

Australian vocational education and training statistics

# Government-funded students and courses 2020

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



## Highlights

In 2020, 1 191 400 students were enrolled in government-funded vocational education and training (VET). They included:

- 1 141 300 students enrolled in nationally recognised training
- 92 300 students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training.

In 2020, compared with 2019:

- student numbers increased by 3.5% to 1 191 400
- full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) decreased by 11.7% to 433 300
- students enrolled in nationally recognised programs increased by 1.3% to 1 005 800
- students enrolled in stand-alone nationally recognised subjects decreased by 22.2% to 27 100
- students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training decreased by 18.6% to 92 300.

An estimated 7.0% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET in Australia in 2020.

From 2016 to 2020:

- student numbers have decreased by 1.0% to 1 191 400.

# Summary

## Students and participation

In 2020, 1 191 400 students were enrolled in government-funded VET, an increase of 3.5% from 2019.

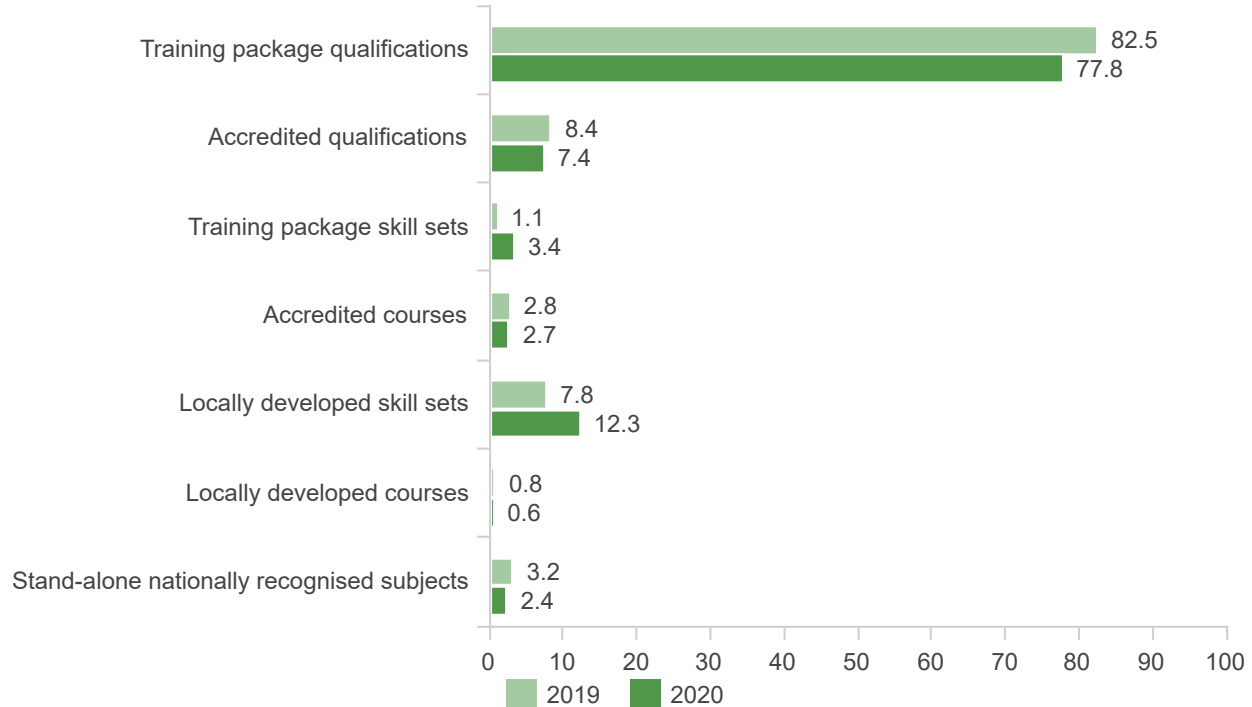
An estimated 7.0% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET in 2020. Participation was highest among those aged 15 to 19 years (at 18.4%).

Some students enrolled in one or more programs, others in stand-alone subjects, and some in a combination of both.

In 2020, 1 141 300 government-funded students were enrolled in nationally recognised VET, consisting of:

- training package qualifications (887 800 or 77.8% of students undertaking nationally recognised VET)
- accredited qualifications (84 700 students or 7.4%)
- training package skill sets (38 300 students or 3.4%)
- accredited courses (30 900 students or 2.7%)
- locally developed skill sets and courses comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject (146 400 students or 12.8%)
- stand-alone nationally recognised subjects (27 100 students or 2.4%).

Figure 1 Government-funded students enrolled in nationally recognised training, 2019 and 2020 (%)



Note: The sum of proportions will not add to 100% as a student may have enrolled in multiple types of training in a calendar year.

