

Government funding of VET 2021: terms and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

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This document was produced as an added resource for the publication sourced from the National VET Funding Collection. The report is available on the NCVET's Portal: <https://www.ncver.edu.au>.

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Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in *Government funding of VET 2021* publications and related data products. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand the specific data terms.

Terms that appear in the publications and data items are listed in alphabetical order with the following information provided for each:

- Definition: a brief explanation of the term
- Classification categories: where applicable, defined categories that apply to each term are listed
- Source: a description of the source of this information.

Unless stated otherwise, all data are sourced from the National VET Funding Collection. The National VET Funding Collection is an administrative collection governed by the *Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS): the Standard for VET Funding Data—release 1.1*. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS for VET Funding Data, which further define the data collected, are provided in the ‘Source’ section.

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

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Accredited courses	Refer 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'.	Accredited courses	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package - accredited courses reporting line.
Apprentice/trainee status	Identifies whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship/ Traineeship Training Contract.	Apprenticeship Non-apprenticeship Unknown	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by apprenticeship status.
Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)	The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a geographical framework created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.		AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by student remoteness; and provider remoteness. Provisions for VET student loans by student remoteness.
Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS)	AVETMISS is a national data standard, which ensures the accuracy and consistency of vocational education and training (VET) information.		
Capital funding	Funding provided by Australian government and state and territory governments for capital purposes that relate to VET matters. This includes major capital projects, equipment acquisition, and construction of industry-based and school-based skill centres.	Capital funding	The AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, new assets and existing asset capital expenditure by provider type and provider remoteness.
Australian Government ongoing specific-purpose payments	Commonwealth payments to state and territory governments under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory governments public VET systems, refer to the specific purpose payments for the long-term objectives as identified in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.	Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments	The AVETMISS government funding collection, government contributions.
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	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by disability status.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Employer assistance	A VET activity expenditure for VET programs that support employers to engage in VET by training their workforce or employing an apprentice or trainee by providing grants, incentives, tax rebates and support services.	General assistance for employers to engage in VET Information and administrative support Tax exemptions/offsets/rebates	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by employer assistance classification categories.
Funding allocations	VET Funding by jurisdiction including any intergovernmental payments from the Commonwealth.	Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments Australian Government time-limited funding	AVETMISS government funding collection - funding allocations.
Funding distributions	The Funding activity expenditure is split by student or training attributes. Expenditures that do not directly link to the reporting categories are reported as not attributable funds. However not attributable funds are an indirect cost to the training and therefore must be considered when analysing the reporting categories.	Apprenticeship status Indigenous status Disability status Student remoteness Level of training Training packages Provider type Provider remoteness	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activity and distributed by a student or training attribute.
Government funding	Funding provided by the Australian and state/territory Governments for Vocational Education and Training.	Australian Government ongoing specific purpose payments Australian Government time-limited funding Recurrent funding Capital funding	AVETMISS government funding collection, - governments' contributions.
Government-funded VET	Relates to Commonwealth and state/territory funded activity delivered by TAFE institutes and other government providers, community education providers and other providers.	N/A	N/A
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	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by Indigenous status.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Intergovernmental funding arrangements	Commonwealth government support to states and territories with delivery of VET services. Payments made through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations with objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators defined in National, Partnership and Project Agreements.	N/A	Refer to www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au
Jurisdictions that administer funding	The Australian Government and state and territory governments that administer funding for VET.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland Western Australia South Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Australian Government	AVETMISS funding collection jurisdictions report on their own administered funding over the calendar year.
Level of education	Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels of education from certificate I through to graduate diploma including other non-award course, skill set, bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level and training not elsewhere classified.	Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I Other-non-award course Skill set Bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level Training not elsewhere classified Funding not attributable by level of training	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by level of training.
National Agreement	The National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators for state and territory ongoing specific purpose payments authorised by the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009.	N/A	Refer to www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
National Partnership Agreement Funding	Each National Partnership or Project Agreement defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance indicators for time-limited Commonwealth payments to states and territories authorised by the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 and enabled through the COAG Reform Fund Act 2008 for VET purposes.	N/A	Refer to www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au
Nominal terms	Nominal terms report the actual totals with no adjustment for inflation.	N/A	N/A
