NCVER

Australian vocational education and training statistics

Government-funded students and courses 2023

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Highlights

In 2023, 1 256 365 students were enrolled in government-funded vocational education and training (VET), comprised of:

- 1 192 900 students enrolled in nationally recognised training
- 96 405 students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training.

In 2023, compared with 2022:
- students numbers increased by 5.0% to 1 256 365
- full-year training equivalents (FYTEs) increased by 6.2% to 502 130
- students enrolled in nationally recognised VET increased by 4.8% to 1 192 900
    - students enrolled in nationally recognised programs increased by 6.6% to 1 125 405
    - students enrolled in stand-alone nationally recognised subjects increased by 3.6% to 25 195
- students enrolled in non-nationally recognised training increased by 7.6% to 96 405.

An estimated 7.1% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET in 2023.

Over the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, student numbers increased by 9.2% to 1 256 365.
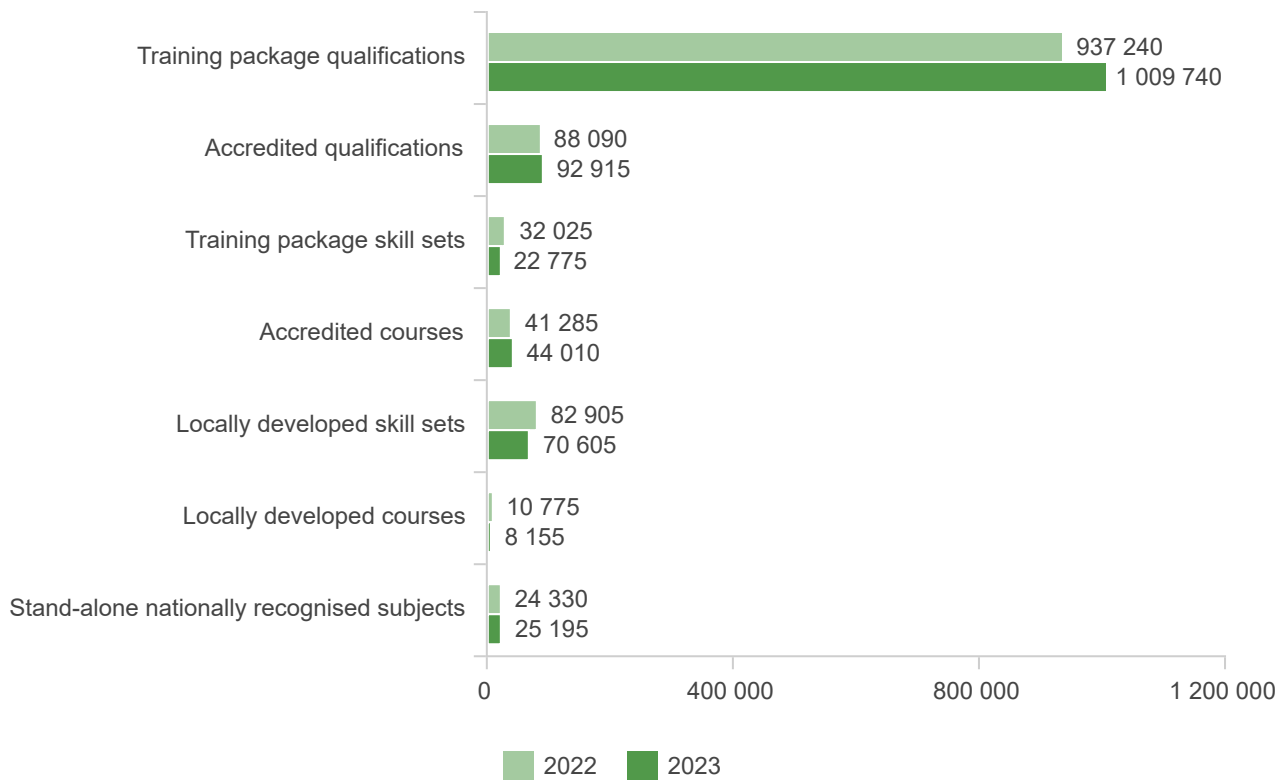
Students

In 2023, 1 256 365 students were enrolled in government-funded VET, an increase of 5.0% from 2022.