In 2020, 92 300 government-funded students were enrolled in non-nationally recognised VET, consisting of:

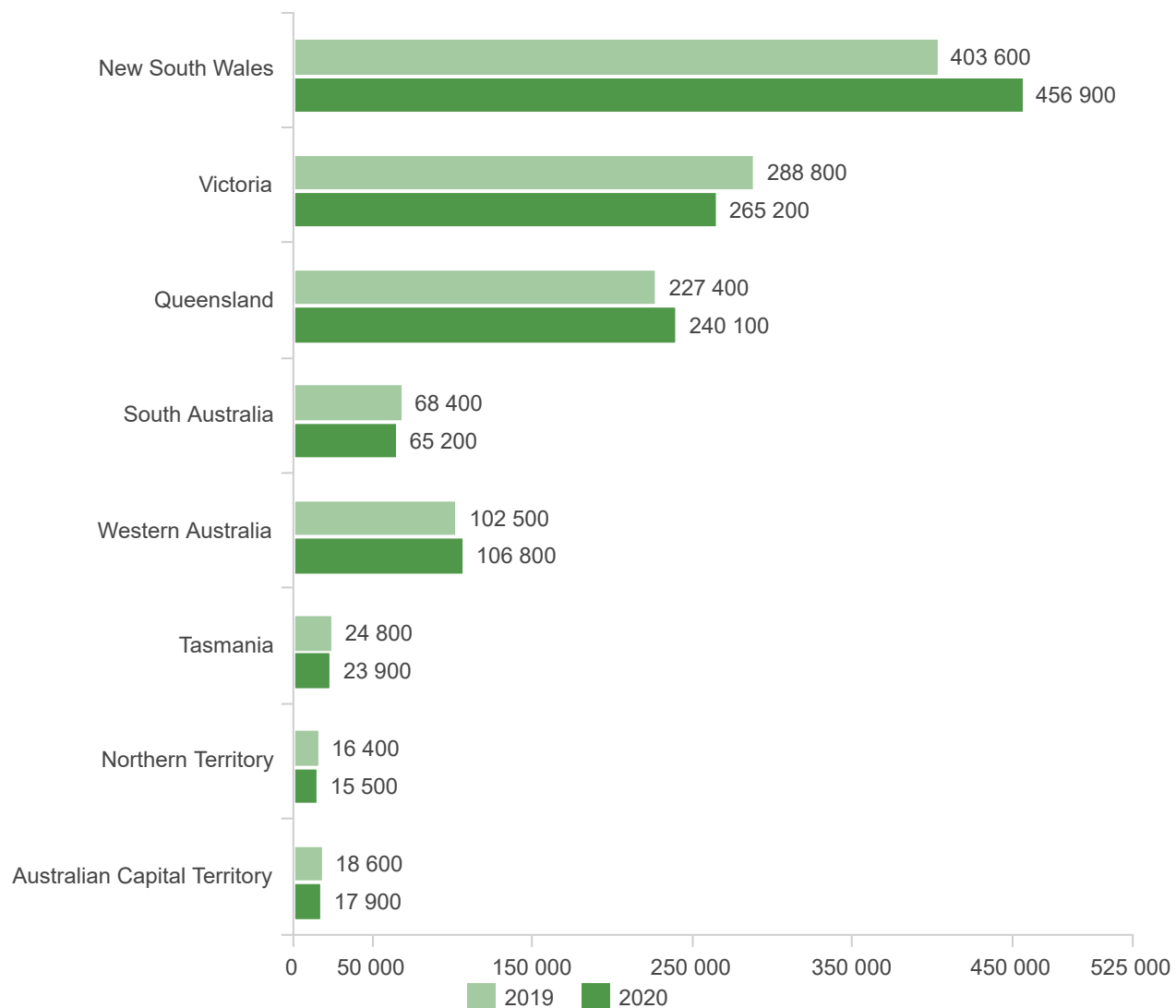
- non-nationally recognised programs (70 100 students)
- non-nationally recognised stand-alone subjects (22 400 students).

In 2020, compared with 2019, the number of government-funded full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) decreased by 57 300 to 433 300 (down 11.7%).

## Students by state/territory

In 2020, compared to 2019, the number of government-funded students increased in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, and decreased in all other states and territories.