Non-award program	Training programs that do not lead to a formal certification (e.g., AQF qualification) which denotes that the student has achieved learning outcomes or competencies stipulated in the course rules. Non-award programs are often developed where a training need cannot be met through the delivery of available nationally recognised programs and/or subjects.	Non-award courses	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – non award reporting line, and by level of training – other non-award courses reporting line.
Not attributable reporting	Expenditures that do not directly link to the student or training reporting categories are reported as not attributable funds. However not attributable funds are an indirect cost to the training in question and therefore must be considered when analysing the reporting categories. Not attributable reporting varies across jurisdictions from year to year, therefore, national comparisons cannot be drawn from student or training attribute data.	Apprenticeship status Indigenous status Disability status Student remoteness Level of training Training packages Provider type Provider remoteness	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activity and distributed by student or training attributes.
Public VET asset base	The value of property, plant and equipment used for VET delivery by public VET entities.	Land Buildings Plant and Equipment Motor Vehicles Other	AVETMISS government funding collection, public VET asset base.
Provider remoteness	Expenditure by provider head office location.	Major cities of Australia Inner regional Australia Outer regional Australia Remote Australia Very remote Australia Migratory-offshore-shipping	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, by provider remoteness.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Provider type community education provider	Refers to not-for-profit, community-based organisations with a primary focus on adult education. Community-based adult education providers deliver courses relating to leisure, personal and community education development, employment skills, preparation for VET and nationally recognised programs of study.	N/A	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by provider type.
Provider type Other	Refers to enterprise government and non-government, community-based adult education provider, schools: Catholic, government and independent, professional association, industry association, non-government university, independent university.	Other	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – other.
Provider type Other Organisations	Refers to organisations that are not registered training providers	Other organisations	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – other organisation.
Provider type Private	Refers to privately-owned and operated training providers that are registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, or a state/territory accrediting body.	Private	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – private.
Provider type Public	Refers to TAFE institutes and Universities – Government	Public	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – public.
Provider type Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFE)	TAFE institutes are created by an Act of parliament and have responsibilities specified in that and other legislation and via ministerial directions. These institutes are public bodies in receipt of government funding and provide a range of technical and VET courses and other programs (for example, entry and bridging courses, language and literacy courses, adult basic education courses, senior secondary certificate of education courses, personal enrichment courses, and small business courses).	TAFE	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – TAFE.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Provider type University	Universities that provide vocational education and training, including government, non-government catholic and non-government independent.	University	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – university.
Provider type School	Schools that are a registered training organisation or schools that participate in VET, including catholic, government and independent.	Public	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by provider type – public.
Recurrent funding	Revenues appropriated by the jurisdiction to cover training portfolio costs and VET programs.	Recurrent funding	AVETMISS funding collection, governments contribution.
Registered training organisations (RTOs)	Training providers registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or, in some cases, a state or territory registering and accrediting body, to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised qualifications in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework or the VET Quality Framework.	N/A	The RTO is listed on training.gov.au (TGA)
State and territory contributions to the Commonwealth	A funding transfer from a state or territory government to the Commonwealth for a VET related matter.	Loan debt expenses Other	AVETMISS funding collection, governments contribution.
Student assistance for equipment, travel and other – loan values	Student support expenditure not directly linked to a training outcome. Reporting captures loans, grants and subsidy funding paid directly to student to assist with equipment, travel and other non-tuition costs associated with undertaking VET. Student support funding at the provider level is included within the VET delivery funding category.	Loan values Grants/subsidies Rebates Wrap-around services Student incentive payments	AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, student support by classification categories.
Student remoteness	Expenditure by student location based on a student's permanent address postcode.	Major cities of Australia Inner regional Australia Outer regional Australia Remote Australia Very remote Australia Migratory-offshore-shipping	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans by student remoteness.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
System administration & governance	Expenditure for authorities with a primary mission of supporting the national VET system and funding allocated to the training portfolio which is not subject to legislation for VET purposes such as system administration and governance within the jurisdiction's training portfolio.	Employee expenses Supplies and services Training system infrastructure Note: employee expenses and supplies and services that relate directly to VET training delivery are reported under VET Delivery expenditure.	AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure by systems administration and governance by training portfolio, and training system infrastructure.
Tax exemptions and rebates	Are revenues that governments forego in order to assist employers to engage in VET or to provide support to eligible students whilst they are in training.	Tax exemptions, offsets, and rebates	AVETMISS funding collection, government expenditure by employer assistance, and student assistance - reporting line as classification category.
Time-limited funding	Payments associated with a National Partnerships or Project Agreements.	Time-limited funding	AVETMISS funding collection, government contribution.
Trade Support Loans	Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist apprentices and trainees working in skills need area, to help cover living and learning costs.	Trade Support Loans	AVETMISS funding collection, government allocations, provision for VET loans.
Training packages	<p>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 http://www.training.gov.au.</p> <p>Training package category is used to identify the amount of funding provided for qualifications and units of competency under each training package and provides an indication of funding support for those industries and sectors to which the training package relates. Training packages are listed on the National Training Register, www.training.gov.au.</p>	As training package code	AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – as listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au).

