SUPPORT DOCUMENT

NCVER

Total VET students and courses 2020: explanatory notes

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Publisher's note

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Contents

Explanatory notes

Scope

1   Activity covered in this publication includes nationally recognised VET delivered by Australian registered training organisations (RTOs):

- TAFE institutes

- universities

- community education providers

- enterprise providers

- private training providers

- schools

- Australian RTOs delivering VET at overseas campuses.

2   This publication does not cover the following types of training:

- non-nationally recognised training

- credit transfer

- superseded training (reported with national outcome identifier '61 - superseded training')

- not yet started training (reported with national outcome identifier '85 – not yet started')

- any activity where revenue was earned from another RTO in terms of sub-contracting, auspicing, partnership or similar arrangements.

Data sources

3   The information contained in this publication is, unless otherwise stated, derived from the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection, with duplicated activity removed. For the National VET Provider Collection, data can be reported to NCVER directly by the training providers or via state training authorities. For the National VET in Schools Collection, data are reported directly by the boards of studies and via the state training authorities to NCVER. These collections are compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard, release 8.0. For further information on AVETMISS go to <https://www.ncver.edu.au/rto-hub/statistical-standard-software/avetmiss-vet-provider-collection-specifications-release-8.0>.

4   NCVER applies a process to identify and remove duplicate training activity where the same activity is reported for the same training provider in the same collection period via different submission pathways. For more information, refer to the fact sheet De-duplication of training activity in 'total VET activity' located at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-tva-fact-sheets>.

This publication also makes use of data and classification information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For more information, refer to the fact sheet Use of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data in 'total VET activity' located at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-tva-fact-sheets>.

Student counts

5 NCVER applies a methodology to distinctly count students who may be enrolled at multiple training providers. For further information, refer to the fact sheet Student counts in 'total VET activity' located at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-tva-fact-sheets> or the technical paper Counting students in Total VET students and courses located at <https://www.ncver.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/796213/Technical-paper-Counting-students-in-Total-VET-students-and-courses.pdf>.

Comparison to other collections

6 This publication reports a higher number of government-funded students (1.3 million) and full-year training equivalents (494 100) than *Government-funded students and courses 2020* (1.2 million and 433 300 respectively) as it includes data from the National VET in Schools Collection and a small amount of Commonwealth specific funding program activity that is submitted directly to NCVER by RTOs.

7 In this publication, the number of apprentices and trainees undertaking off-the-job training in 2020 (300 200) exceeds the number of apprentices and trainees in-training as at 31 December 2020 (297 900), derived from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection. The key reason for differences between the collections are that data in this publication is based on a count of students enrolled in VET at any time during the calendar year, while in-training data derived from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection is a point-in-time snapshot of training.

8 For further information on the differences between data in this publication and other reports produced by NCVER, refer to the fact sheet Comparing data from other national VET collections with 'total VET activity' located at < https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-tva-fact-sheets>.

Training provider counts

9 The number of training providers is a distinct count of providers who delivered nationally recognised training and had an active registration in the calendar year as per the National Register of VET (training.gov.au). Counts are provided in tables 1 and 2.

10 Some training providers deliver VET in multiple state/territory and offshore locations. Therefore, in table 2, training providers are counted distinctly for each delivery location and within the total.

11 'Provider type' may be different from that reported in *Government-funded students and courses* as 'provider reporting type' is a derived field based on the combination of the submitter identifier and training organisation type identifier. For further information refer to <https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/government-funded-students-and-courses>.

Table 1 Provider type by state/territory of head office, 2020

Training providers	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TAFE institutes	1	12	1	1	6	1	1	1	24
Universities	1	6	3	-	2	1	1	-	14
Schools	15	50	275	4	21	2	4	11	382
Community education providers	67	75	28	8	12	3	4	8	205
Enterprise providers	39	22	21	14	19	5	5	3	128
Private training providers	799	628	781	144	291	38	31	54	2 766
Total	**922**	**793**	**1 109**	**171**	**351**	**50**	**46**	**77**	**3 519**

A dash (-) represents a true zero figure, with no data reported in this category.