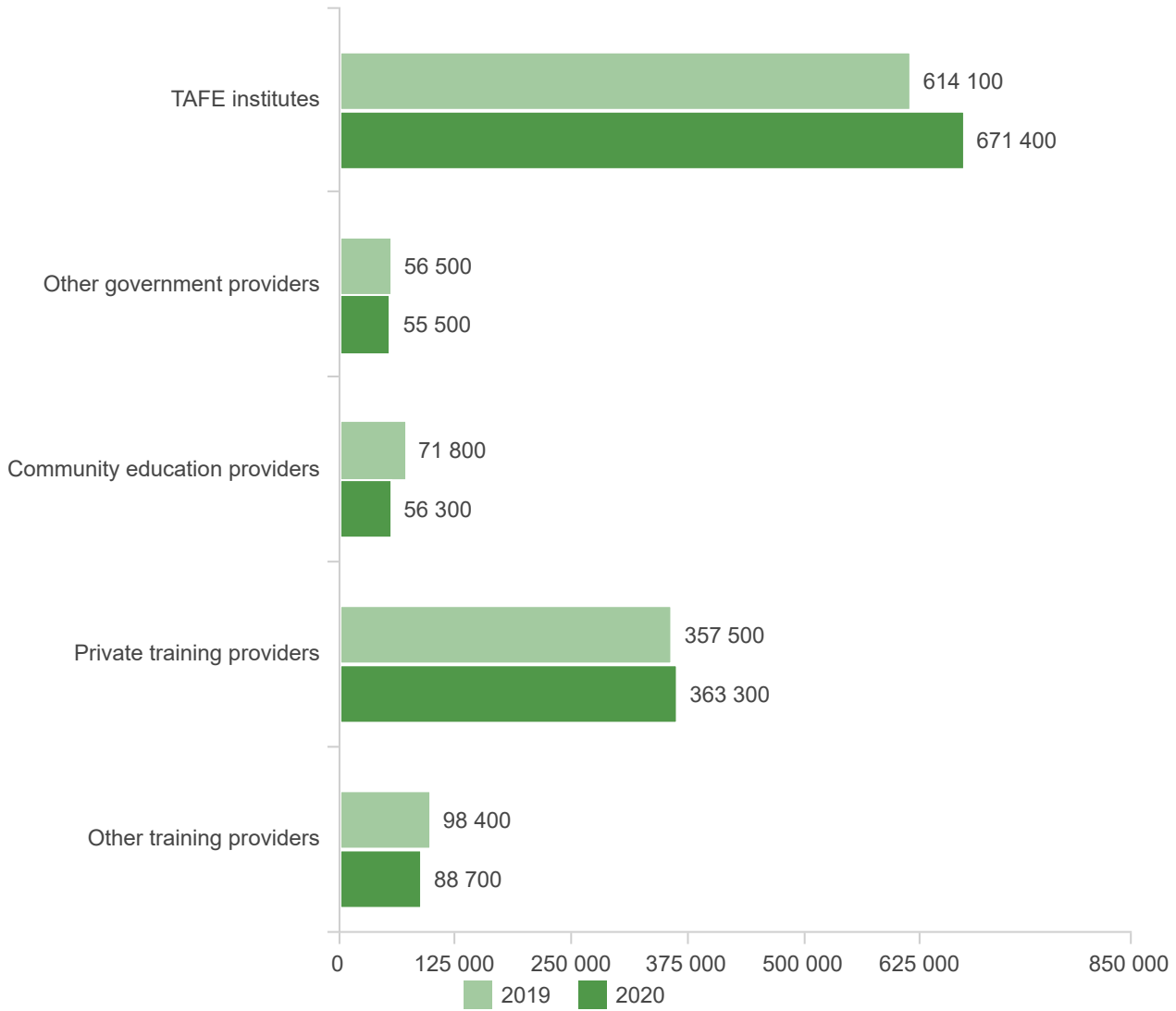
Figure 2 Government-funded students by state/territory, 2019 and 2020



## Students by training provider

In 2020, 671 400 government-funded students (56.4%) were enrolled at TAFE institutes, 55 500 (4.7%) at other government providers, 56 300 (4.7%) at community education providers, 363 300 (30.5%) at private training providers, and 88 700 (7.4%) at other training providers.

