

# Student equity in VET 2020: participation, achievement and outcomes

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This publication presents information on how different equity groups fare in their VET journey. The featured equity groups have historically been disadvantaged in accessing and benefiting from education in Australia. We focus on their participation, achievement in and outcomes from VET.

## Equity groups

People with disability	2
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	4
Non-English speaking background	6
Low socioeconomic status	8
Remote	10
Not employed	12

# People with disability

in the Australian population

18%

in the workforce

9%

enrolled in VET

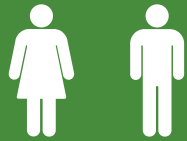
5%

ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018  
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

## PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2020

### People with disability

171 730



52%

47%

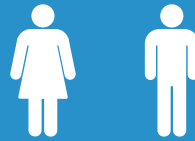
62%  
Aged under  
40 years



38%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

### People without disability

3 250 770



47%

51%

67%  
Aged under  
40 years



33%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

### Percentage of students that were government-funded

54%



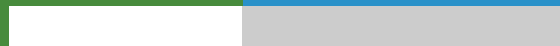
33%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

## VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2020

### Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

56%



74%

at private training providers

34%



21%

at TAFE institutes

10%



9%

at community education providers

### Type of training (by number of students)

70%



49%

enrolled in qualifications

4%



5%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

39%



62%

enrolled in subject bundles\*

\* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

## People with disability

## People without disability

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

22%  19%  
Society and culture

19%  21%  
Management and commerce


13%  7%  
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:

57%  52%  
had some of their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic

83%  86%  
of those whose training shifted online:  
received support from their training provider to transition to online learning

58%  45%  
of those whose training shifted online: faced at least one challenge with online learning

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

### ACHIEVEMENT IN 2020

#### Qualification completion rate\*

39%  43%

#### Subject load pass rate^

73%  82%

\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

### OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

#### Students who completed a qualification in 2020:

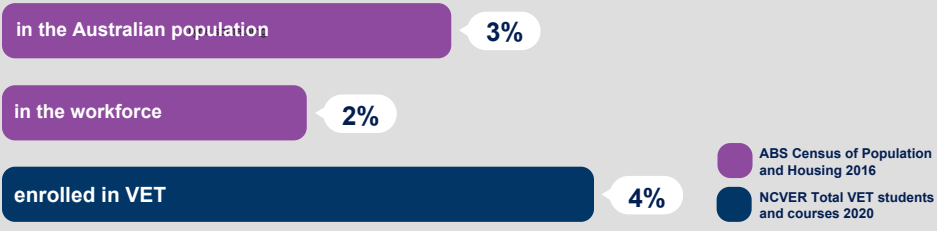
43%  62%  
had an improved employment status after training

41%  35%  
enrolled in further study after training

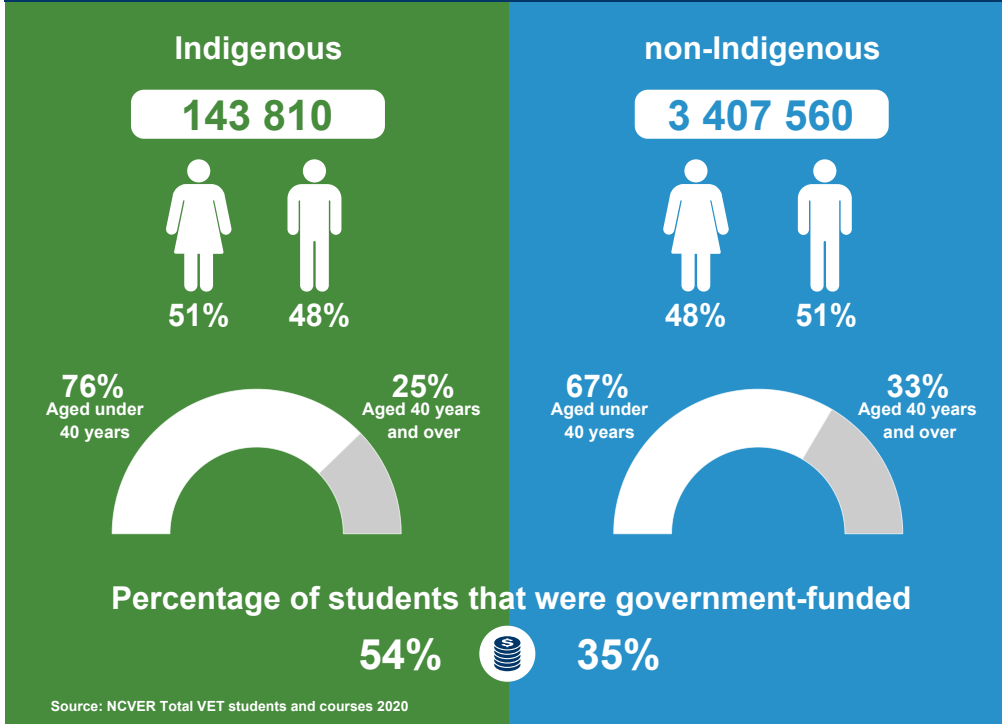
87%  89%  
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

