

Australian vocational education and training statistics

# VET qualification completion rates 2021

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



## Highlights

Completion rates for VET qualifications commencing in 2017, the latest year for which observed actual rates are available, were:

- 45.9% for all qualifications
- 46.9% for training package qualifications
- 36.2% for accredited qualifications
- 51.6% for qualifications at certificate IV
- 55.5% for students at enterprise providers
- 47% for government-funded qualifications undertaken by domestic students
- 40.3% for fee-for-service qualifications undertaken by domestic students
- 63.7% for fee-for-service qualifications undertaken by international students.

# Completion rates

**Observed actual** completion rates are only reported for qualifications that commenced four years prior to the most recent data collection period, based on the assumption that enough time has passed for all students who were going to complete their qualification to have done so.

The observed actual completion rate for:

- qualifications that commenced in 2017 is higher (45.9%) than those commencing in 2016 (43.8%)
- training package qualifications that commenced in 2017 is higher (46.9%) than those commencing in 2016 (44.5%)
- accredited qualifications that commenced in 2017 is lower (36.2%) than those commencing in 2016 (37.1%).

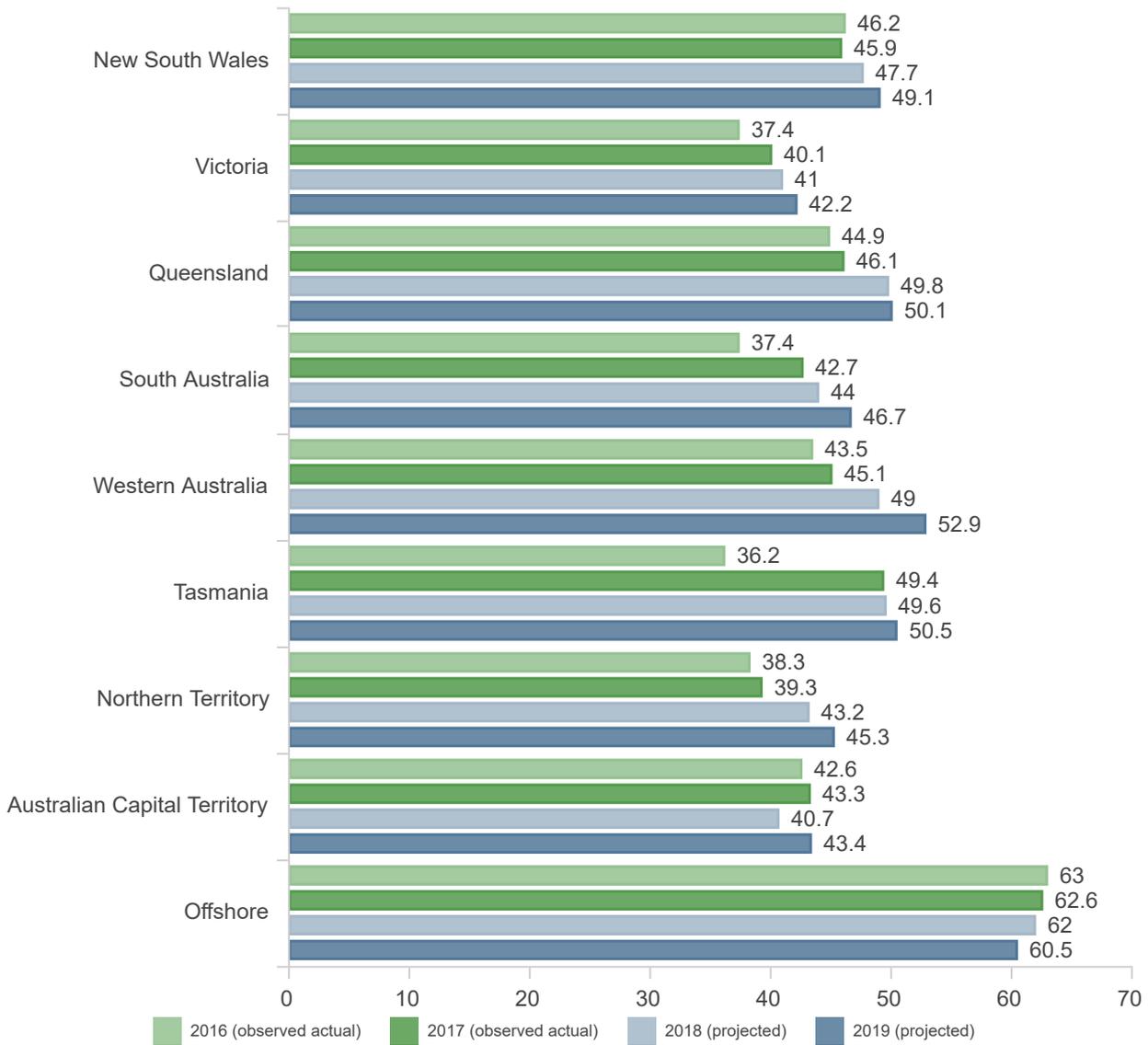
**Projected** completion rates are an estimate of the proportion of VET qualifications commenced in a given year that will eventually be completed. Rates for more recent years are projected, to account for students taking different lengths of time to complete their qualification. Projected completion rates become more accurate over time until they become observed actual rates in the fourth year.