Figure 3 Government-funded students by provider reporting type, 2019 and 2020



## Program enrolments

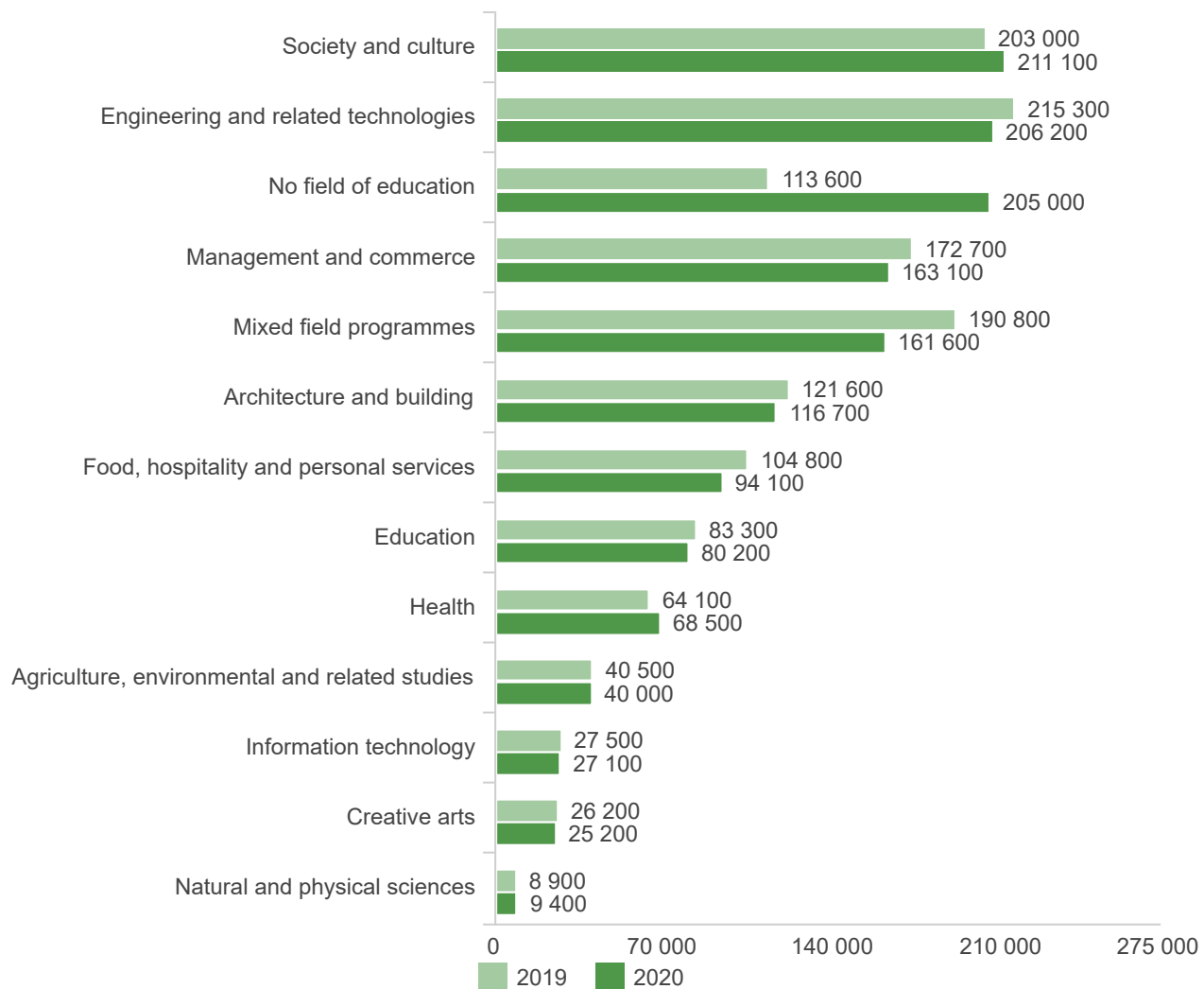
In 2020, there were 1 408 100 enrolments in government-funded programs, an increase of 2.6% from 2019.

Of these:

- 77.2% were in qualifications, including training package qualifications (70.4%) and accredited qualifications (6.8%)
- 5.1% were in training package skill sets and accredited courses