In 2023, 1 192 900 government-funded students were enrolled in government-funded nationally recognised VET, consisting of:
▪ training package qualifications (1 009 740 or 84.6% of students undertaking nationally recognised VET)
▪ accredited qualifications (92 915 students or 7.8%)
▪ training package skill sets (22 775 students or 1.9%)
▪ accredited courses (44 010 students or 3.7%)
▪ locally developed skill sets (70 605 students or 5.9%) and courses (8 155 students or 0.7%) comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject
▪ stand-alone nationally recognised subjects (25 195 students or 2.1%).

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

Figure 1 Students enrolled in government-funded nationally recognised VET by type of training, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

Note: Locally developed skill sets and courses are comprised of programs with at least one nationally recognised subject, delivered by a registered training organisation.

In 2023, 96 405 government-funded students were enrolled in non-nationally recognised VET, consisting of:
▪ non-nationally recognised programs including higher education qualifications (65 055 students)
▪ non-nationally recognised stand-alone subjects (31 605 students).

Students summary

In 2023, compared with 2022, government-funded student numbers in Australia increased by 5.0% to 1 256 365. Of those:

- 51.0% were female
- 7.0% were Indigenous
- 8.8% reported as having a disability
- 24.2% were aged between 15 to 19 years old
- 28.7% had a previous highest education level of year 12.

Note : For more detailed information please refer to the *Government-funded students and courses 2023 annual DataBuilder*.

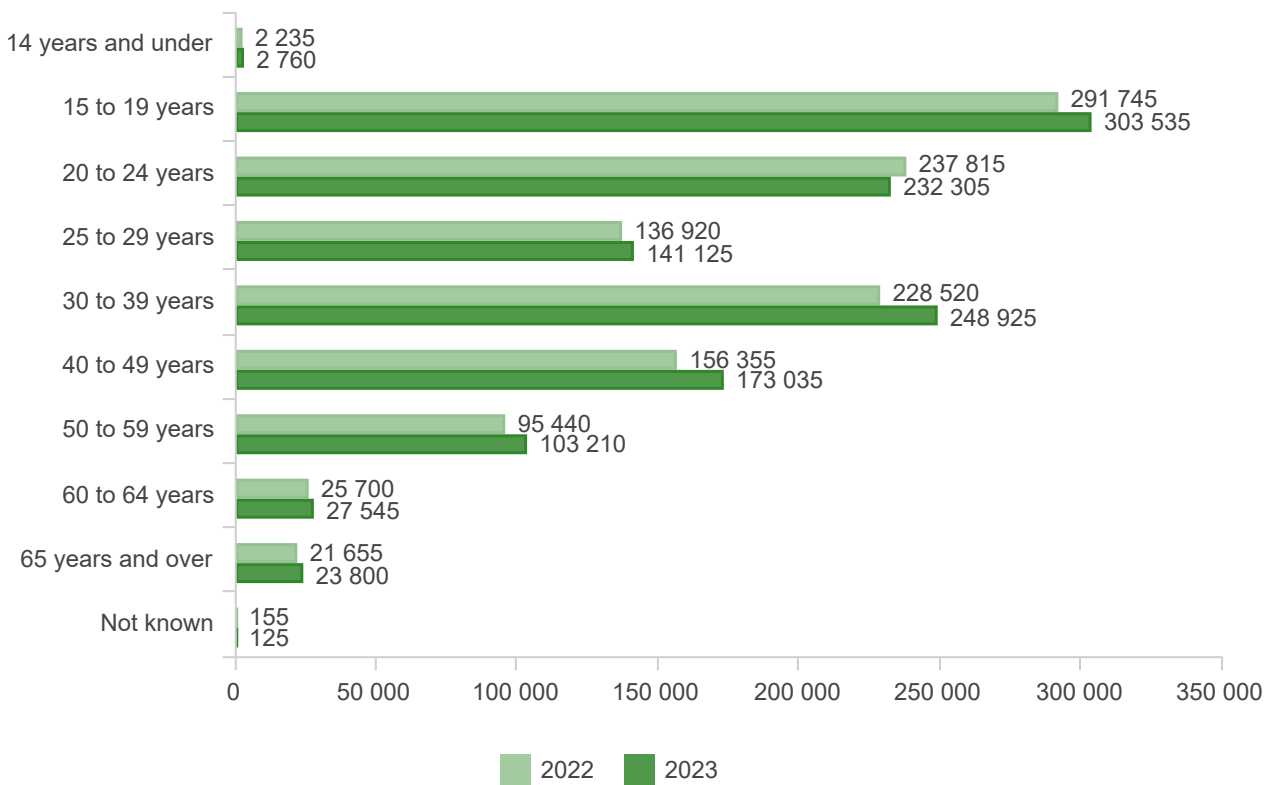**Figure 2 Government-funded students by age group, 2022 and 2023 - Australia**

