

Government-funded students and courses 2021

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



Highlights

In 2021, 1 250 100 students were enrolled in government-funded vocational education and training (VET). They included:

- 1 198 500 students enrolled in nationally recognised training
- 98 400 students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training.

In 2021, compared with 2020:

- students numbers increased by 4.9% to 1 250 100
- full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) increased by 12.0% to 485 300
- students enrolled in nationally recognised VET increased by 5.0% to 1 198 500
 - students enrolled in nationally recognised programs increased by 8.1% to 1 087 700
 - students enrolled in stand-alone nationally recognised subjects decreased by 0.3% to 27 000
- students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training increased by 6.6% to 98 400.

An estimated 7.4% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET in Australia in 2021.

From 2017 to 2021:

- student numbers increased by 10.1% to 1 250 100.

Students and participation

In 2021, 1 250 100 students were enrolled in government-funded VET, an increase of 4.9% from 2020.

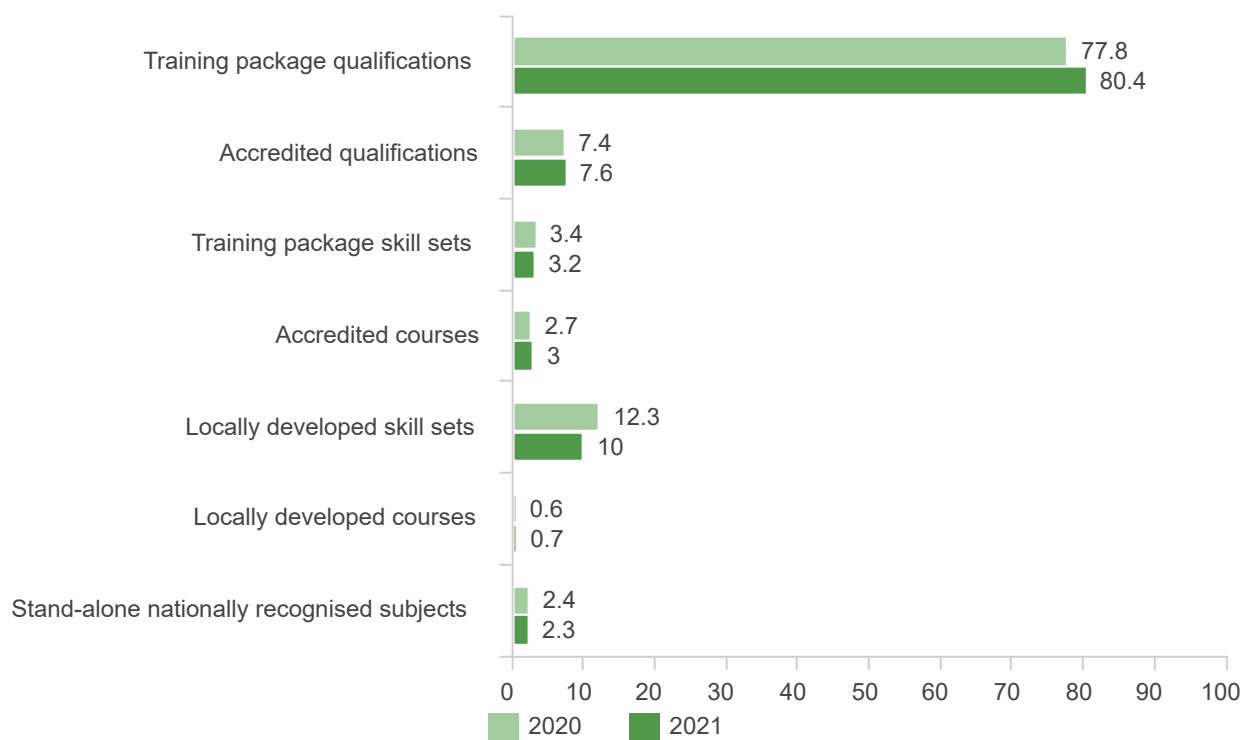
An estimated 7.4% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET in Australia in 2021. Participation was highest among those aged 15 to 19 years (at 19.7%).

In 2021, 1 198 500 government-funded students were enrolled in nationally recognised VET, consisting of:

- training package qualifications (963 900 or 80.4% of students undertaking nationally recognised VET)
- accredited qualifications (91 400 students or 7.6%)
- training package skill sets (38 100 students or 3.2%)
- accredited courses (36 000 students or 3.0%)
- locally developed skill sets and courses comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject (128 500 students or 10.7%)
- stand-alone nationally recognised subjects (27 000 students or 2.3%).