- 12.1% were in locally developed programs comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject
- 5.5% were in non-nationally recognised programs.

In 2020, Society and culture was the most popular field of education with 211 100 (15.0%) government-funded program enrolments, followed by Engineering and related technologies with 206 200 (14.6%).

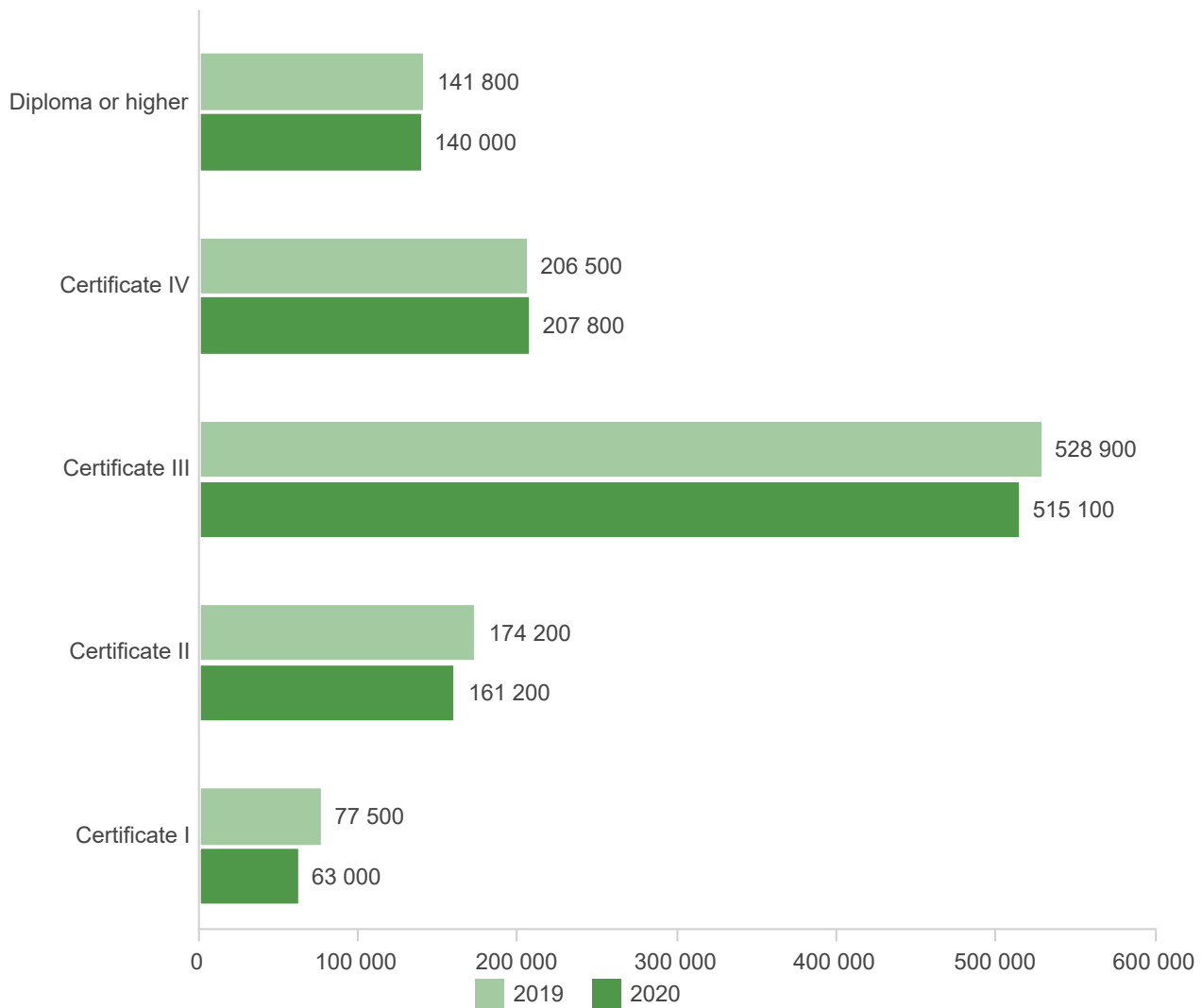
**Figure 4 Government-funded program enrolments by field of education, 2019 and 2020**