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Training package skill set	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. They may be either a training package skill set or a locally developed skill set.	Skill set	AVETMISS funding collection expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by level of training – skill set.
Training not elsewhere classified	Funding for training not classified as a training package, a non-award course or accredited course.	Training not elsewhere classified	AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure, and provisions for VET student loans, by training package – reporting line training not elsewhere classified.
Transfers between states and territories	Funding transfers from state and territory governments to other states or territories for VET related matters.	State and territory payments to other states or territories	AVETMISS funding collection, jurisdictional contributions – reporting line as classification category.
VET Funding activities	Funding activities captures all public VET expenditure in scope within a jurisdiction regardless of the funding source and categorises that information based on funding activity and how it was funded.	VET delivery Employer assistance Student assistance Capital funding System administration and governance	AVETMISS government funding collection, expenditure by funding activities.
Transfers for VET Student Loans	Funding transfers from state and territory governments to the Commonwealth government for Student Loan debt not expected to be repaid by state-subsidised students using the VET Student Loan program.	Debt not expected to be repaid	AVETMISS funding collection, jurisdictional contributions – reporting line as classification category.
VET delivery funding	Expenditure that directly delivers a training outcome. This includes subsidised training and other subsidies targeted at supporting access and recognising additional delivery costs.	Subsidy funding for training places Block funding VET in Schools funding Other – VET portfolio Other – other agency Fee assistance Learner needs funding Community service payments Operational/base supplementary funding	AVETMISS funding collection, VET delivery expenditure by classification categories.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
VET Student Loans	The VET Student Loans program provides loan support to eligible students studying higher level VET qualifications (diploma and above). Loan amounts are capped and only available for courses that address industry needs. Loans are income-contingent, with students repaying their loans through the Australian taxation system.	Full fee-paying students State-subsidised students	AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by level of training, training package, provider type, student remoteness, indigenous status, and disability status For details on the VET Student Loans program refer to Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
VET Student Loans full-fee paying student	A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay for part or all tuition costs, where tuition costs have not been subsidised by government.	N/A	AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by full fee-paying students.
VET Student Loans state-subsidised students	A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay part tuition costs, where part tuition costs have been subsidised by government.	N/A	AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans by state subsidised students.
Wrap-around services for students	Expenditure for non-learning support to target/priority groups specific to training. Expenditure is not linked directly to enrolments and instead provides the RTO or other service provider with the capacity to offer wrap-around services on an as-required basis.	Grants/subsidies Other	AVETMISS funding collection, expenditure student support – reporting line as classification categories.
Vocational education and training (VET)	Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills.	N/A	N/A
VET FEE-HELP	A VET loan scheme provided by the Australian Government from 2009 to 2017. In 2017 the VET Student Loans program replaced the VET FEE-HELP scheme.	N/A	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - help with the cost of training
Grandfathered VET FEE-HELP	Grandfathered VET FEE-HELP payments are included loan totals for reporting years 2017, 2018 and 2019.	N/A	AVETMISS funding collection, provisions for VET student loans.