Table 2 Provider type by state/territory of delivery location, 2020

Training providers	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other[1]	Aust.	Offshore	Total
TAFE institutes	8	15	2	7	8	4	3	1	-	24	12	24
Universities	4	8	6	3	4	2	3	1	-	14	1	14
Schools	17	55	278	10	22	3	7	11	-	382	-	382
Community education providers	76	88	41	23	18	6	10	16	-	205	1	205
Enterprise providers	50	39	43	25	41	11	16	13	-	127	3	128
Private training providers	1 182	936	1 108	470	581	233	204	237	8	2 755	56	2 766
Total	**1 337**	**1 141**	**1 478**	**538**	**674**	**259**	**243**	**279**	**8**	**3 507**	**73**	**3 519**

1 Refers to 'Other Australian territories and dependencies' (for example, Christmas Island) and where the delivery location is not known. The sum of training providers across state/territory and offshore delivery locations will not add to 'Aust.' or 'Total' as a training provider may deliver in multiple locations in a calendar year.
A dash (-) represents a true zero figure, with no data reported in this category.

Table 3   Provider type, 2016 to 2020

Training providers	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAFE institutes	41	41	36	25	24
Universities	15	13	13	14	14
Schools	418	396	393	388	382
Community education providers	262	245	236	219	205
Enterprise providers	167	144	141	137	128
Private training providers	3 154	3 105	3 020	2 898	2 766
Total	**4 051**	**3 943**	**3 838**	**3 681**	**3 519**

Data treatment

12 Note that the percentages presented in this publication are reported to one decimal place. Other numbers have been rounded after aggregation to the nearest hundred. Rounding can lead to situations where individual numbers might not add to the rounded totals.

Data revisions

13 The data in this publication may be revised for several reasons. For consistency of reporting, some previously reported data are rebased using data collected for the current year. For example, if a training provider was reported in the current year with provider type of 'school' but in the previous year the same provider was reported as 'community education provider', NCVER will adjust the previously reported provider type to match that of the current year. Improvements to the student counting methodology may also lead to minor variations in data reported between years.

14 In addition to the above, a small amount of data can be submitted to NCVER after the reporting window has closed. These data will not be included in the current publication. However, they will be included in the following year's publication resulting in minor variations in the data.

15 For 2020 reporting, NCVER has improved the method used to calculate program completions resulting in a slight increase compared with previously published data. Previously, NCVER calculated program completions using data from two collection years only. For example, completions reported for 2016

used data from the 2016 and 2017 National VET Provider and National VET in Schools Collections. The improved method includes data from all collection years.

16 Registered training organisations who delivered nationally recognised training in 2020, but were not expected to submit data, include those training organisations who:

- were exempt from reporting enrolment/completion level data to the National VET Provider Collection as the training was part of a vital community service or the training could not be reported as it would conflict with defence and national security legislation and/or could jeopardise the personal safety of border protection, customs, and national security or police personnel.

- were not operating at the time of data submission.

17 The current collection coverage issues are outlined below:

- It is estimated 260 registered training organisations did not report data on 2020 training activity.

- Of the 3519 training providers who reported data on 2020 training activity, it is not known whether they reported all their training activity. For example, some training providers may have only reported their government funded activity and not their fee-for-service activity. Furthermore, some data on training activity delivered in offshore locations are likely to be missing. NCVER is unable to estimate the completeness of the data reported or estimate the size of the missing activity.

Not known information

18 Caution should be taken when using data with a large number of 'not known' responses. Data are reported as 'not known' for the following reasons:

- information was not collected

- a student has not responded to a question on the enrolment form

- invalid information was supplied

- where duplicate student records have conflicting demographic information, for example where the same student is reported as both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

19 The extent of the 'not known' data for selected student characteristics is illustrated in the following table.

Table 4   Proportion of students with 'not known' data, 2016 to 2020 (%)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gender	3.7	2.7	4.2	3.5	2.6
Age	2.4	1.8	1.1	0.5	0.2
Indigenous status	13.7	11.9	11.8	10.1	9.5
Disability (including impairment or long-term condition)	15.6	14.8	15.0	11.9	12.7
Student remoteness region	3.3	3.5	5.1	5.8	5.0
SEIFA (IRSD)	10.9	10.9	12.3	13.8	12.5
School status	14.4	12.8	13.0	11.7	10.7
Language other than English spoken at home	19.8	18.6	19.9	19.1	18.1
Labour force status	23.0	23.6	23.7	21.9	20.3