Note: Enrolments in skill sets are reported as No field of education

In 2020, the highest number of government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments were in certificate III at 515 100 (47.4%) followed by certificate IV (19.1%) and certificate II (14.8%).

**Figure 5 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by level of education, 2019 and 2020**

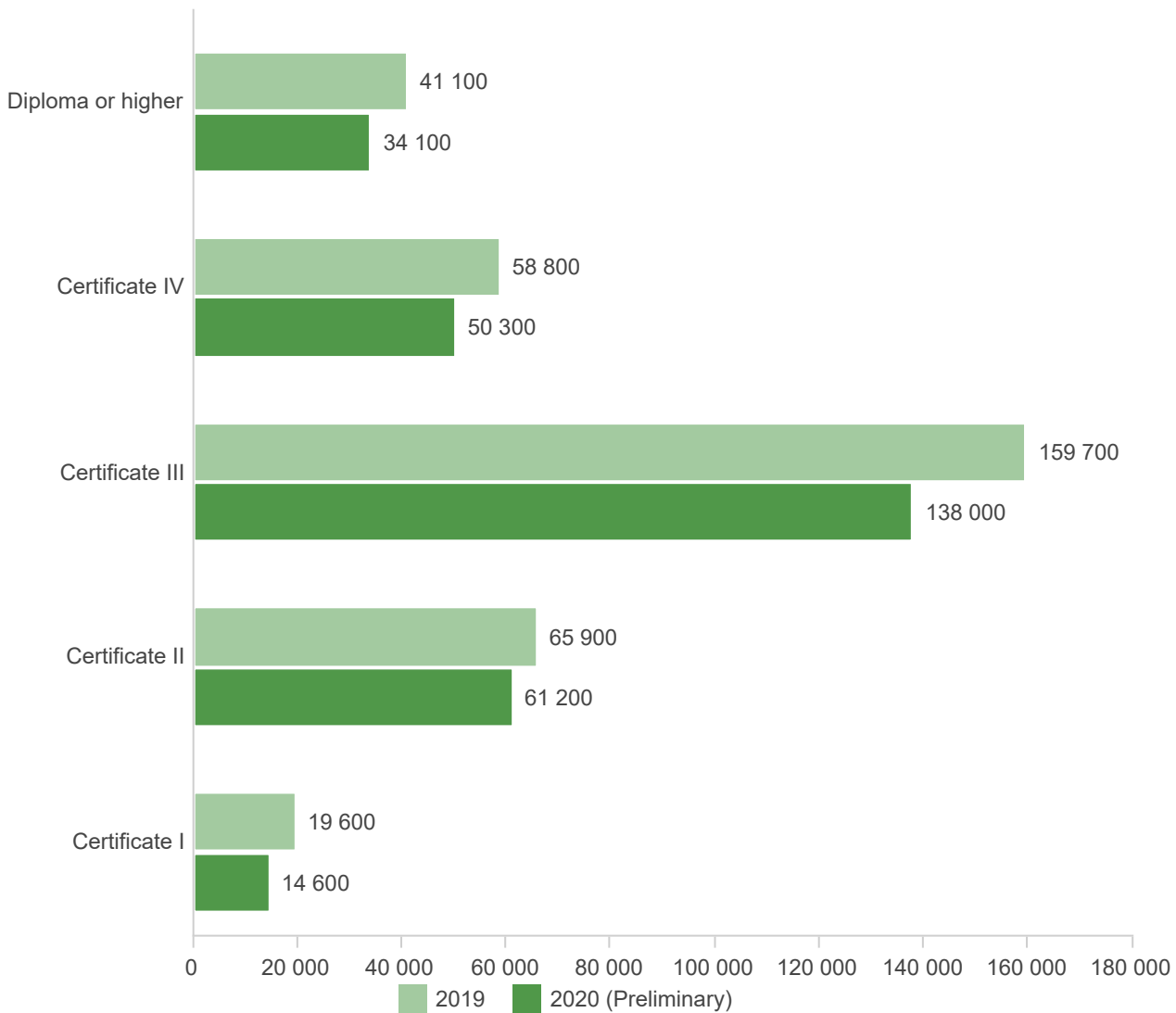


## Qualification completions

Preliminary numbers show 298 300 government-funded qualification completions in 2020. This number will be revised upwards with the release of *Government-funded students and courses 2021*.

In 2020, the highest number of government-funded qualification completions were at certificate III level with 138 000 (46.3% of all qualification completions), followed by certificate II (20.5%), and certificate IV (16.9%).

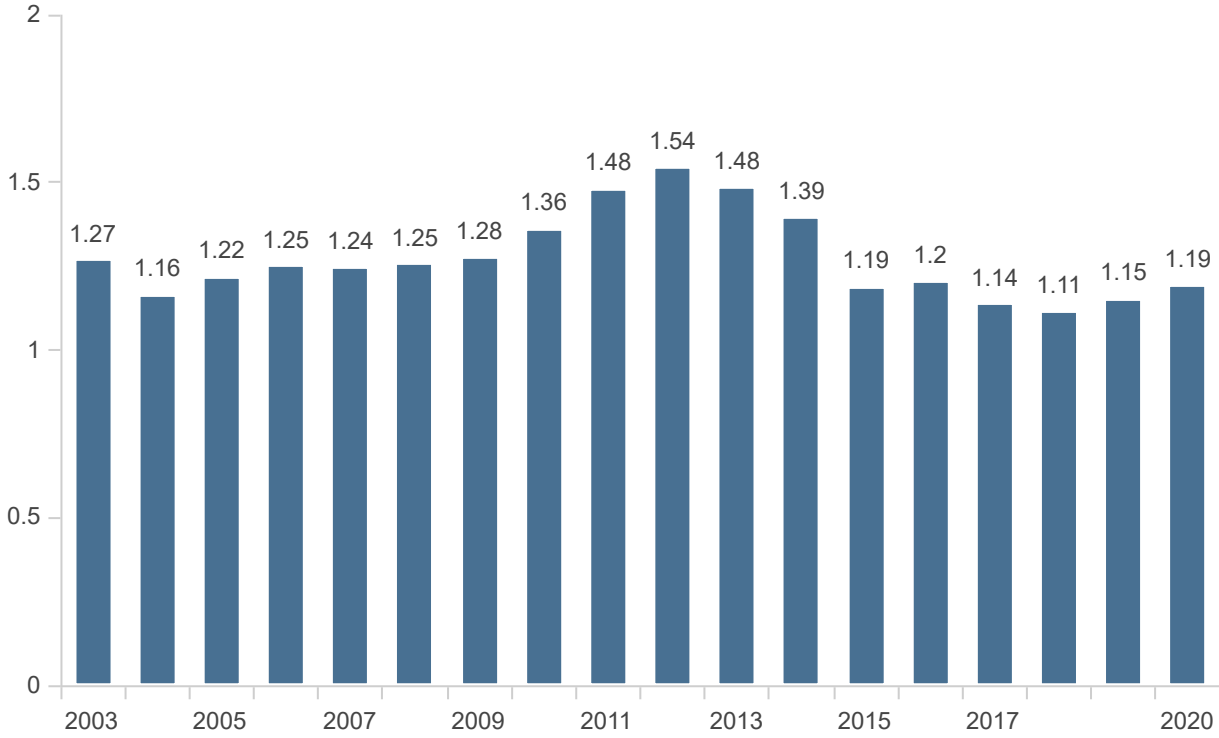
Figure 6 Government-funded qualification completions by level of education, 2019 and 2020



## Historical time series data

Time series data from 2003 to 2020 are displayed in the following graphs. Note that reporting changes may impact comparability across years; refer to the notes accompanying *Historical time series of government-funded VET in Australia, from 1981* for more information.

Figure 7 Government-funded students, 2003 to 2020 (million)



Note: Break-in-series from 2015 onwards. Refer to *Historical time series of government-funded VET in Australia, from 1981* for more information.