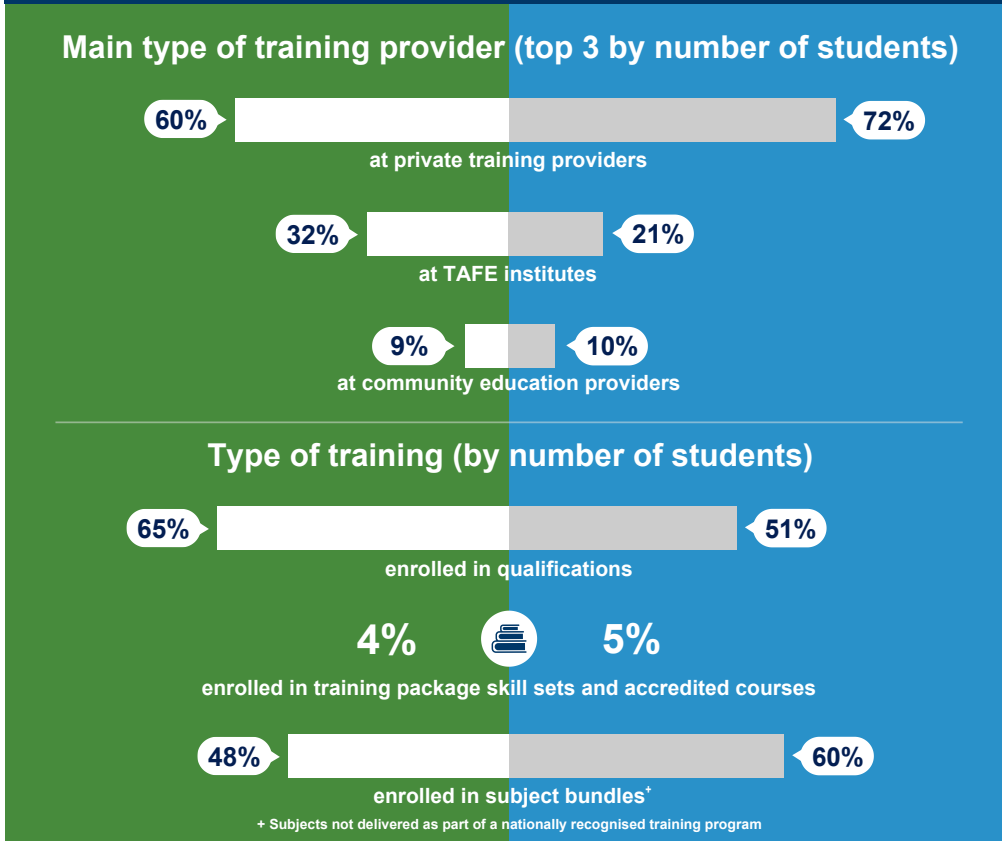
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



## PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2020



## VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2020



## Indigenous

## non-Indigenous

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

21%  18%  
Society and culture

16%  21%  
Management and commerce


14%  15%  
Engineering and related technologies

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:

46%  52%  
had some of their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic

86%  86%  
of those whose training shifted online:  
received support from their training provider to transition to online learning

49%  46%  
of those whose training shifted online: faced at least one challenge with online learning

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

### ACHIEVEMENT IN 2020

#### Qualification completion rate\*

34%  44%

#### Subject load pass rate^

74%  81%

\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

### OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

#### Students who completed a qualification in 2020:

60%  61%  
had an improved employment status after training

35%  36%  
enrolled in further study after training

91%  89%  
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

## Non-English speaking background

in the Australian population

27%

in the workforce

22%

enrolled in VET

12%

ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016  
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2020

Non-English speaking background

578 345



51%



48%

74%  
Aged under 40 years



26%  
Aged 40 years and over

English speaking background

2 633 115



47%



53%

66%  
Aged under 40 years



34%  
Aged 40 years and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

36%



37%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2020

Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

70%



69%

at private training providers

23%



23%

at TAFE institutes

6%



11%

at community education providers

Type of training (by number of students)