Age group	2022	2023
14 years and under	2 235	2 760
15 to 19 years	291 745	303 535
20 to 24 years	237 815	232 305
25 to 29 years	136 920	141 125
30 to 39 years	228 520	248 925
40 to 49 years	156 355	173 035
50 to 59 years	95 440	103 210
60 to 64 years	25 700	27 545
65 years and over	21 655	23 800
Not known	155	125

Figure 3 Government-funded students by previous highest level of education, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

Previous highest level of education	2022	2023
Bachelor degree / Higher degree level	101 590	119 475
Advanced diploma / Associate degree	14 560	15 890
Diploma	56 940	62 900
Certificate IV	60 660	65 425
Certificate III	174 220	173 795
Year 12	351 125	360 900
Year 11	102 300	104 335
Certificate II	20 050	20 260
Year 10	177 025	184 245
Certificate I	2 225	2 225
Miscellaneous education	4 870	4 275
Year 9 or lower	68 405	75 155
Did not go to school	8 815	9 325
Not known	53 740	58 150

Legend: 2022, 2023

Figure 4 Government-funded students by state or territory, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

State or territory	2022	2023
New South Wales	433 400	452 785
Victoria	287 470	294 205
Queensland	232 030	251 420
South Australia	68 640	72 095
Western Australia	115 475	126 370
Tasmania	27 250	27 875
Northern Territory	15 525	16 595
Australian Capital Territory	16 745	15 020
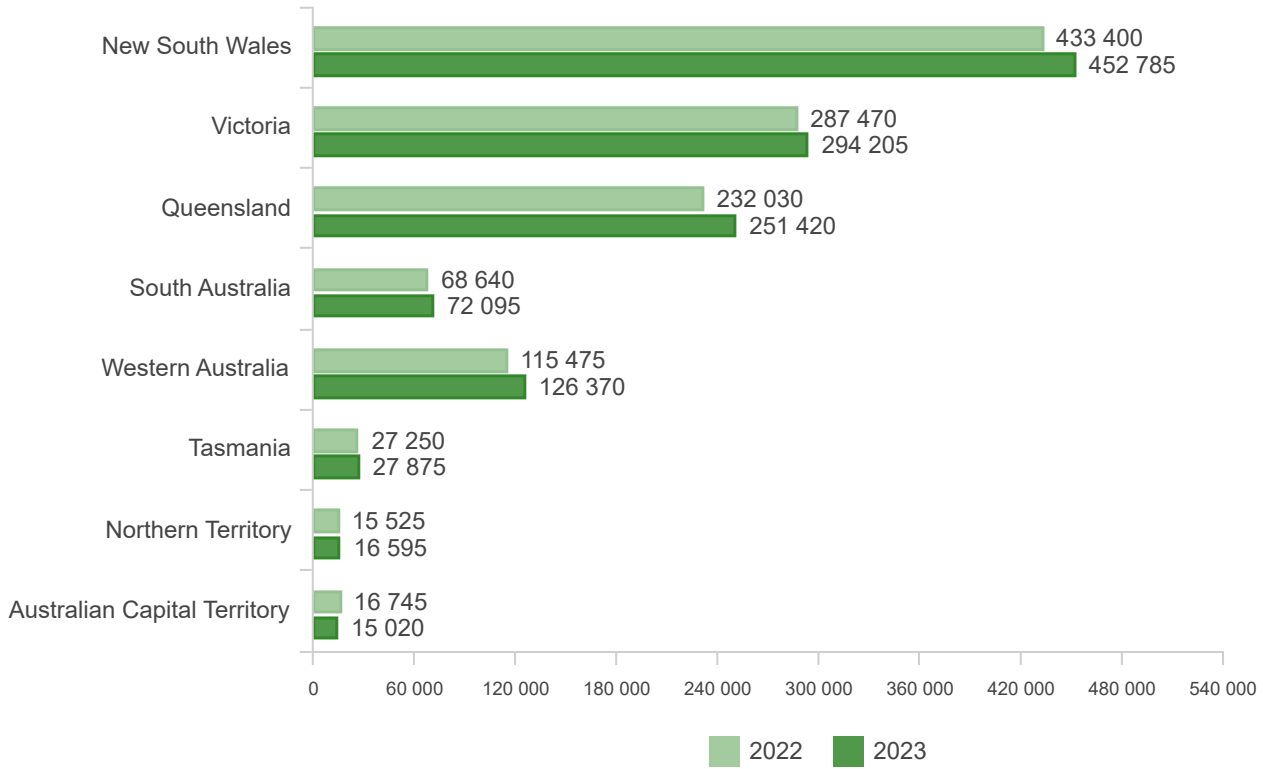
Note : This chart is based on state/territory of data submitter. It shows an overall picture of Australia and does not update based on state/territory selection.
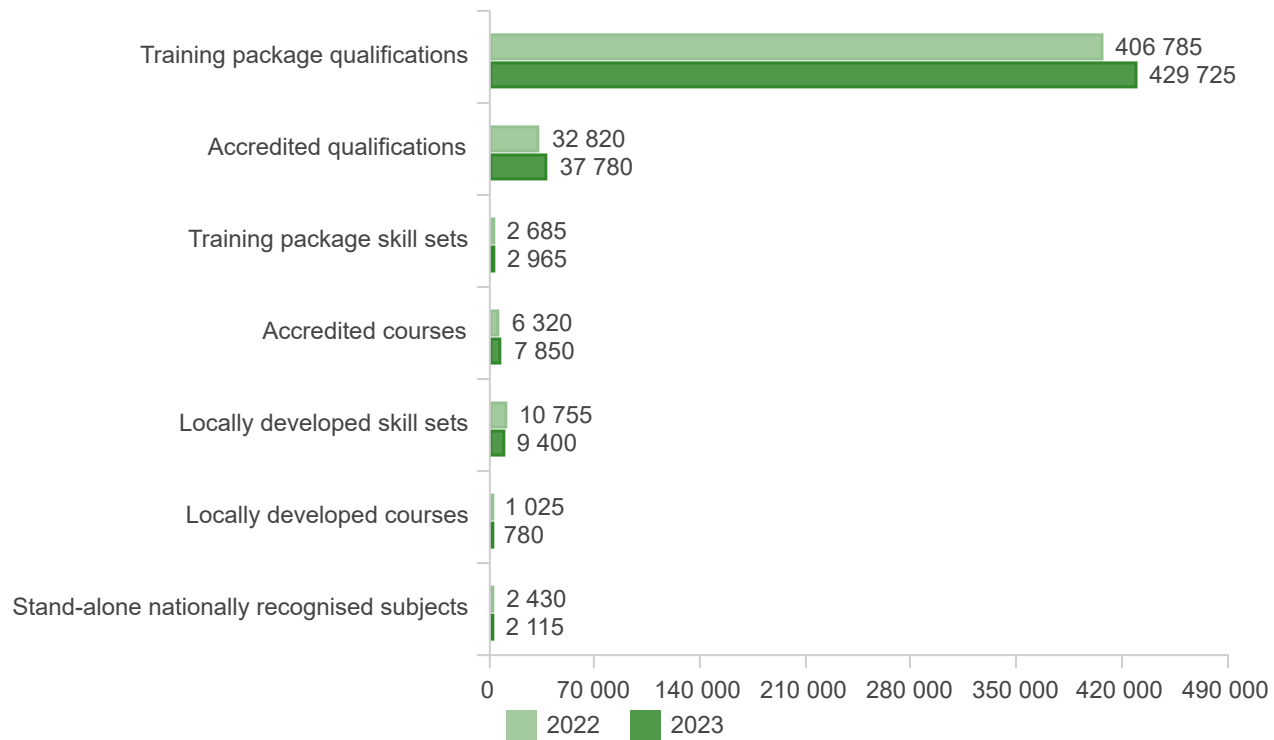
Full-year training equivalents (FYTEs)