Note that some students enrolled in one or more programs, others in stand-alone subjects, and some in a combination of both.

Figure 1 Government-funded students enrolled in nationally recognised training, 2020 and 2021 (%) - Australia



Note: The sum of proportions will not add to 100% as a student may have enrolled in multiple types of training in a calendar year.

In 2021, 98 400 government-funded students were enrolled in non-nationally recognised VET, consisting of:

- non-nationally recognised programs (73 400 students)
- non-nationally recognised stand-alone subjects (24 900 students).

In 2021, compared with 2020, the number of government-funded full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) increased by 52 100 to 485 300 (up 12.0%).

Participation rate

In 2021, the overall participation rate for government-funded VET for those 15 to 64 years was 7.4%, up 0.4% from 2020.

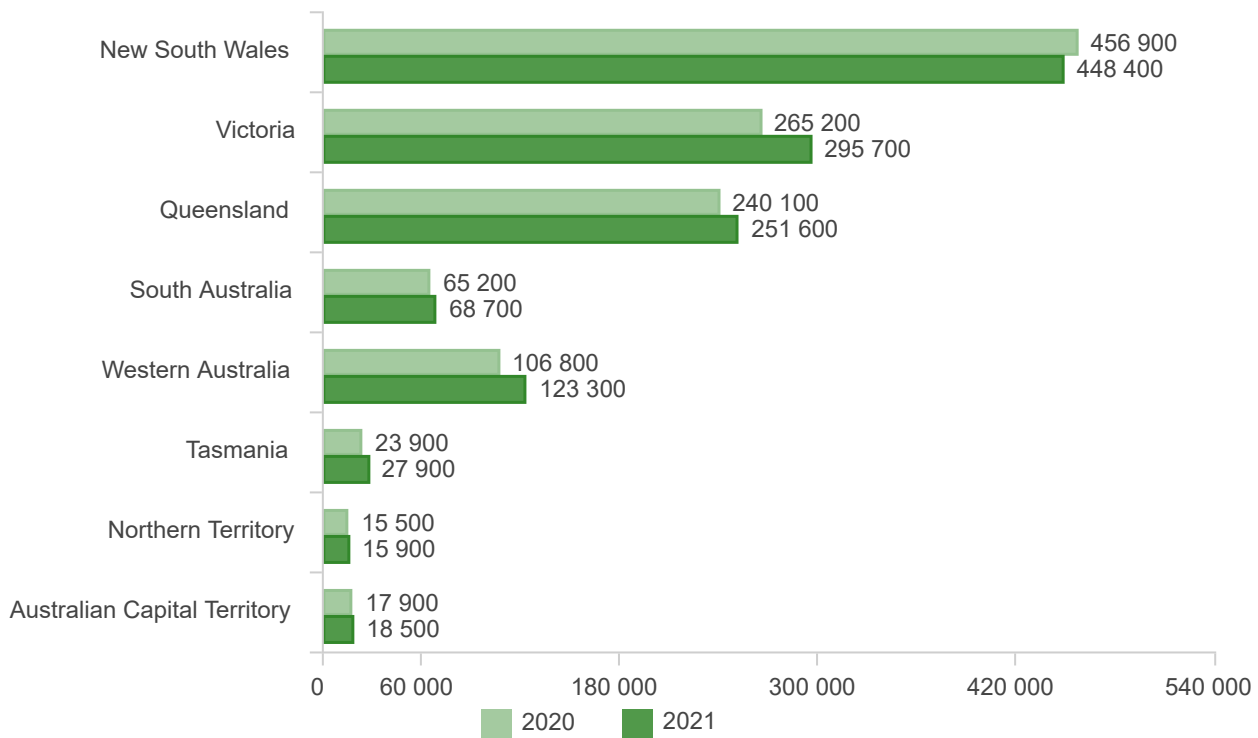
Table 1 Government-funded student participation rate, 2017 to 2021 (%) - Australia

Age	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
15 to 19 years	20.1	19.4	19.0	18.4	19.7
20 to 24 years	12.5	12.3	12.8	13.5	15.3
25 to 44 years	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.4	6.6
45 to 64 years	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3
15 to 64 years	6.9	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.4

Students - Australia summary

In 2021, compared with 2020, the number of government-funded students decreased in New South Wales, and increased in all other states and territories.