67%



49%

enrolled in qualifications

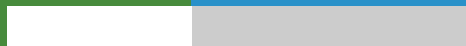
6%



5%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

39%



63%

enrolled in subject bundles\*

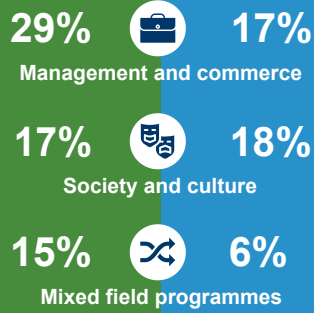
\* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

## Non-English speaking background

## English speaking background

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

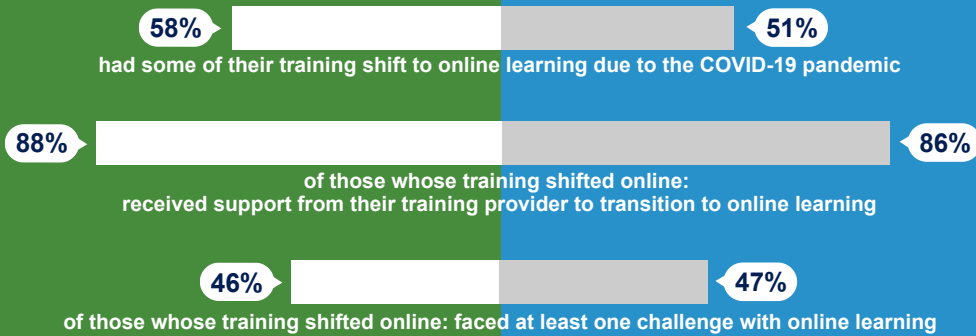
Based on the equity group of interest



Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:



Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

### ACHIEVEMENT IN 2020

#### Qualification completion rate\*



#### Subject load pass rate^



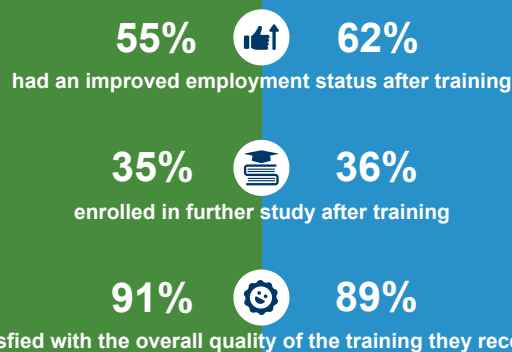
\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

### OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

#### Students who completed a qualification in 2020:



Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

## Low socioeconomic status

in the Australian population

18%

in the workforce

25%

enrolled in VET

18%

ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016

NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

## PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019

### Low socioeconomic status

660 295



48%



51%

66%  
Aged under  
40 years



34%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

43%



35%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

### Higher socioeconomic status

2 785 045



48%



51%

65%  
Aged under  
40 years



35%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

## VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2020

### Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

68%



72%

at private training providers

24%



21%

at TAFE institutes

9%



9%

at community education providers

### Type of training (by number of students)

54%



47%

enrolled in qualifications

5%



5%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

56%



62%

enrolled in subject bundles\*

\* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program



## Low socioeconomic status

## Higher socioeconomic status

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

21%  19%  
Society and culture

16%  17%  
Management and commerce


11%  7%  
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:

51%  52%  
had some of their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic

87%  86%  
of those whose training shifted online:  
received support from their training provider to transition to online learning

47%  46%  
of those whose training shifted online: faced at least one challenge with online learning

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

### ACHIEVEMENT IN 2020

#### Qualification completion rate\*

39%  44%

#### Subject load pass rate^

79%  82%

\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

### OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

#### Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

56%  62%  
had an improved employment status after training

34%  36%  
enrolled in further study after training

90%  89%  
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

## Remote

in the Australian population



2%

in the workforce

2%

enrolled in VET

2%

 ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016  
 NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

## PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2020

### Remote

88 710



42%



57%

61%  
Aged under  
40 years



39%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

### Non-remote

3 477 040



48%



51%

67%  
Aged under  
40 years



33%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

35%



34%

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

## VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2020

### Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

69%



at private training providers

72%

20%



at TAFE institutes

21%

9%



at community education providers

8%

### Type of training (by number of students)

43%



enrolled in qualifications

50%

6%



5%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

68%



enrolled in subject bundles\*

58%

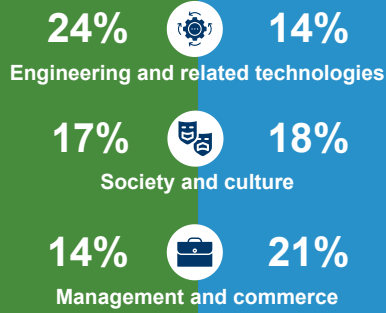
\* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