Full-year training equivalents, or FYTEs, are a measure of activity undertaken by students on a full-time basis within a year. One FYTE is equal to 720 reporting hours.

In 2023, there were 502 130 FTYEs in government-funded VET in Australia, an increase of 6.2% from 2022.

In 2023, there were 490 615 FTYEs in government-funded nationally recognised VET. The majority of these FYTEs were in Training package qualifications (429 725 or 87.6%).

Figure 5 Government-funded FYTEs by nationally recognised type of training, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

Type of training	2022	2023
Training package qualifications	406 785	429 725
Accredited qualifications	32 820	37 780
Training package skill sets	2 685	2 965
Accredited courses	6 320	7 850
Locally developed skill sets	10 755	9 400
Locally developed courses	1 025	780
Stand-alone nationally recognised subjects	2 430	2 115

There were 11 510 FYTEs in government-funded non-nationally recognised VET in Australia. Consisting of:
▪ 8 305 FYTEs in non-nationally recognised programs including higher education qualifications
▪ 3 210 FYTEs in non-nationally recognised stand-alone subjects.

Participation rate

In 2023, an estimated 7.1% of the Australian resident population aged 15 to 64 years participated in government-funded VET. Participation was highest among those aged 15 to 19 years (at 18.9%).

Table 1 Estimated participation rate in government-funded VET, 2019 to 2023 (%) - Australia

Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15 to 19 years	19.0	18.5	19.7	19.0	18.9
20 to 24 years	12.9	13.6	15.3	14.5	13.4
25 to 44 years	6.0	6.4	6.6	6.2	6.4
45 to 64 years	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.2
15 to 64 years	**6.8**	**7.0**	**7.4**	**7.0**	**7.1**

Sources: NCVER, National VET Provider 2023; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (June) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted June 2024.
Notes: The estimated participation rate is the number of VET students with a usual residential address in an Australian state or territory, other Australian territories or dependencies and where the state/territory is Not known. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to for training, work, or other purposes.

Provider reporting type by year

In 2023, 1481 providers were delivering government-funded VET in Australia, an increase of 1.2% from 2022.

