



## VET in Schools: terms and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This document was produced as an added resource for the VET in Schools publication. The publication is available on NCVER's Portal: <<https://www.ncver.edu.au>>

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# Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in the *VET in Schools* publication and the DataBuilder. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand the specific data terms.

Terms that appear in the publication are listed in alphabetical order with the following information provided for each:

- definition: a brief explanation of the term
- classification categories: defined categories that apply to each term are listed, where applicable
- source: a description of the source of this information, including details of any calculations or derivations.

Unless stated otherwise, all data are sourced from the National VET in Schools Collection. The National VET in Schools Collection is governed by the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard: VET Provider Collection Specifications Release 8.0 (AVETMISS Release 8.0) and AVETMISS Data Element Definitions Edition 2.3, which are available at: <[www.ncver.edu.au](http://www.ncver.edu.au)>. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS Release 8.0, which further define the data collected, are provided in the 'Source' section.

Terms that have a broader vocational education and training application have not been included in this document. Readers are referred to the VET glossary, which is available on the VOCEDplus website: <<https://www.voced.edu.au/glossary-vet>>.

# Terms and definitions

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Accredited courses	Refers to nationally recognised courses accredited by VET regulators. They are courses that result in a statement of attainment outcome. The title of such courses commences with the words 'Course in'.	N/A	Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition Identifier</i> and <i>program level of education</i> identifier from the Program file.
Accredited qualifications	Refers to nationally recognised courses that lead to a qualification outcome not specified in a national training package.	N/A	Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> and <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the Program file.
Age	The age of the student as at 30 June of the collection year. It is generally reported in age ranges, however specific ages are also reported.	14 years and under 15 years 16 years 17 years 18 years 19 years 20 to 24 years 25 to 44 years 45 to 64 years 65 years and over Not known	Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Date of Birth</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Apprentice and trainee status	Whether a student is enrolled in at least one module/unit of competency in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.  This differs from other training in that a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship involves an employment and training contract with an employer and always includes structured workplace learning.	School-based apprentices and trainees Other VET in Schools students	Calculated based on the field <i>Client Identifier - apprenticeships</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Commencing program status	Indicates whether the student has enrolled in a given program at a given RTO for the first time in the year, or has continued their enrolment from previous years.	Commencing programs Continuing programs	Calculated based on data from the <i>Training activity</i> file, and looks back to the earliest year of data submitted to NCVET for the collection.
Commencing student status	Indicates whether the student has enrolled in VET for the first time, or has previously enrolled.	Commencing students Continuing students	Calculated based on data from the <i>Training activity</i> file, and looks back to the earliest year of data submitted to NCVET for the collection.
Delivery mode	Identifies whether a subject comprises internal, external or workplace-based delivery – or a combination of these modes.  A new matrix of delivery type was introduced in AVETMISS Release 8. This represents a break-in-series for reporting.	Internal only External only Workplace-based only Combination of internal and external Combination of internal and workplace-based Combination of external and workplace-based Combination of all modes	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Delivery mode identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
		Not applicable (RPL or credit transfer)	
Disability (including impairment or long-term condition)	Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment or long-term condition.	With a disability Without a disability Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Disability flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Enrolment (program/subject)	Is the registration of a student at a training delivery location for the purpose of undertaking a program or subject	N/A	Calculated based on the AVETMISS fields <i>Program Identifier</i> and <i>Client Identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Field of education	Describes the broad area of study related to a program or subject in which a student is enrolled.	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programs Not assigned	For subject enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject field of education identifier</i> from the <i>Subject</i> file.  For program enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program field of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  This classification is based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), ABS catalogue no.1272.0, 2001.
Full-year training equivalent (FYTE)	Measures the training activity undertaken by a student on a full-time basis for one year.		Derived field calculated based on <i>Reporting hours</i> (1 FYTE = 720 hours).
Gender	Whether the student identifies as male, female or other.  Other includes individuals who may have mixed or non-binary sexual characteristics; identify as gender diverse; or identify as neither male nor female.	Males Females Other Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Gender</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Indigenous status	Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	Indigenous students Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  Non-Indigenous  Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Indigenous Status Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Language other than English spoken at home	Whether the student speaks a language other than English at home.	Yes No Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Language identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.  Language identifier must be a valid 4-digit <i>Australian Standard Classification of Languages</i> code.
Nationally recognised programs	Includes training package qualifications, accredited qualifications, training package skill sets and accredited courses that are listed on the National Training Register <training.gov.au>.	Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package  Nationally recognised accredited course, other than a qualification specified in a national training package	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
		Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package	
Nationally recognised subjects	Includes accredited units of competency or modules that are listed on the National Training Register <training.gov.au>.	Module Unit of competency	Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Nationally recognised training (NRT)	Training that leads to vocational qualifications and credentials that are recognised across Australia, that are delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs).  Nationally recognised training is listed on the National Training Register <training.gov.au>.	Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package  Nationally recognised accredited course, other than a qualification specified in a national training package  Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package  Module  Unit of competency	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Module and unit of competencies are derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Nominal hours	Are values assigned to a program or subject and nominally represents the anticipated hours of supervised training deemed necessary to conduct the training and assessment activities associated with the program or subject.	N/A	Sourced from the Victorian training package purchasing guides or collected in the <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file.  Collected in the <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Program</i> file.
Non-nationally recognised training (non-NRT)	Includes locally developed courses, higher level qualifications and locally developed skill sets. Non-nationally recognised training is not listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au).	Locally developed courses Higher-level qualification, other than training package qualification or nationally recognised accredited course Locally developed skill sets  Module Unit of competency	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Derived from the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Parent training package	Refers to industry groupings of current and superseded training packages for the reporting of training package enrolments over time.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register <training.gov.au>.
Programs	Refer to structured study where associated subjects are grouped together as qualifications, courses or skill sets.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Program level of education	The level of education identifies the level of a program in which a student is enrolled.  It identifies the degree of complexity of the program of study.	Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I Statement of attainment	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  This classification is based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), ABS catalogue no.1272.0, 2001.
Qualifications	In the VET sector refer to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels of education from certificate I through to graduate diploma.	Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
		Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I	For more details of the AQF, go to < <a href="http://www.aqf.edu.au">http://www.aqf.edu.au</a> >.
Qualification completions	Refers to the formal certification that is awarded by an accredited authority in recognition of the successful completion of the units of competency or modules that comprise an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification, as specified by a nationally endorsed training package or an accredited course that provides training for that qualification.	Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program level of education identifier</i> from the <i>Program completed</i> file.
Reporting hours	Are based on the nominal hour allocations for training package units of competency from the Victorian training package purchasing guides or the median value of nominal hours for accredited course units and modules submitted to NCVET.  Excludes enrolments submitted with an <i>Outcome identifier – national</i> of '41 – <i>Incomplete due to RTO closure</i> ' and '70 – <i>Continuing activity</i> '.	N/A	Derived field based on standard nominal hour values for national reporting, which is sourced from Victorian training package purchasing guides or collected in <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file.
School type	The home school of the student, not where the vocational training takes place.  'Other' includes TAFE institutes, community education providers, privately operated registered training organisations (RTOs), home school arrangement and students attending mixed school types.	Government school Catholic school Independent school Other	Calculated based on the field <i>School type Identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage (IRSD)	This index is a general socio-economic index that summarises information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area. This index focuses on disadvantage. A high score (or quintile) reflects a relative lack of disadvantage rather than relative advantage.	Quintile 1: most disadvantaged Quintile 2 Quintile 3 Quintile 4 Quintile 5: least disadvantaged Unknown	SEIFA 2016 was released in March 2018 and has been backdated to 2016. It is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields Postcode and Suburb from the Client file).  SEIFA 2011 was released in March 2013 and has been backdated to 2011. It is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields Postcode and Suburb from the Client file).  Data for 2006-2010 are mapped to the SEIFA indexes using ABS ASGC Statistical Local Areas (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields Postcode and Suburb from the Client file).  The SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage is calculated by the Australian Bureau of