## Remote

## Non-remote

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

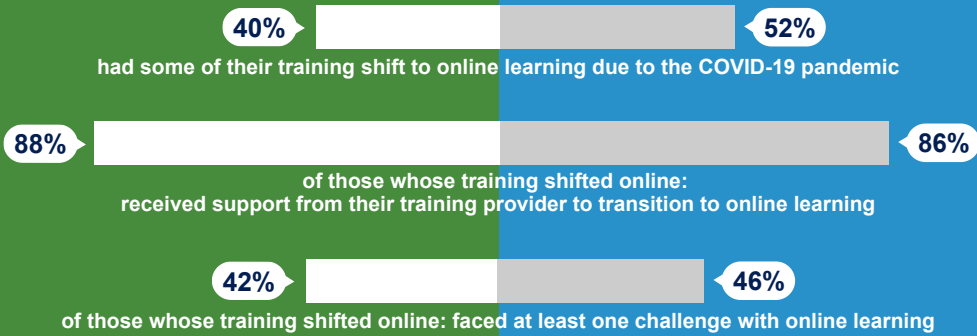
Based on the equity group of interest



Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:



Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

## ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

### Qualification completion rate\*



### Subject load pass rate^



\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

## OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

### Students who completed a qualification in 2019:



Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

# Not employed



## PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2020

### Not employed

749 360



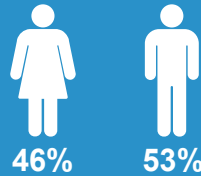
74% Aged under 40 years



26% Aged 40 years and over

### Employed

2 382 620



63% Aged under 40 years



37% Aged 40 years and over

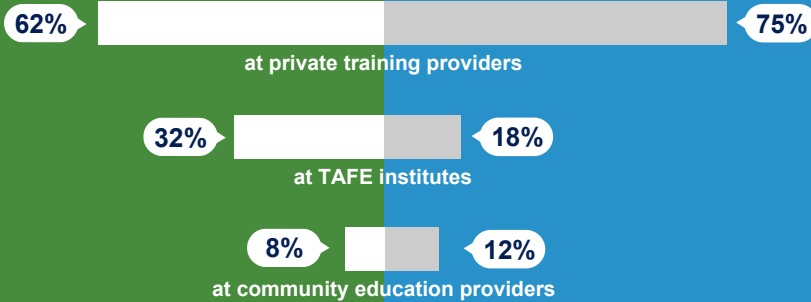
### Percentage of students that were government-funded

50% 28%

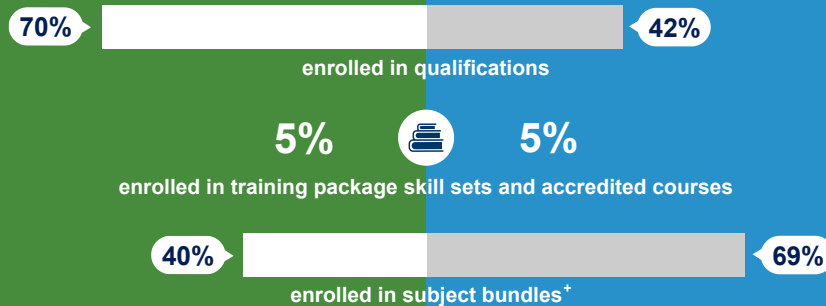
Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2020

## VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

### Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)



### Type of training (by number of students)



\* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

## Not employed

## Employed

### Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

23%  17%  
Society and culture

19%  20%  
Management and commerce


14%  3%  
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2020

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

For training undertaken in 2020:

56%  50%  
had some of their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic

86%  86%  
of those whose training shifted online:  
received support from their training provider to transition to online learning

50%  44%  
of those whose training shifted online: faced at least one challenge with online learning

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

## ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

### Qualification completion rate\*

43%  43%

### Subject load pass rate^

76%  82%

\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2016 that were completed by 2020.

^ 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).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2019

## OUTCOMES IN MID-2021

### Students who completed a qualification in 2020:

43%  71%  
had an improved employment status after training

38%  35%  
enrolled in further study after training

89%  89%  
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2021

#### Notes:

1. There are high numbers of 'not known' responses for some student characteristics explored in this resource. For more information, refer to the Student equity in VET 2020: participation, achievement and outcomes: data tables.
2. This data excludes international offshore training activity.
3. Students may have enrolled in more than one type of training, with more than one type of provider and with different sources of funding. For this reason, percentages may sum to more than 100.
4. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

#### Sources:

##### National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

[Total VET students and courses 2020](#)

[Government-funded students and courses](#)

[VET qualification completion rates 2019](#)

[VET student outcomes 2021](#)

##### Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

[Census of Population and Housing 2016](#)

[Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018](#)

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