Figure 8 Government-funded full-year training equivalents, 2003 to 2020 ('000)

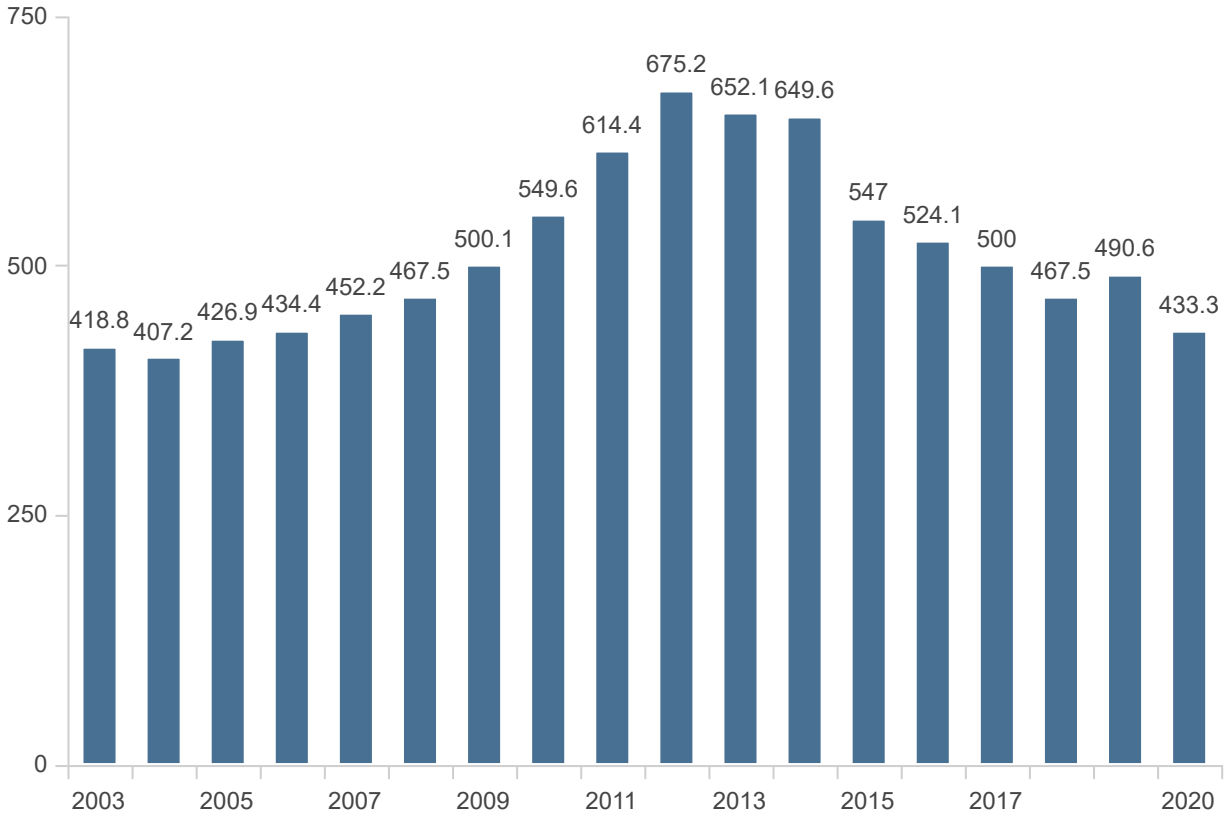


Figure 9 Government-funded program enrolments, 2003 to 2020 (million)