The projected completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications that:

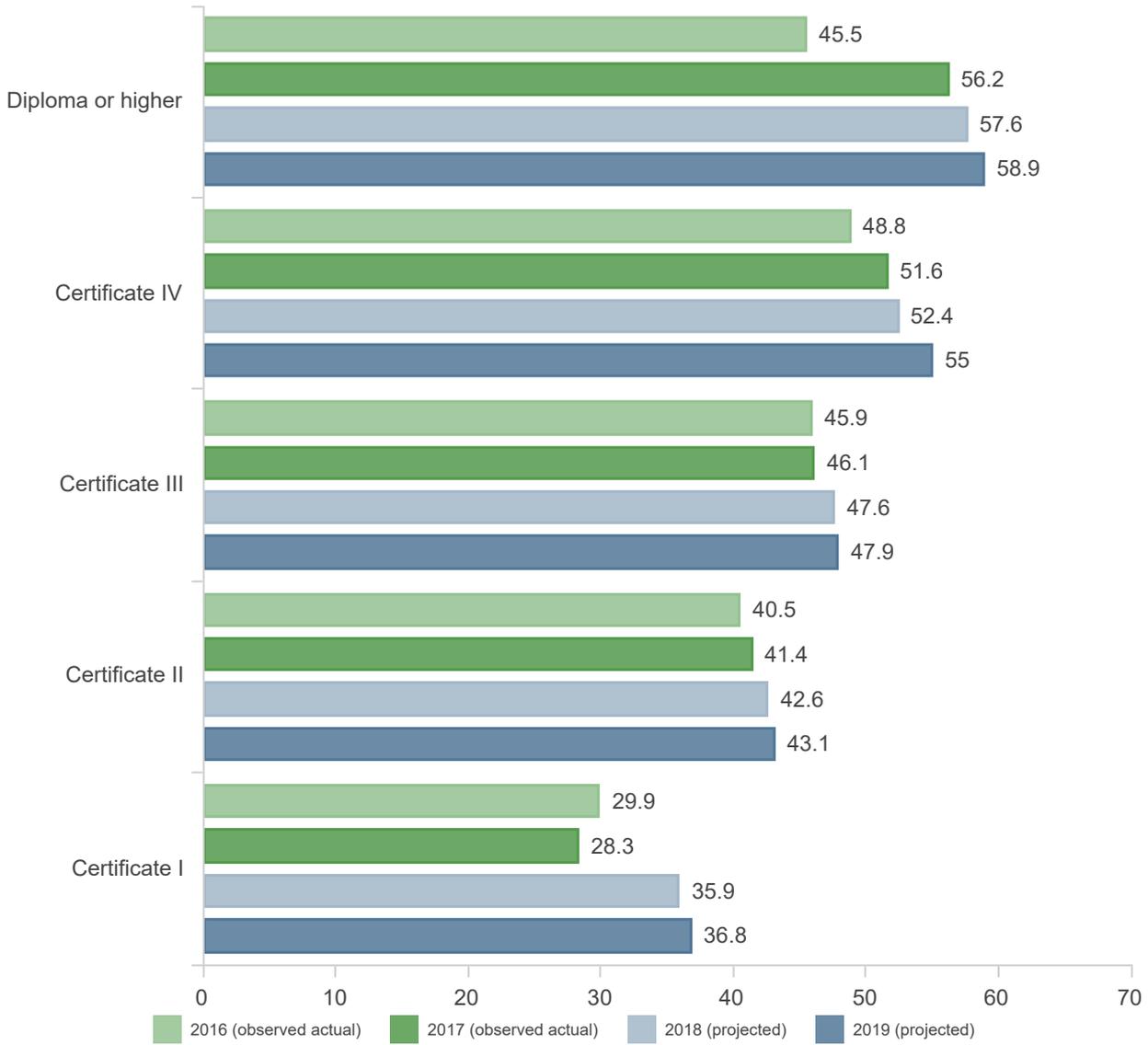
- commenced in 2018 is projected to be 47.9%
- commenced in 2019 is projected to be 48.9%.