Table 2 Provider reporting type, 2019 to 2023 - Australia

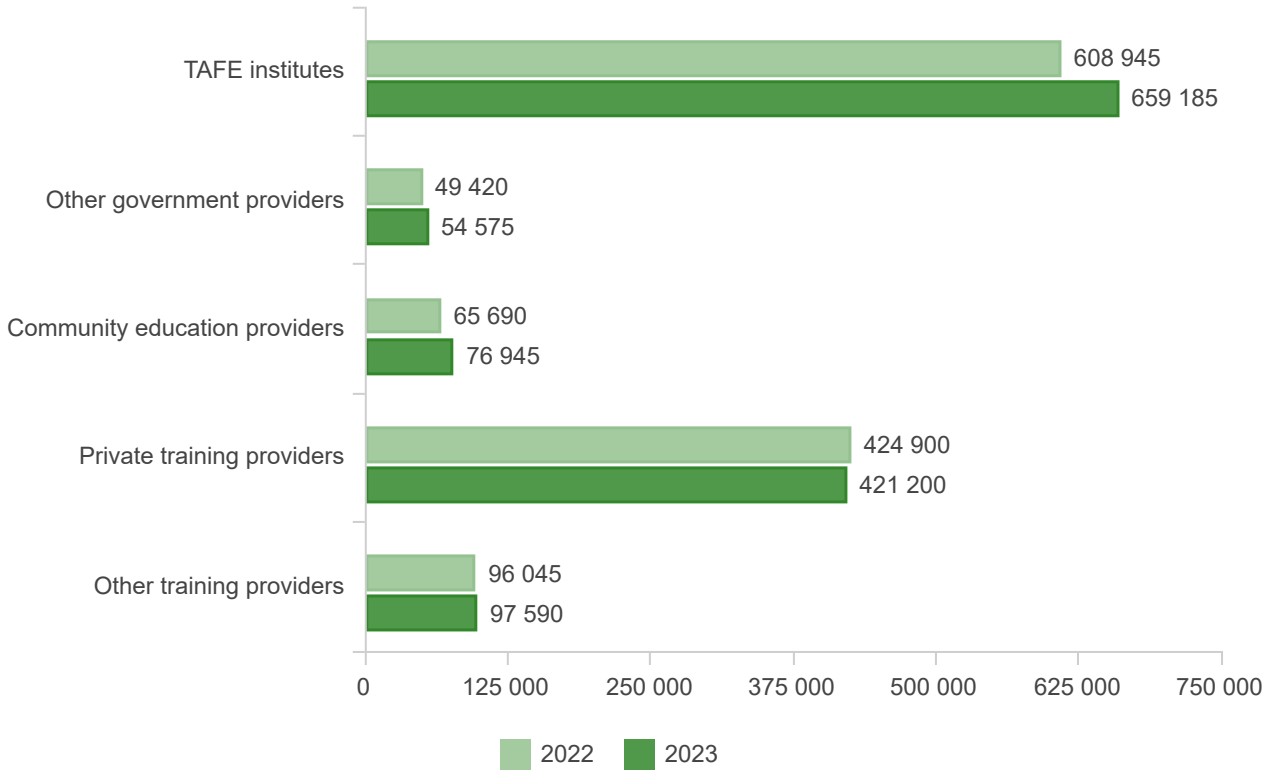| Provider reporting type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAFE institutes	25	24	24	24	24
Other government providers	10	10	10	10	10
Community education providers	340	316	317	295	285
Private training providers	1 039	979	979	956	978
Other training providers	259	251	243	232	235
Total	**1 620**	**1 527**	**1 518**	**1 464**	**1 481**

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

Students by provider reporting type

In 2023, compared with 2022, there were 1 256 365 students in Australia enrolled in government-funded VET delivered by training providers, consisting of:
▪ 659 185 students at TAFE institutes, up 8.3%
▪ 54 575 at other government providers, up 10.4%
▪ 76 945 at community education providers, up 17.1%
▪ 421 200 at private training providers, down 0.9%
▪ 97 590 at other training providers, up 1.6%.

