

# Student equity in VET 2021: 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

4%

ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018  
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021

#### People with disability

181 320



52%

47%

64%  
Aged under  
40 years

36%  
Aged 40 years  
and over



#### People without disability

3 612 395



47%

51%

66%  
Aged under  
40 years

34%  
Aged 40 years  
and over



#### Percentage of students that were government-funded

52%



31%

#### Percentage of students with disability who are also:

Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander

8%

Non-English-speaking  
background

8%

Low SES

24%

Remote

2%

Not employed

45%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

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

58%



76%

at private training providers

33%



18%

at TAFE institutes

10%



10%

at community education providers

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

66%



47%

enrolled in qualifications

4%



4%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

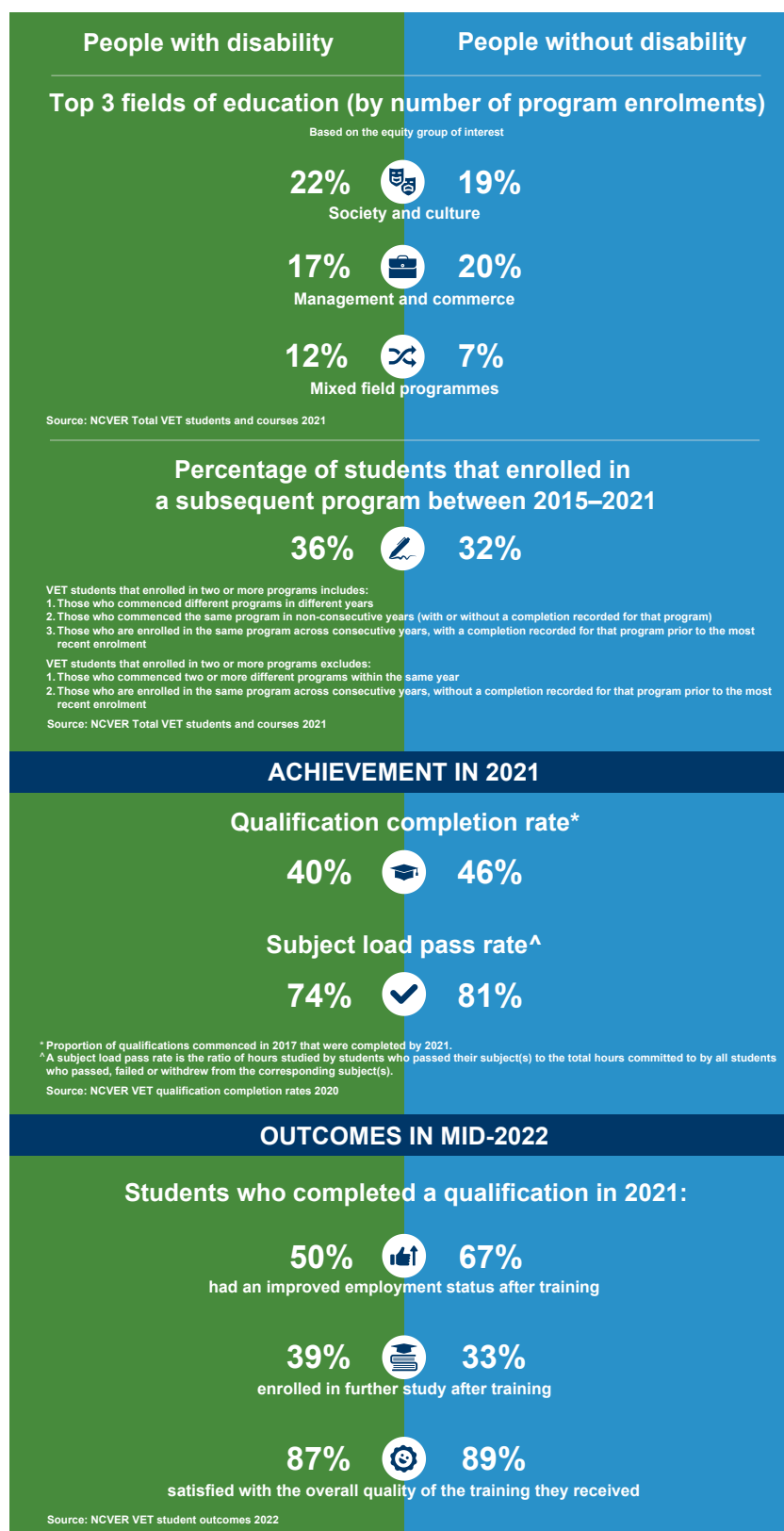
43%



65%

enrolled in subject bundles\*

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



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

in the Australian population

3%

in the workforce

2%

enrolled in VET

4%

ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016  
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021