Figure 2 Government-funded students by state or territory, 2020 and 2021 - Australia

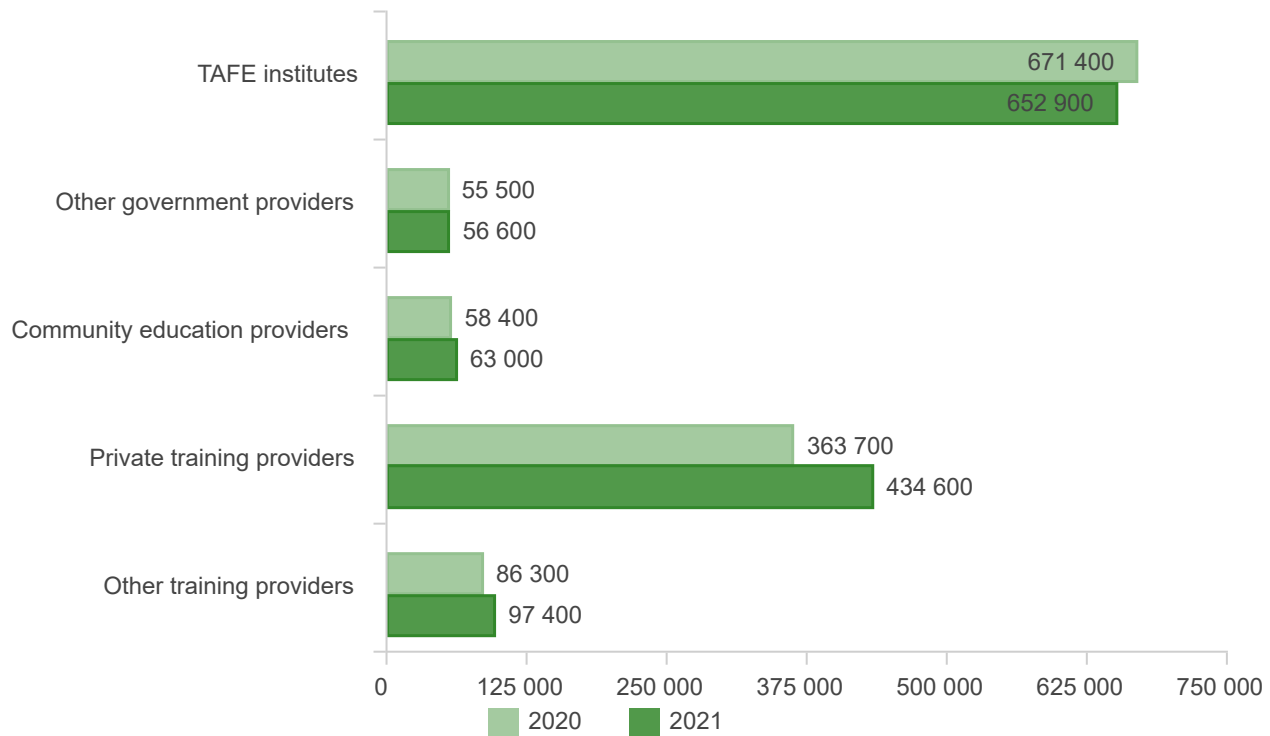


Students by training provider

In 2021, 1 518 training providers delivered government-funded VET to 1 250 100 students in Australia, consisting of:

- 652 900 students or 52.2% at TAFE institutes (down 2.7% from 2020)
- 56 600 students or 4.5% at other government providers (up 2.0% from 2020)
- 63 000 students or 5.0% at community education providers (up 7.9% from 2020)
- 434 600 students or 34.8% at private training providers (up 19.5% from 2020)
- 97 400 students or 7.8% at other training providers (up 12.9% from 2020).

Figure 3 Government-funded students by provider reporting type, 2020 and 2021 - Australia



Note: the sum of students across different provider types may not equal the total number of students (1 250 100) as a student may have enrolled in multiple providers in a calendar year.

Provider type by year

Of the 1 518 providers to offered government-funded training in 2021, the majority (975) were Private training providers.

Table 2 Provider reporting type, 2017 to 2021 - Australia

Provider type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAFE institutes	40	35	25	24	24
Other government providers	10	10	10	10	10
Community education providers	358	356	335	313	313
Private training providers	1 220	1 113	1 035	975	975
Other training providers	306	292	268	258	251
Total	1 874	1 747	1 620	1 527	1 518

Note: The total is a distinct count of training providers that submitted data through the state training authorities