Note: NCVER has suspended reporting of projected completion rates for qualifications that commenced in the most recent year, in this case 2020, due to limitations with the methodology and the reliability of resulting estimates.

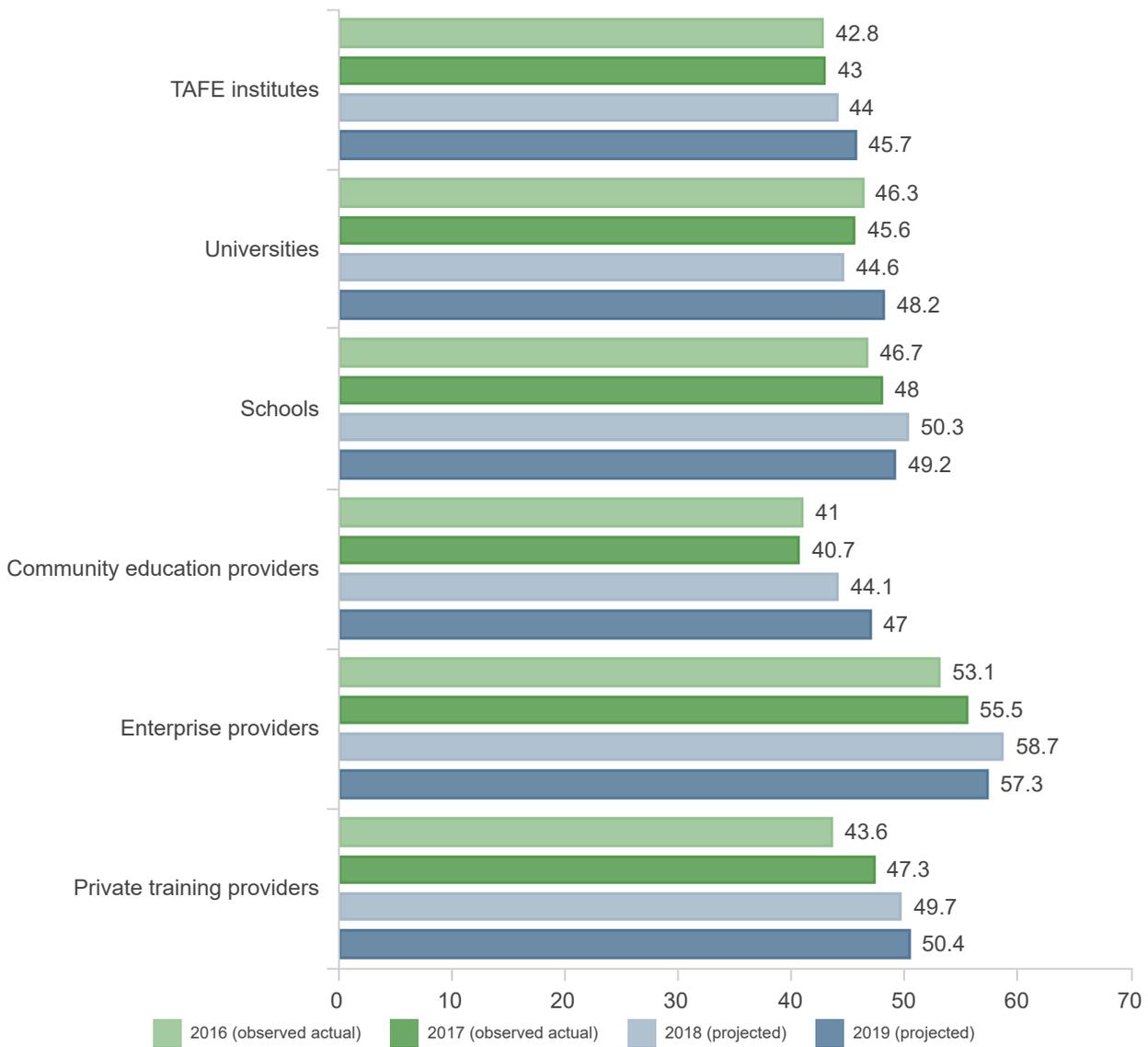
**Figure 1 Observed actual and projected completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications commencing in 2016 to 2019 by State/territory of student residence (%)**



**Figure 2 Observed actual and projected completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications commencing in 2016 to 2019 by level of education (%)**



**Figure 3 Observed actual and projected completion rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications commencing in 2016 to 2019 by provider type (%)**