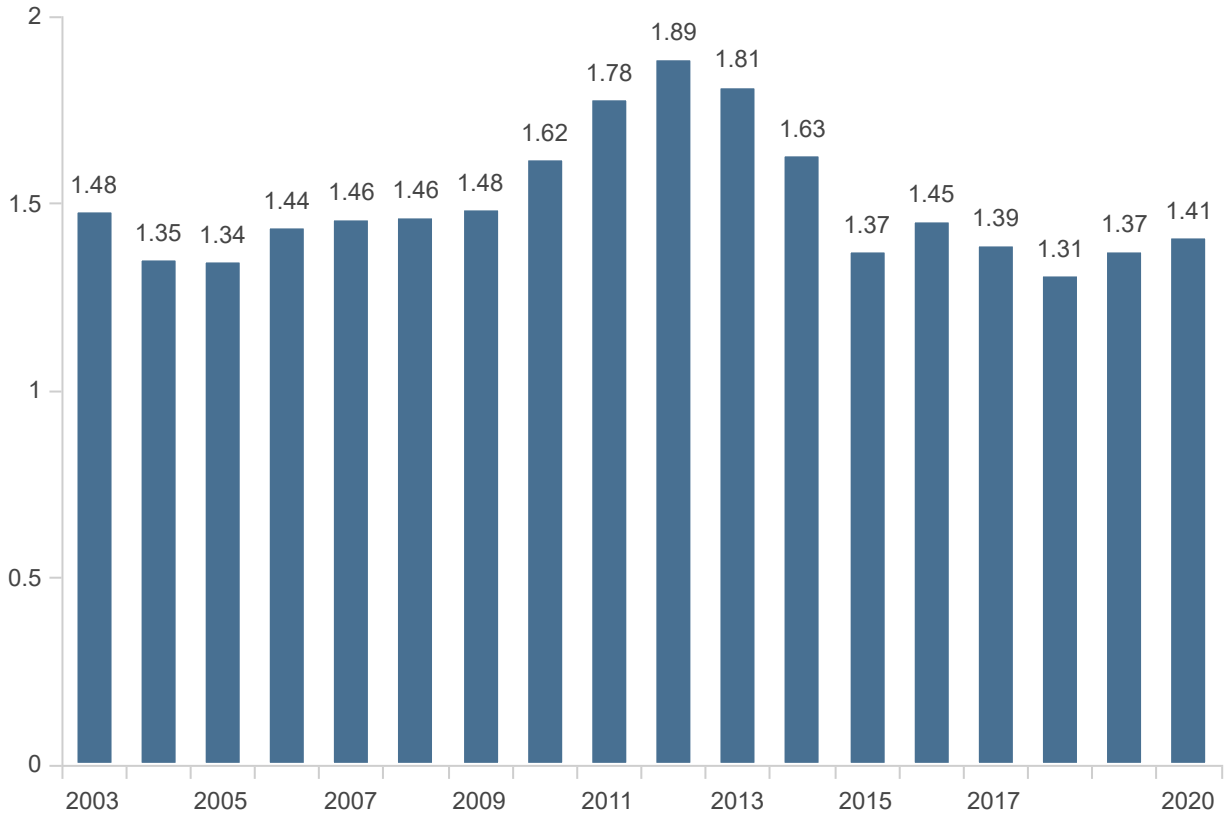
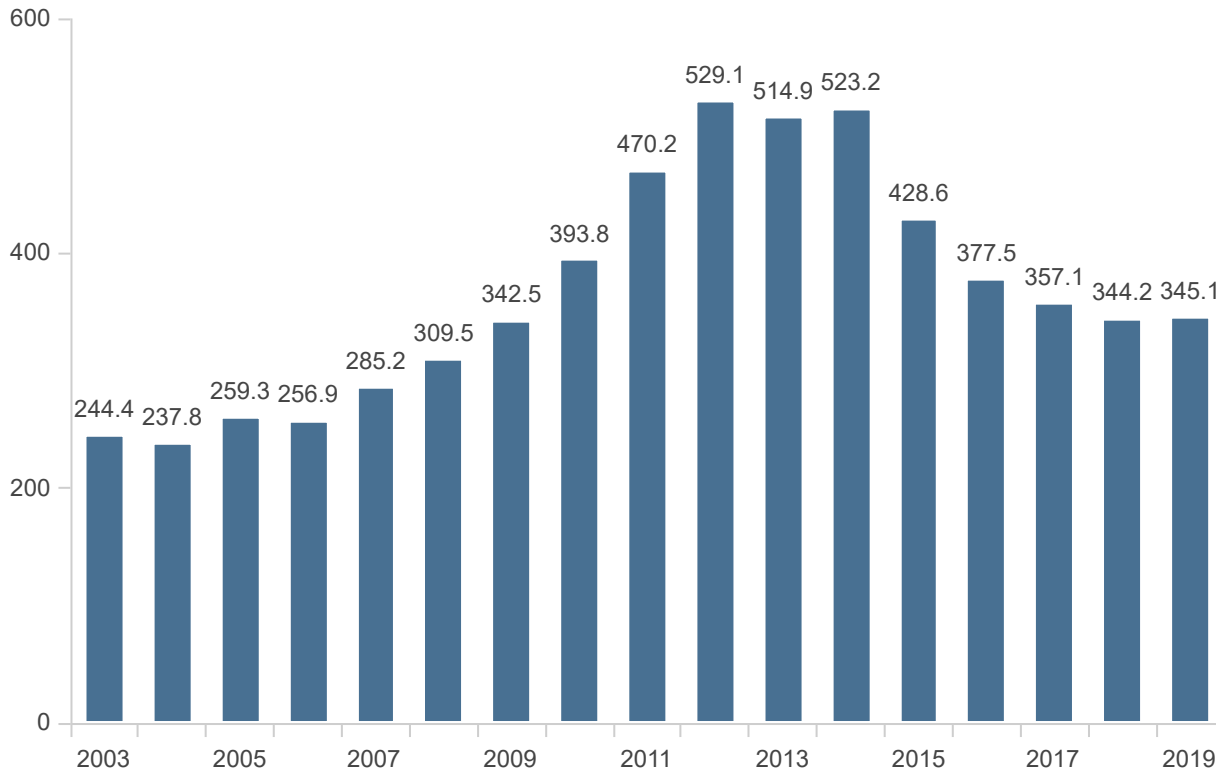


Figure 10 Government-funded qualification completions, 2003 to 2019 ('000)



Note: Preliminary completions for 2020 are not displayed

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This work has been produced by NCVER on behalf of the Australian Government, and state and territory governments, with funding provided through the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

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ISSN 2205-4391  
TD/TNC 144.09

Published by NCVER, ABN 87 007 967 311