Program enrolments

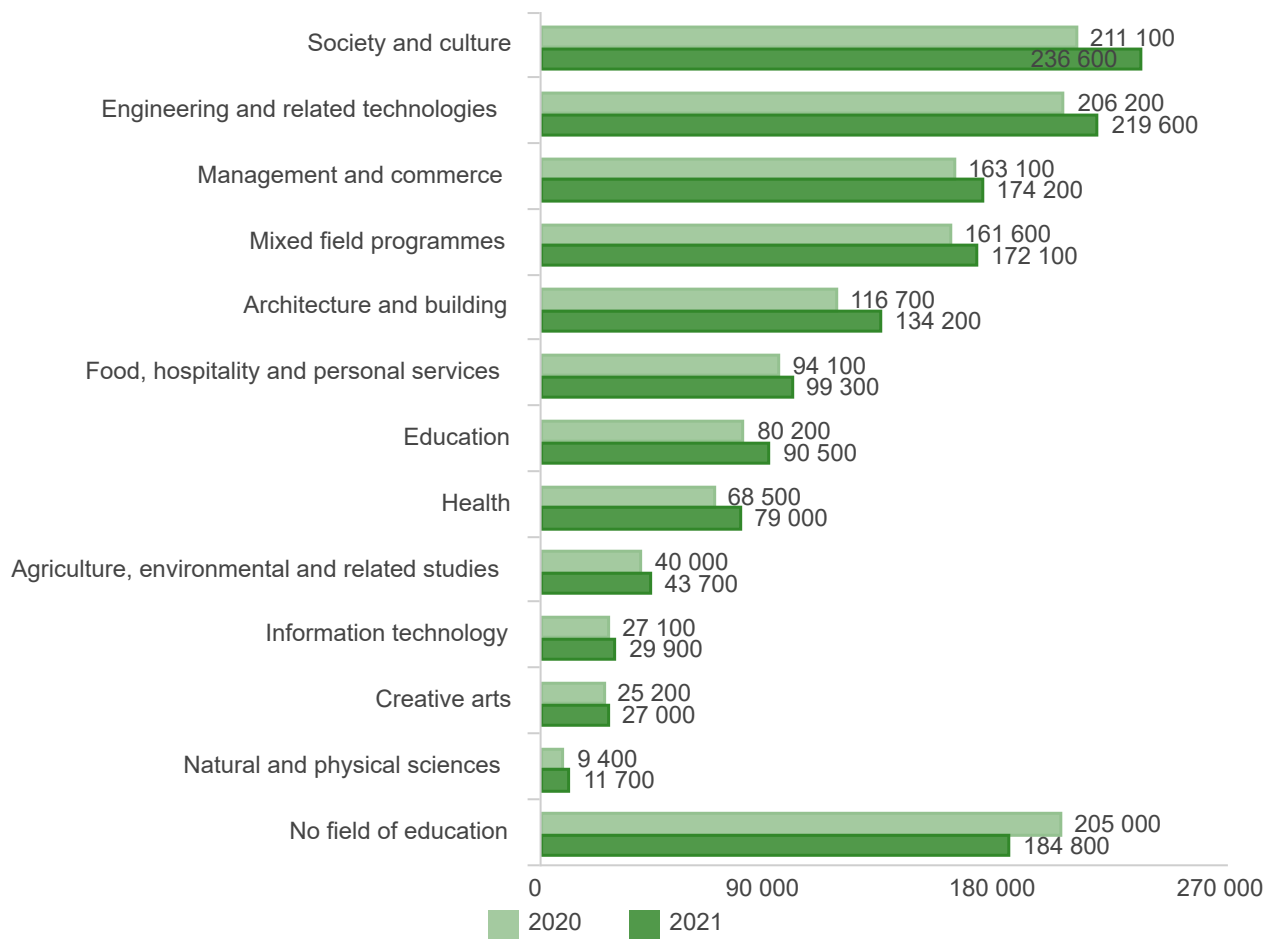
In 2021, there were 1 502 600 enrolments in government-funded programs, an increase of 6.7% from 2020.

Of these:

- 79.1% were in qualifications, including training package qualifications (72.2%) and accredited qualifications (6.9%)
- 5.1% were in training package skill sets and accredited courses
- 10.2% were in locally developed programs comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject
- 5.5% were in non-nationally recognised programs.