## Subject load pass rates

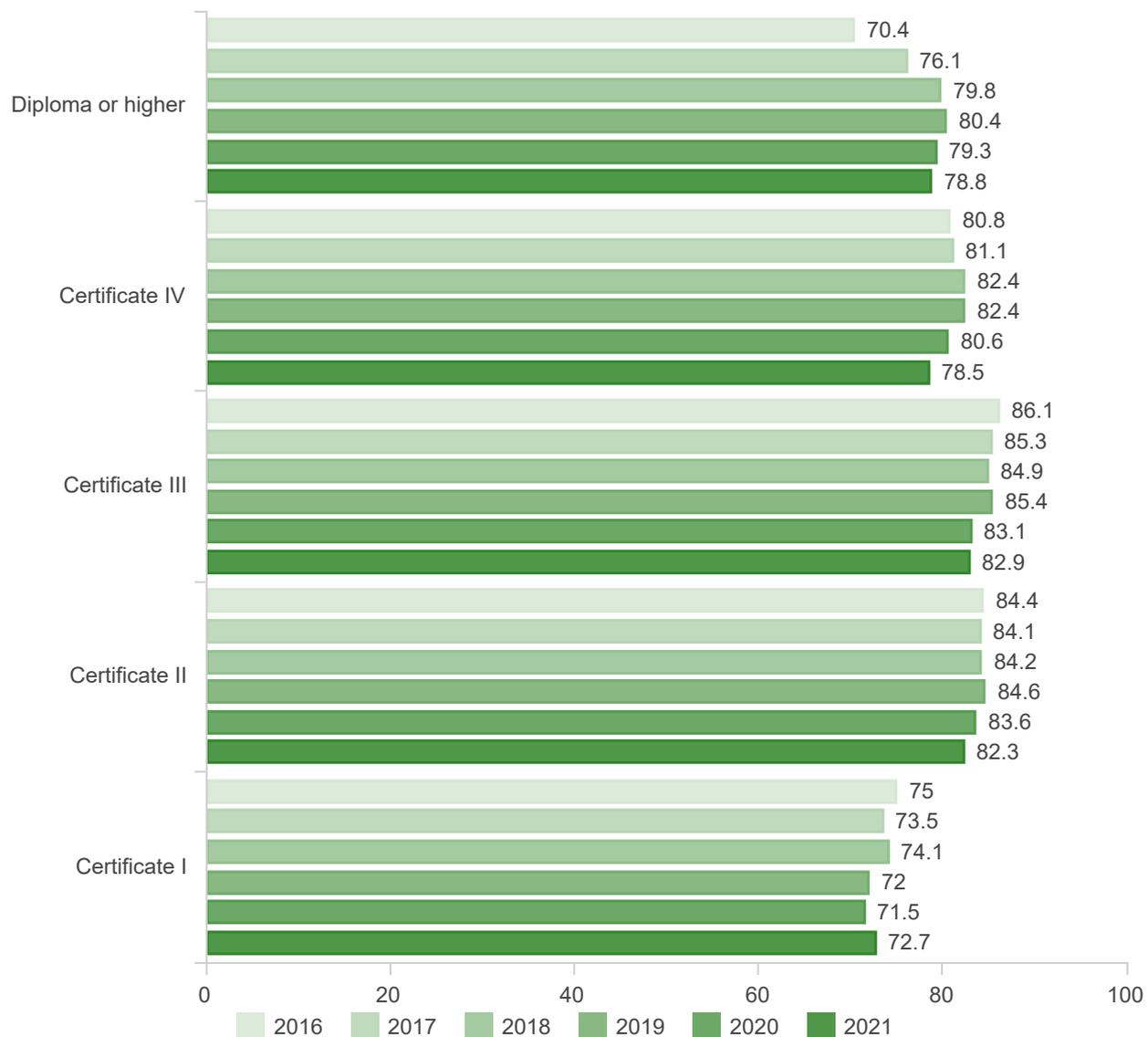
A VET qualification is made up of a number of subjects, also referred to as ‘modules’ or ‘units of competency’. The subject load pass rate is weighted to account for the fact that subjects are of different lengths. The calculation is based on the annual nominal hours (or full year training equivalent – FYTE) for each assessable module or unit of competency. A **subject load pass rate** is therefore 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).

For qualifications in 2021, subject load pass rates were:

- 80.5% for all qualifications
- 81.3% for training package qualifications
- 69.8% for accredited qualifications.

By level of education, subject load pass rates were highest for certificate III qualifications (82.9%) followed by certificate II qualifications (82.3%) that commenced in 2021. Diploma or higher level qualifications have seen an increase of 8.4 percentage points since 2016.

**Figure 4 Subject load pass rates for nationally recognised VET qualifications in 2016 to 2021 by level of education (%)**





For details and exceptions visit the [NCVER Portal](#).

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