Indigenous

155 735



50%



49%

76%  
Aged under  
40 years



24%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

non-Indigenous

3 751 705



47%



51%

66%  
Aged under  
40 years



34%  
Aged 40 years  
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

55%



33%

Percentage of Indigenous students who are also:

With disability



9%

Non-English-speaking  
background



4%

Low SES



33%

Remote



12%

Not employed



32%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

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

62%



74%

at private training providers

31%



19%

at TAFE institutes

10%



10%

at community education providers

Type of training (by number of students)

63%



49%

enrolled in qualifications

4%



4%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

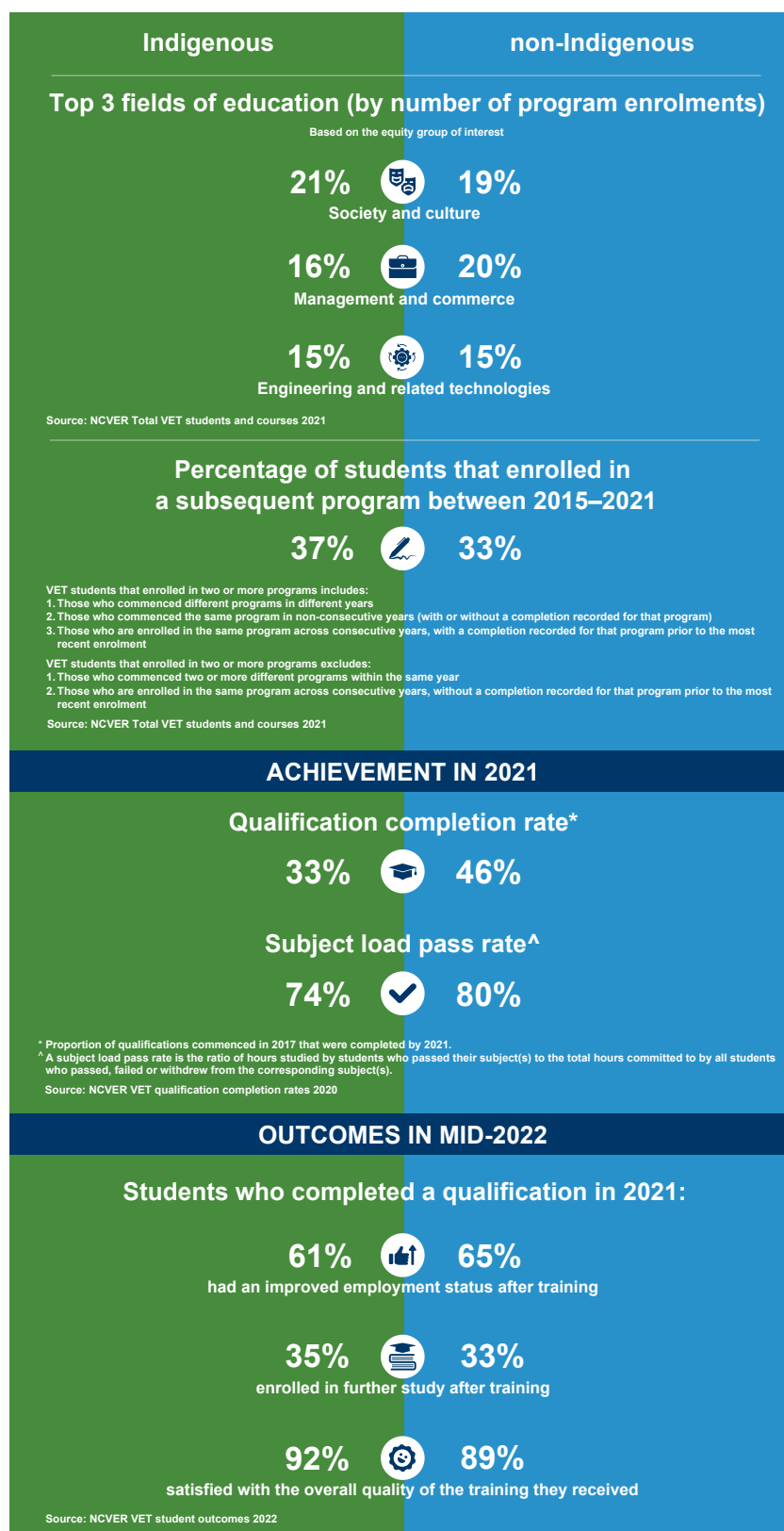
53%



63%

enrolled in subject bundles\*

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