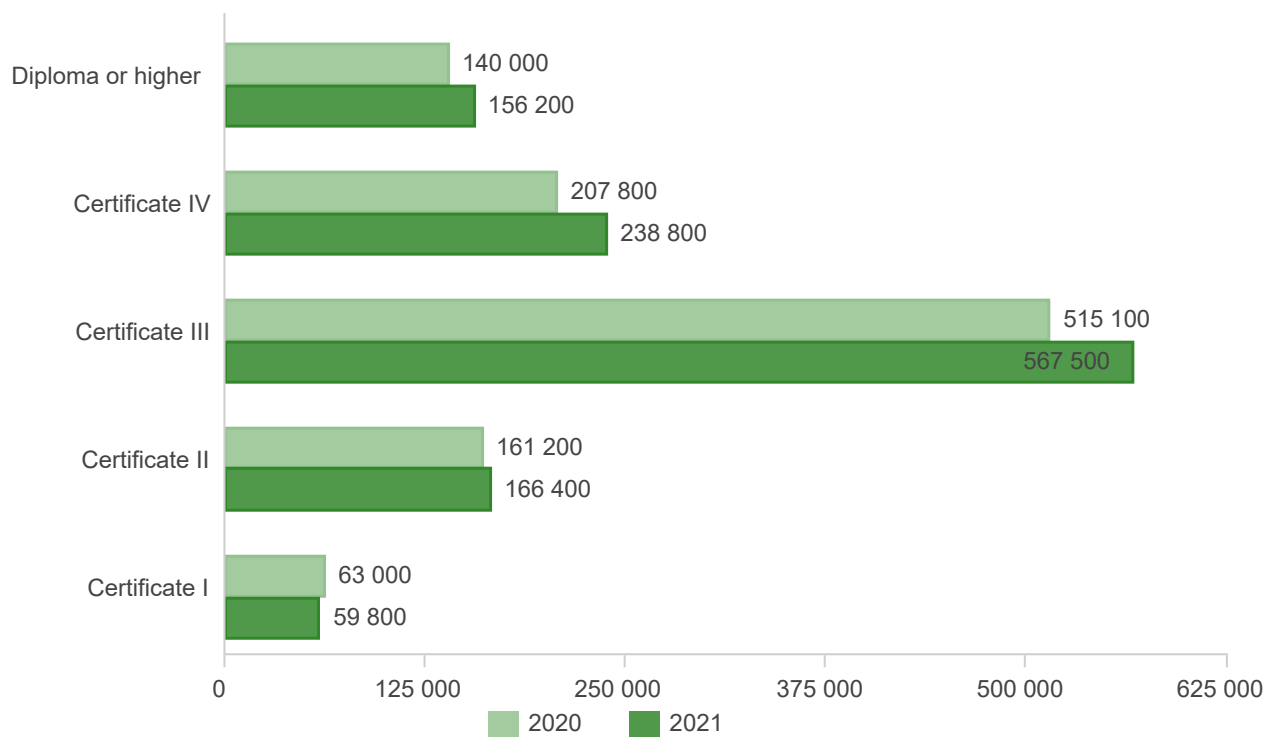
In 2021, Society and culture was the most popular field of education (236 600 or 15.7%) for government-funded program enrolments followed by Engineering and related technologies (219 600 or 14.6%).

Figure 4 Government-funded program enrolments by field of education, 2020 and 2021 - Australia



In 2021, there were 1 188 800 enrolments in government-funded nationally recognised qualifications (up 9.4% from 2020). The most popular level of education was Certificate III (with 47.7% of all qualification enrolments), followed by Certificate IV (20.1%) and Certificate II (14.0%).

Figure 5 Government-funded Nationally recognised qualification enrolments by level of education, 2020 and 2021 - Australia