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
			Statistics (ABS) from Census information.
Stand-alone subjects	Are nationally recognised subject enrolments or non-nationally recognised subjects that are not delivered as part of a program.		Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject identifier</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
State/territory	This is the state or territory of the senior secondary assessment authority.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> .
Students	Are individuals who were enrolled in a subject or completed a program during the reporting period.	N/A	
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region	<p>The degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia.</p> <p>ARIA+ is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia.</p> <p>The ASGC divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It groups locations together into comparative classes of remoteness so that data can be collected, analysed and disseminated for broad regions which are more or less remote.</p>	Major cities Inner regional Outer regional Remote Very remote Overseas Not known	<p>Student remoteness (ARIA+) regions are mapped to the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+), which was developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA) at the University of Adelaide.</p> <p>From 2011, Student remoteness (ARIA+) is based on ABS ASGS SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file).</p> <p>Data for 2006-2010 were mapped to Student remoteness (ARIA+) using the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file). This constitutes a break-in-series for reporting Student remoteness (ARIA+).</p>
Subject funding source	Refers to the source of funding for a subject enrolment.	Government funding Domestic fee-for-service funding International fee-for-service funding	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.
Subject result	<p>The result that is recorded against a student's subject enrolment for that reporting period.</p> <p><i>Incomplete due to RTO closure</i> was introduced for the 2018 collection.</p>	Competency achieved/pass Competency not achieved/fail Withdrawn/discontinued Incomplete due to RTO closure Recognition of prior learning granted Recognition of prior learning not granted Credit transfer/national recognition Superseded subject	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Outcome Identifier – National</i> from the <i>Training activity</i> file.



Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
		Continuing activity Non-assessable enrolment – satisfactorily completed Non-assessable enrolment – withdrawn or not satisfactorily completed Not yet started	
Training packages	Are developed by Service Skills Organisations (formerly by Industry Skills Councils) to meet the training needs of an industry, or a group of industries. Each training package is made up of three components; units of competency, qualifications framework levels of education and assessment guidelines. For further information refer to < <a href="http://www.training.gov.au">http://www.training.gov.au</a> >.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register ( <a href="http://training.gov.au">training.gov.au</a> ).
Training package qualifications	Are nationally endorsed qualifications specified in a national training package.	Nationally accredited qualification specified in a national training package	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register ( <a href="http://training.gov.au">training.gov.au</a> ).
Training package skill set	Are nationally recognised skill sets, specified in a national training package. Based on groupings of units of competency which are combined to provide a clearly defined statement of the skills and knowledge required by an individual to meet industry needs or a licensing or regulatory requirement.	Nationally recognised skill set specified in a national training package	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.  Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register < <a href="http://training.gov.au">training.gov.au</a> >.
VET in Schools	Vocational education and training (VET) undertaken by school students as part of their senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE).		
Victorian training package purchasing guides	Contain nominal hour allocations for units of competency; maximum hour allocations for qualifications within training packages and sample training programs that have been developed for nationally endorsed training packages.	N/A	For more information refer to < <a href="https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/rto/Pages/purchasingguide.s.aspx">https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/rto/Pages/purchasingguide.s.aspx</a> >.
Vocational education and training (VET)	Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills.	N/A	