## 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 2021

### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021

Non-English speaking background

599 775



52%



47%

70%  
Aged under 40 years

30%  
Aged 40 years and over



English speaking background

2 943 435



47%



52%

65%  
Aged under 40 years

34%  
Aged 40 years and over



Percentage of students that were government-funded

37%



34%

Percentage of non-English speaking students who are also:

With disability

2%

Indigenous

1%

Low SES

19%

Remote

1%

Not employed

29%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

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

68%

at private training providers

73%

25%

at TAFE institutes

20%

8%

at community education providers

11%

Type of training (by number of students)

67%

enrolled in qualifications

46%

6%



4%

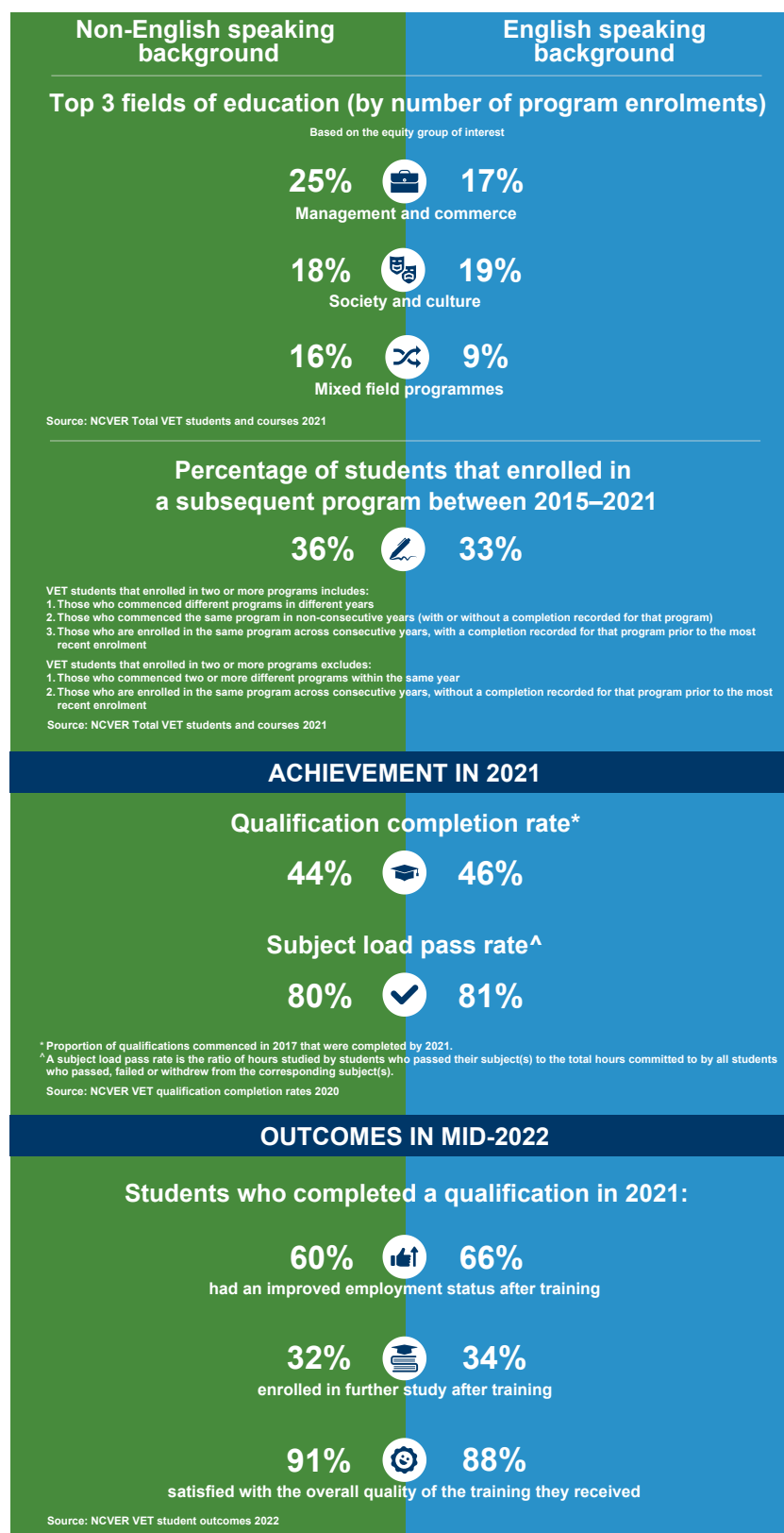
enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