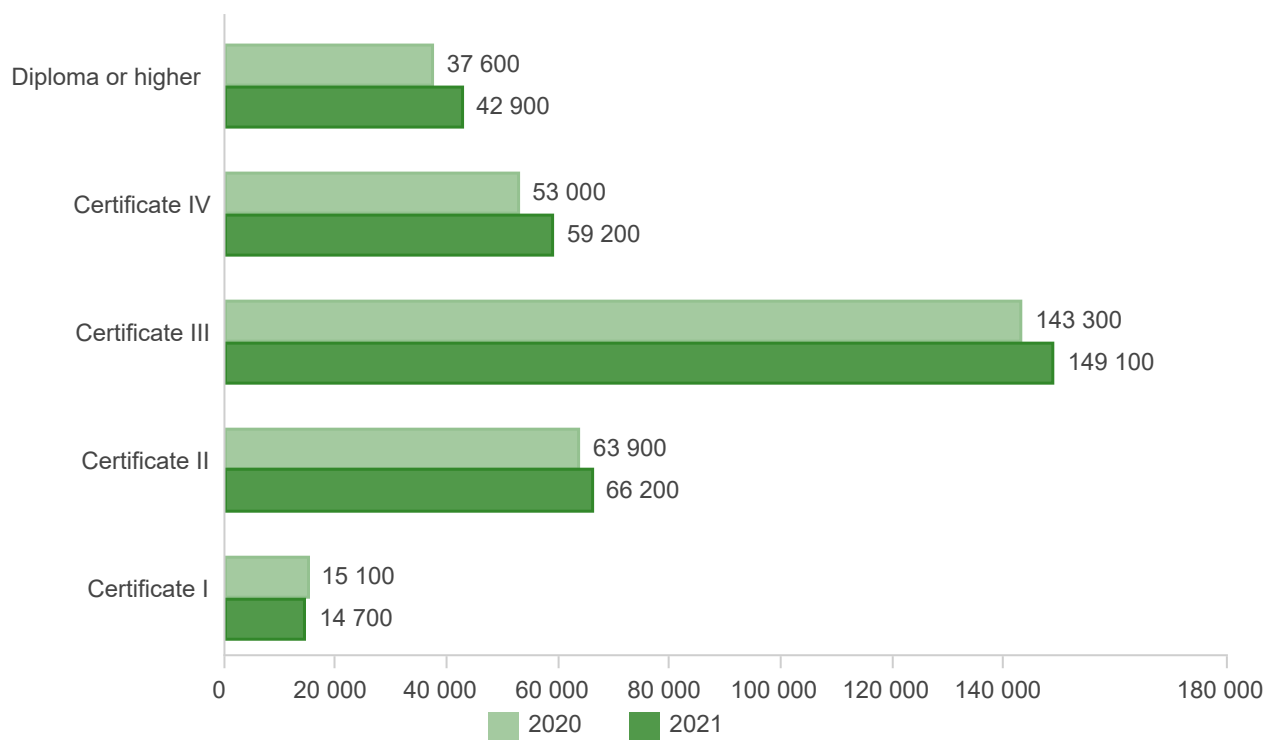


Qualification completions

Preliminary numbers show 332 000 government-funded qualifications were completed in 2021. This number will be revised upwards with the release of *Government-funded students and courses 2022*.

The highest proportion of qualifications completed in 2021 were at Certificate III level (44.9%), followed by Certificate II (19.9%), and Certificate IV (17.8%).

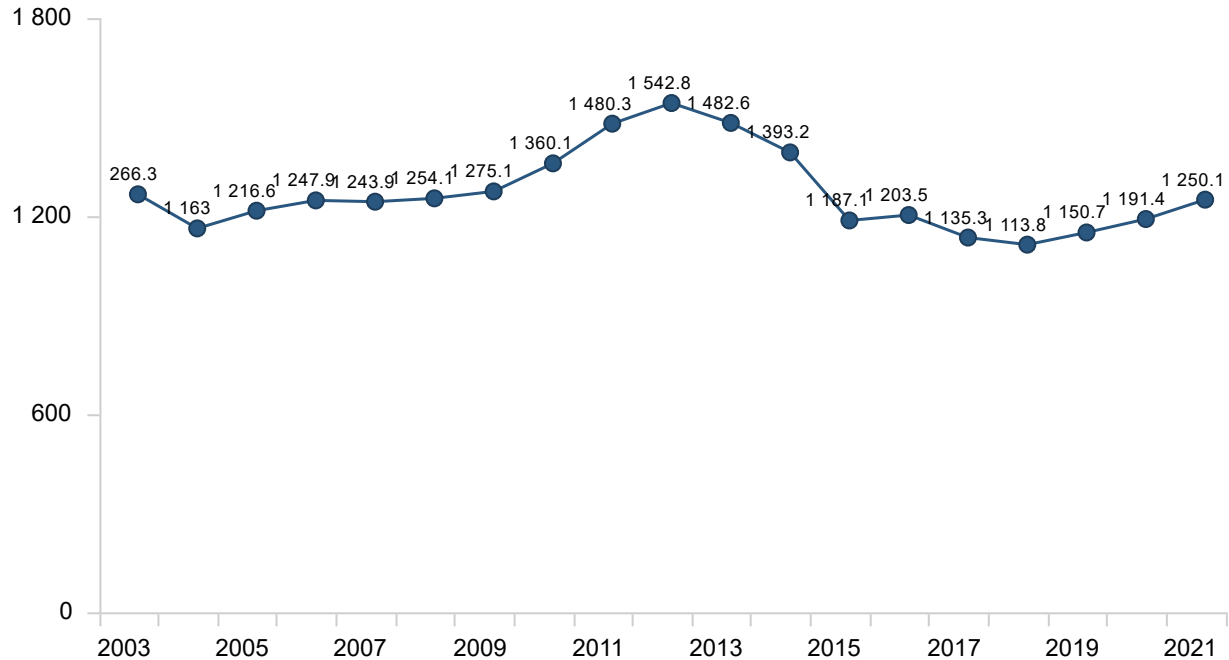
Figure 6 Government-funded qualification completions by level of education, 2020 and 2021 - Australia



Historical time series data

Time series data from 2003 to 2021 are displayed in the following graphs. Note that reporting changes may impact comparability across years; refer to the notes accompanying *Historical time series of government-funded VET in Australia, from 1981* for more information.