**Figure 6 Government-funded students by provider reporting type, 2022 and 2023 - Australia**

Provider type	2022	2023
TAFE institutes	608 945	659 185
Other government providers	49 420	54 575
Community education providers	65 690	76 945
Private training providers	424 900	421 200
Other training providers	96 045	97 590

Note: The sum of students will not add to the 2023 total (1 256 365) for Australia as a student may have enrolled in multiple provider types in a year.
'Other training providers' includes TAFE institutes undertaking training outside of their head office state or territory.

Program enrolments

In 2023, there were 1 502 340 enrolments in government-funded programs, an increase of 3.1% from 2022. Of these:

▪ 83.7% were in qualifications, including training package qualifications (76.6%) and accredited qualifications (7.1%)

▪ 5.1% were in training package skill sets and accredited courses

▪ 6.1% were in locally developed programs comprised of at least one nationally recognised subject

▪ 5.1% were in non-nationally recognised programs including higher education qualifications.

Figure 7 Government-funded program enrolments by type of training, 2022 and 2023 - Australia
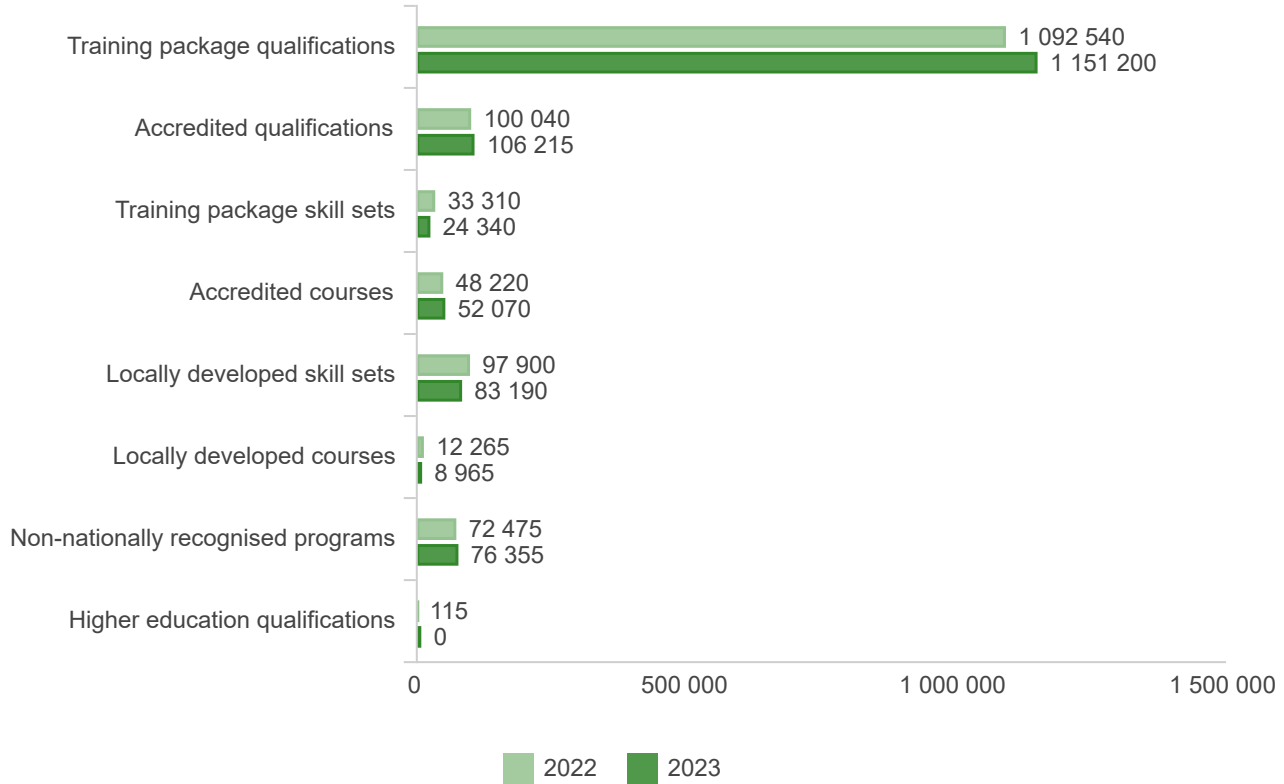
Qualification enrolments

Qualification enrolments are comprised of training package qualifications and accredited qualifications.