41%

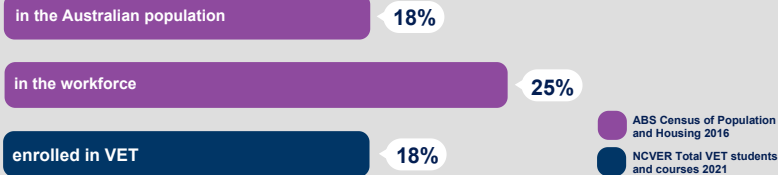
enrolled in subject bundles\*

67%

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



## Low socioeconomic status



### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021

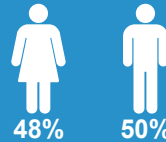
#### Low socioeconomic status

723 050



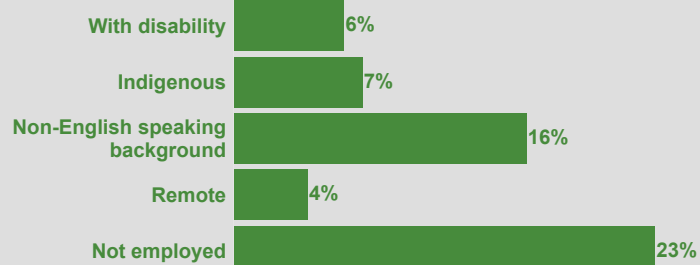
#### Higher socioeconomic status

3 084 595



Percentage of students that were government-funded  
41% 33%

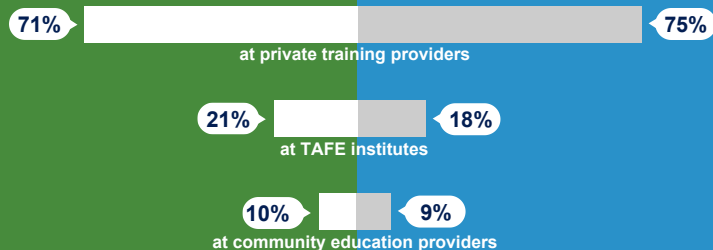
#### Percentage of low socioeconomic status students who are also:



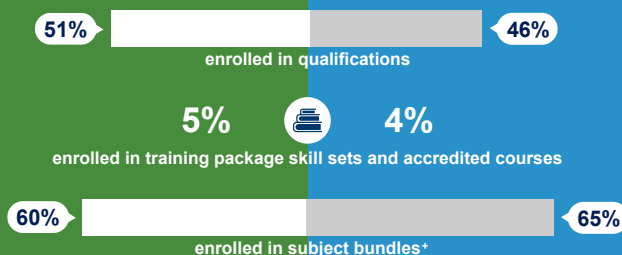
Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2021

### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

#### 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



## Low socioeconomic status

## Higher socioeconomic status

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

Based on the equity group of interest

22%  20%  
Society and culture

16%  17%  
Management and commerce

16%  16%  
Engineering and related technologies

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### Percentage of students that enrolled in a subsequent program between 2015–2021

34%  32%

VET students that enrolled in two or more programs includes:

1. Those who commenced different programs in different years
2. Those who commenced the same program in non-consecutive years (with or without a completion recorded for that program)
3. Those who are enrolled in the same program across consecutive years, with a completion recorded for that program prior to the most recent enrolment

VET students that enrolled in two or more programs excludes:

1. Those who commenced two or more different programs within the same year
2. Those who are enrolled in the same program across consecutive years, without a completion recorded for that program prior to the most recent enrolment

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

## ACHIEVEMENT IN 2021

### Qualification completion rate\*

41%  47%

### Subject load pass rate^

79%  81%

\* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2017 that were completed by 2021.