Figure 7 Government-funded students, 2003 to 2021 ('000) - Australia



Note: Break-in-series from 2015 onwards. Refer to Historical time series of government-funded VET in Australia, from 1981 for more information.

Figure 8 Government-funded full-year training equivalents, 2003 to 2021 ('000) - Australia

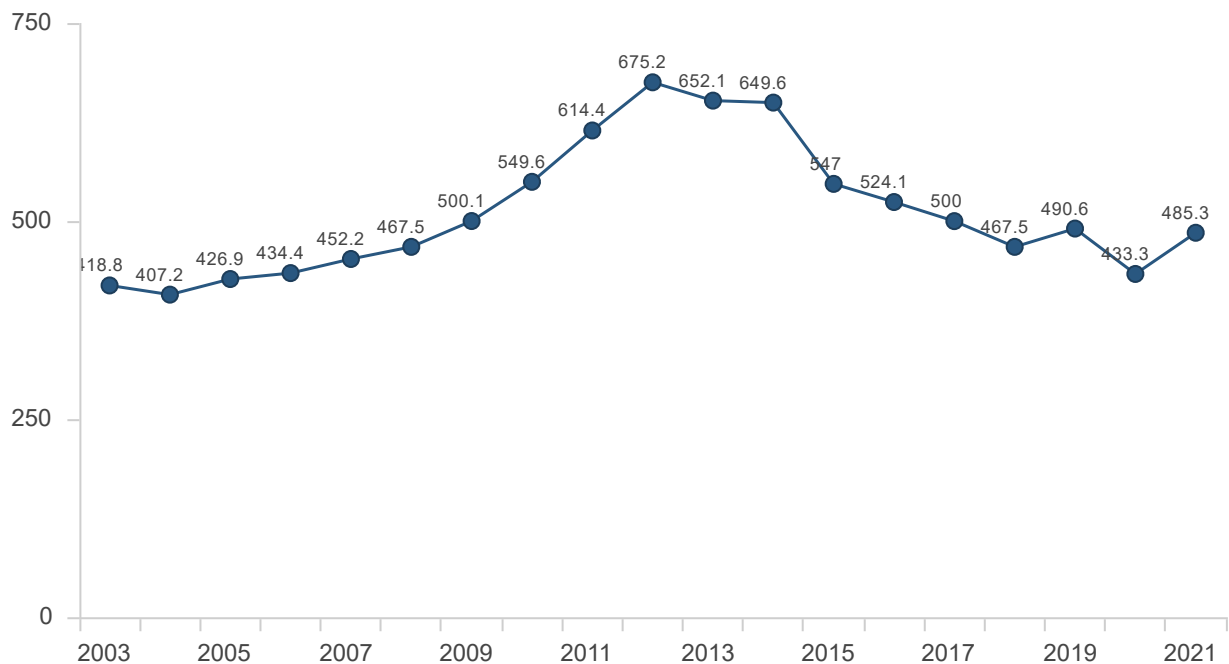


Figure 9 Government-funded program enrolments, 2003 to 2021 ('000) - Australia

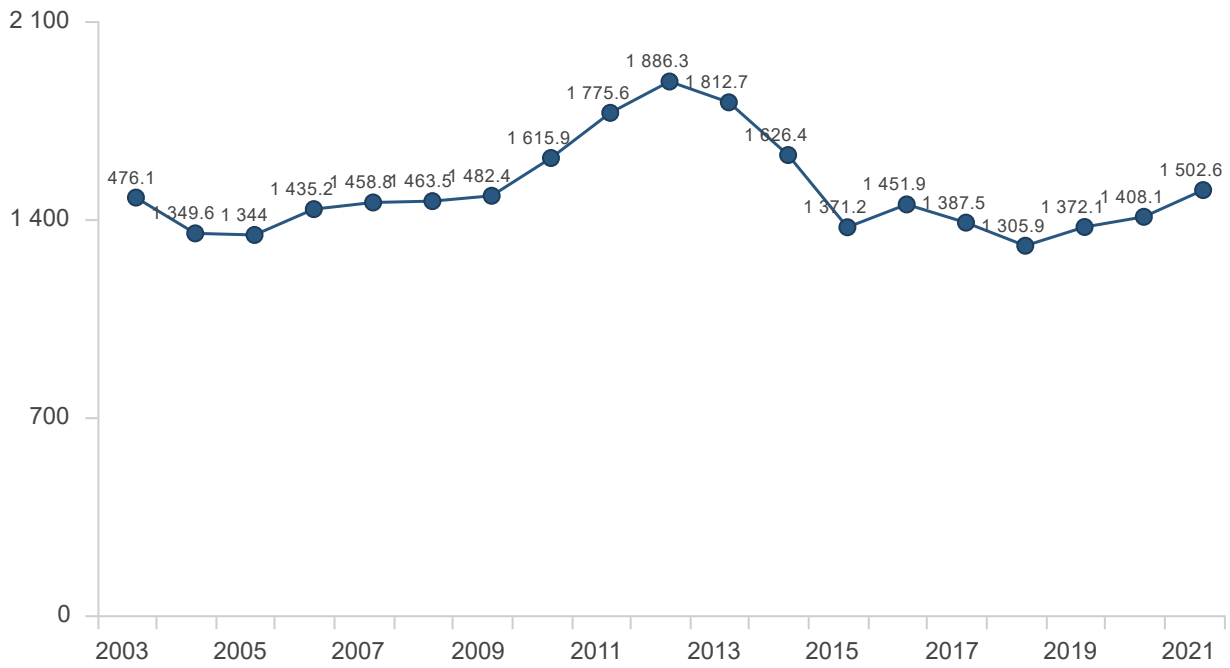
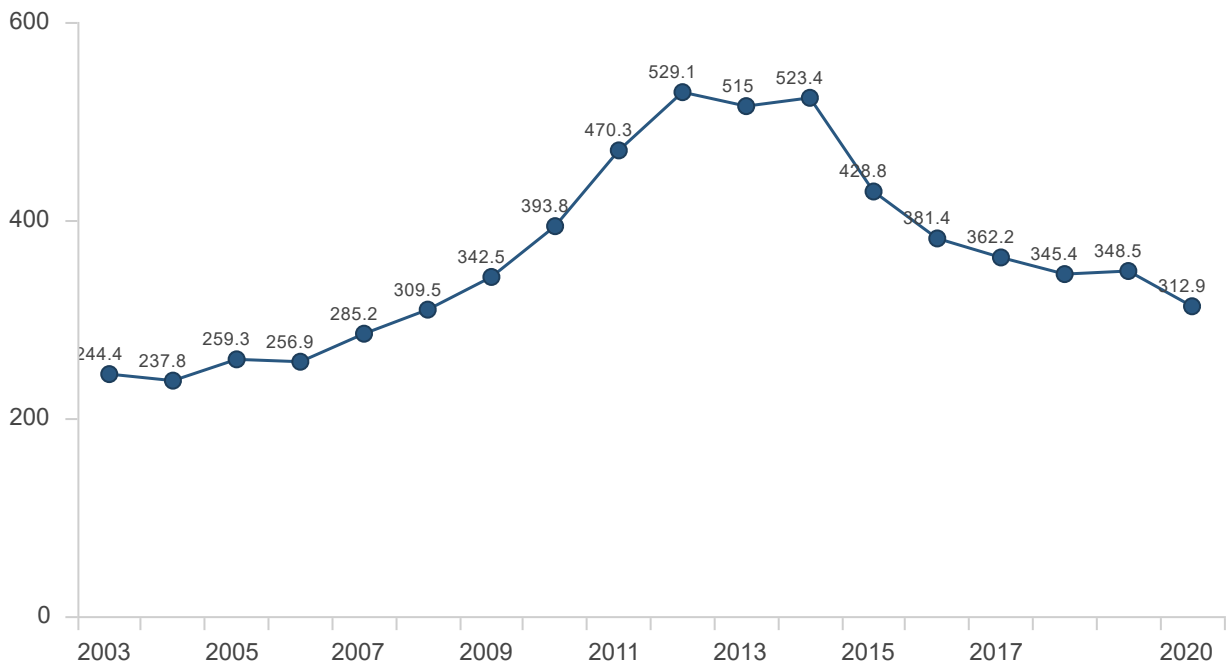


Figure 10 Government-funded qualifications completions, 2003 to 2020 ('000) - Australia





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

This document should be attributed as NCVET 2022, *Government funded students and courses 2021*, NCVET, Adelaide.

This work has been produced by NCVET on behalf of the Australian Government, and state and territory governments, with funding provided through the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of NCVET and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government or state and territory governments.

ISSN 2206-5156

TD/TNC 148.02

Published by NCVET, ABN 87 007 967 311