VET in Schools* publication covers the VET undertaken by school students as part of their senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE) where the training is delivered by schools or other training providers.

In 2019, *Total VET students and courses* reported 432 800 VET students with an ‘at school’ status. This number is higher than that reported in *VET in Schools* as *Total VET students and courses* includes any VET undertaken by a school student, not just the VET that contributes to their SSCE as is reported in *VET in Schools*.

In addition to differences in scope between *VET in Schools* and *Total VET students and courses*, there are other factors that may contribute to differences in the reported data between the two publications, such as the de-duplication of training activity between the VET in Schools Collection and the National VET Provider Collection, which may remove some, but not all, duplicate data. For further information refer to fact sheet: *De-duplication of training activity in ‘total VET activity’*.

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Apprentices and trainees

The number of apprentices and trainees in *Total VET students and courses 2019* (312 900) exceeds the number of apprentices and trainees in-training as at 31 December 2019 (259 900) reported from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection. The key reasons for the differences are:

- Data reported in Total VET students and courses are based on a count of students enrolled in VET at any time during the 2019 calendar year. This figure can include apprentices and trainees who later cancelled or withdrew from their training contract.
- Data reported in Total VET students and courses includes only those apprentices and trainees undertaking off-the-job training.
- ‘In-training’ numbers reported from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection refer to apprentices and trainees who are actively training under the terms of their training contract at a point in time (such as 31 December 2019). For example, there were 280 600 apprentices and trainees in-training in the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection at 31 March 2019. However, the number had declined to 259 900 by 31 December 2019 due to the cancellation/withdrawal, expiry and completion of contracts.