^ 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: NCVER VET qualification completion rates 2020

## OUTCOMES IN MID-2022

### Students who completed a qualification in 2021:

62%  66%  
had an improved employment status after training

33%  34%  
enrolled in further study after training

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

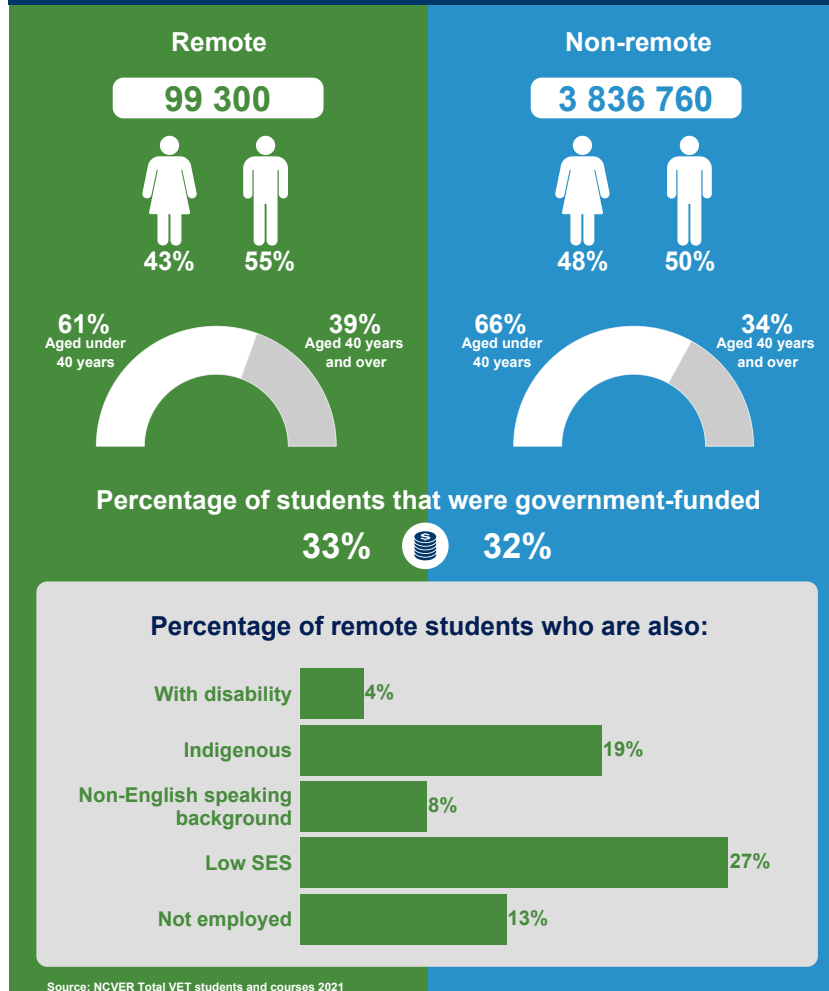
Source: NCVER VET student outcomes 2022

## Remote

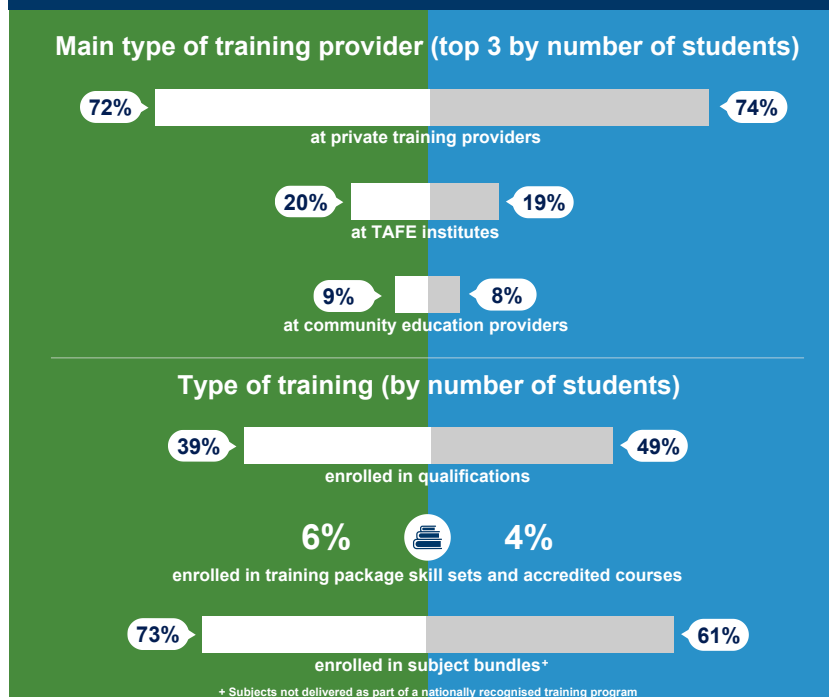


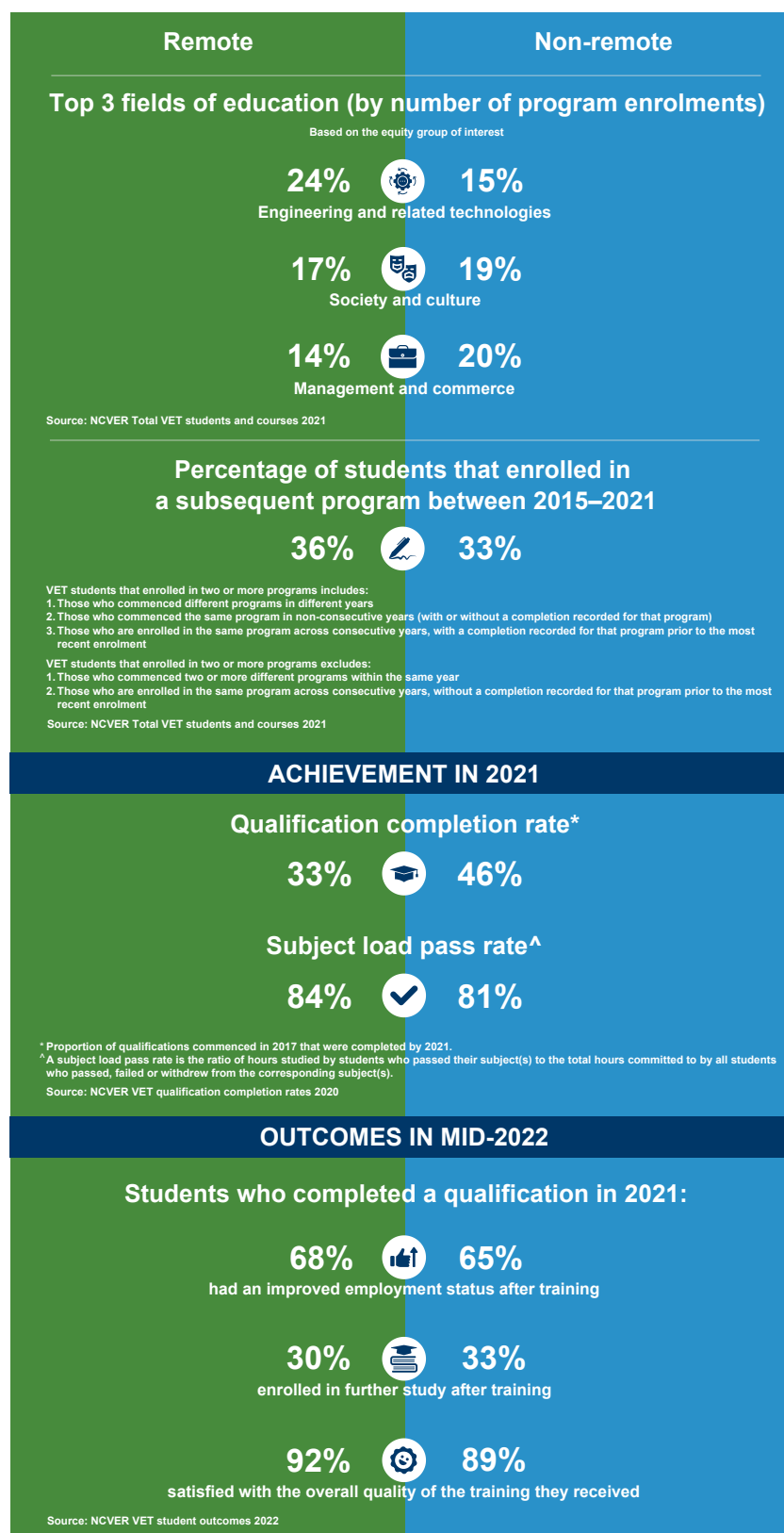
ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016  
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2021

### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021



### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

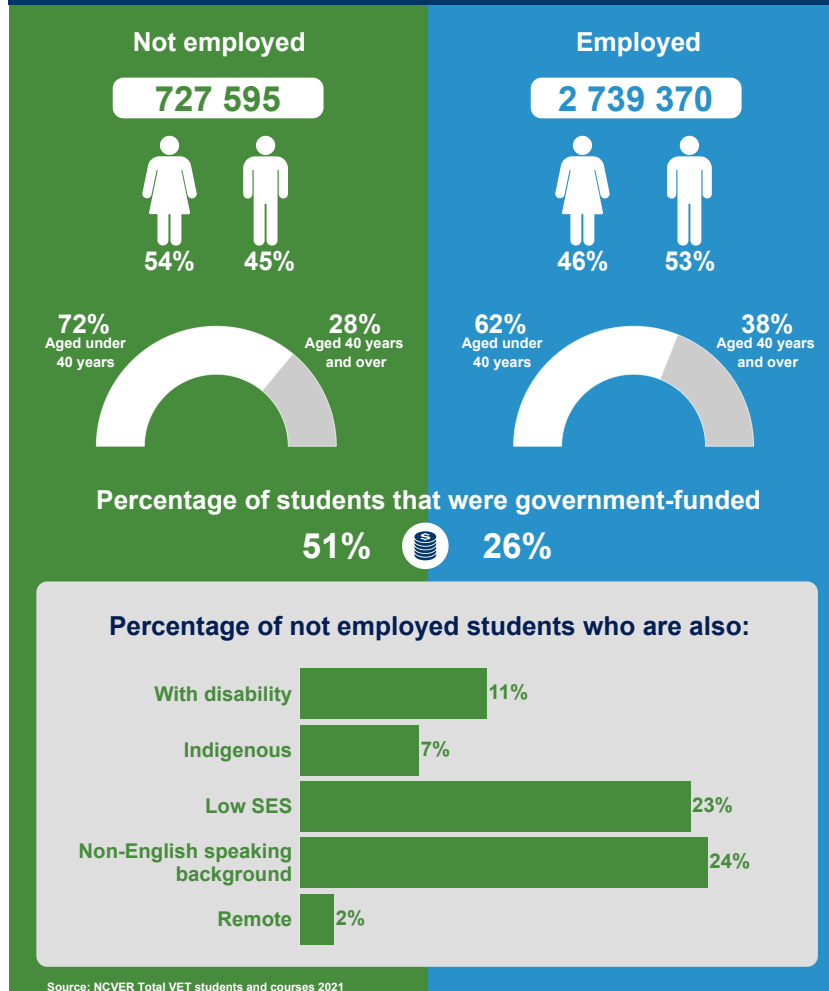




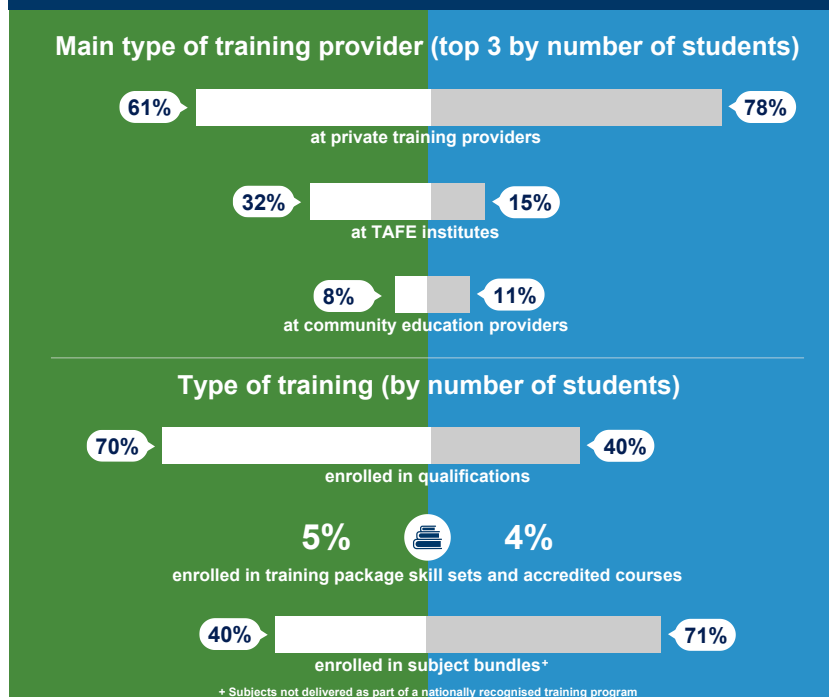
## Not employed

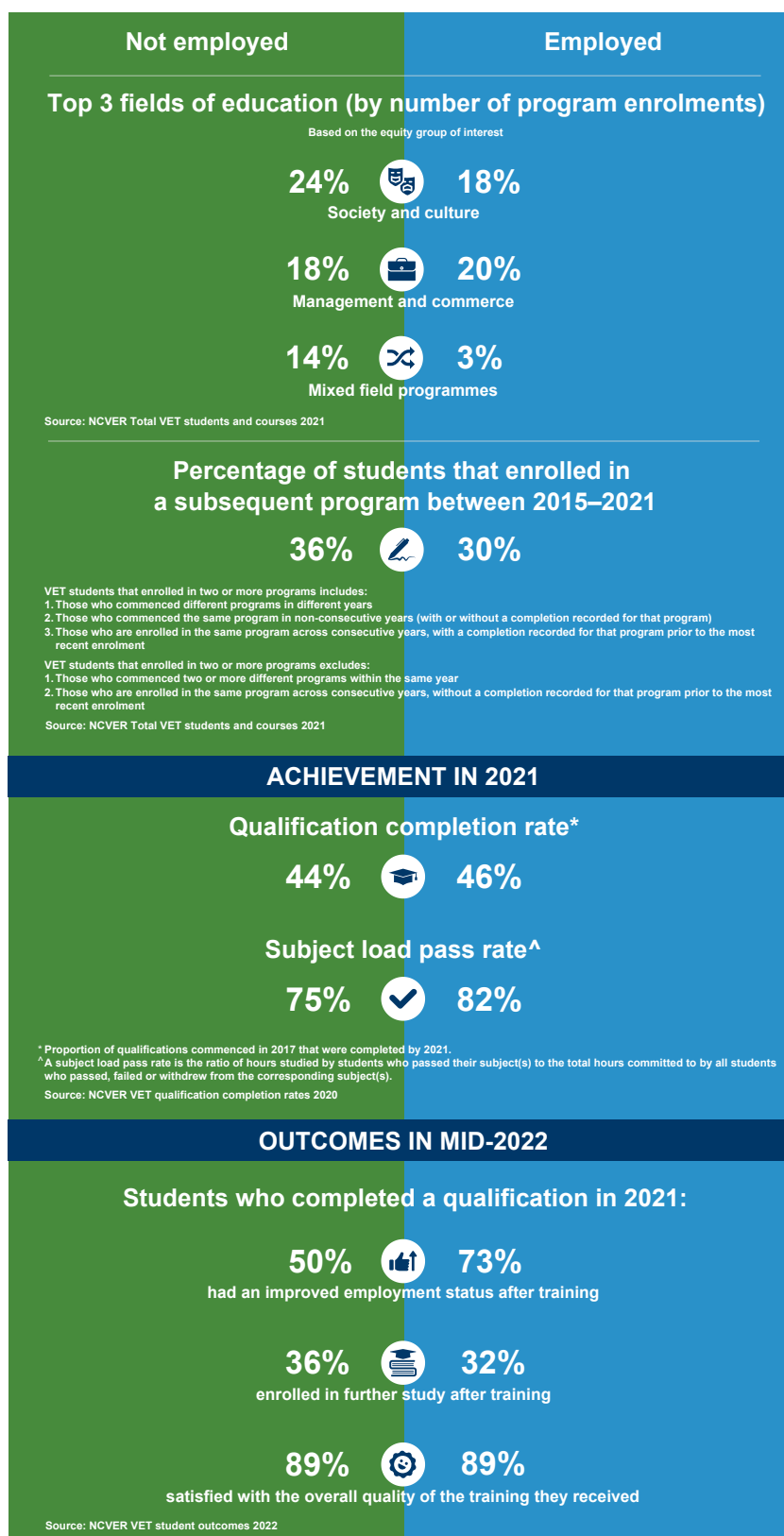


### PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2021



### VET UNDERTAKEN IN 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 2021: 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 2021](#)

[Government-funded students and courses](#)

[VET qualification completion rates 2021](#)

[VET student outcomes 2022](#)

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

[Census of Population and Housing 2016](#)

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

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Level 5, 60 Light Square, Adelaide SA 5000

PO Box 8288, Station Arcade, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

P +61 8 8230 8400 E [ncver@ncver.edu.au](mailto:ncver@ncver.edu.au)

W [www.ncver.edu.au](http://www.ncver.edu.au)

[twitter.com/ncver](https://twitter.com/ncver)

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