In 2023, there were 1 257 415 enrolments in government-funded nationally recognised qualifications, an increase of 5.4% from 2022. The majority of these qualification enrolments were in Certificate III (607 420 or 48.3% of all qualification enrolments), followed by Certificate IV (268 825 or 21.4%).
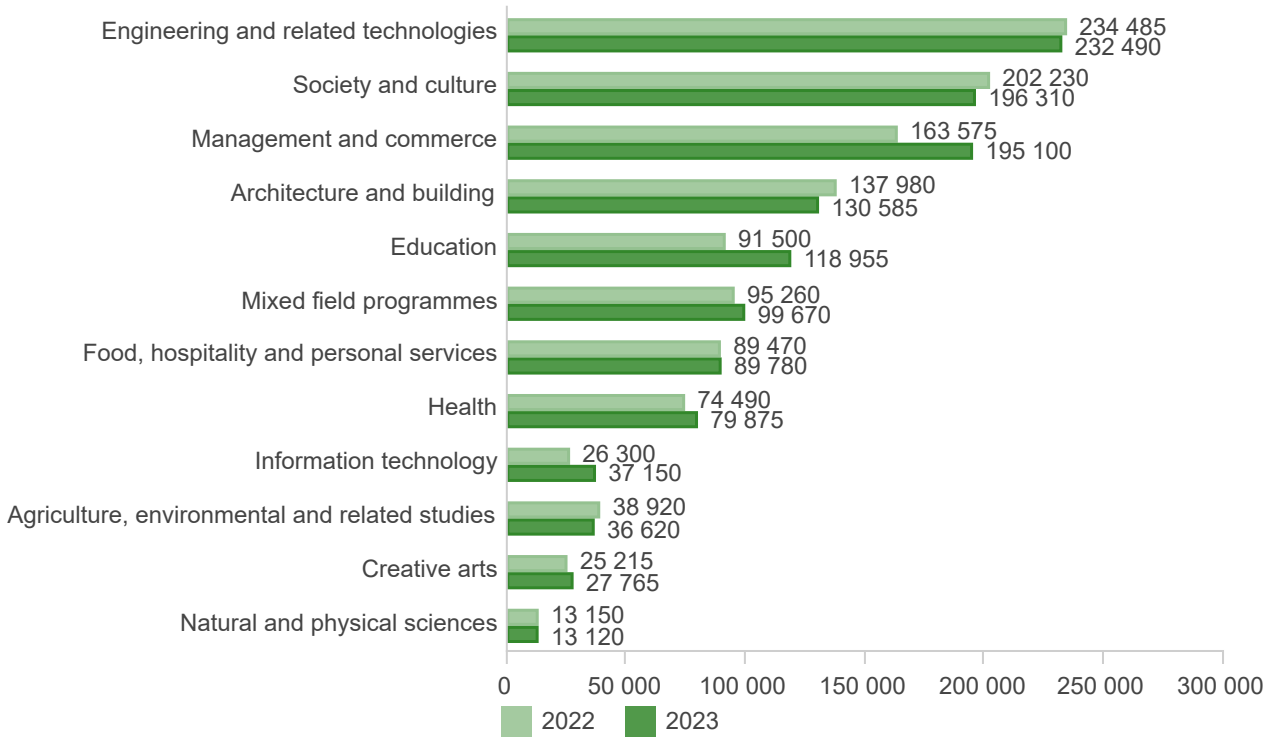
Figure 8 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by level of education, 2022 and 2023 - Australia
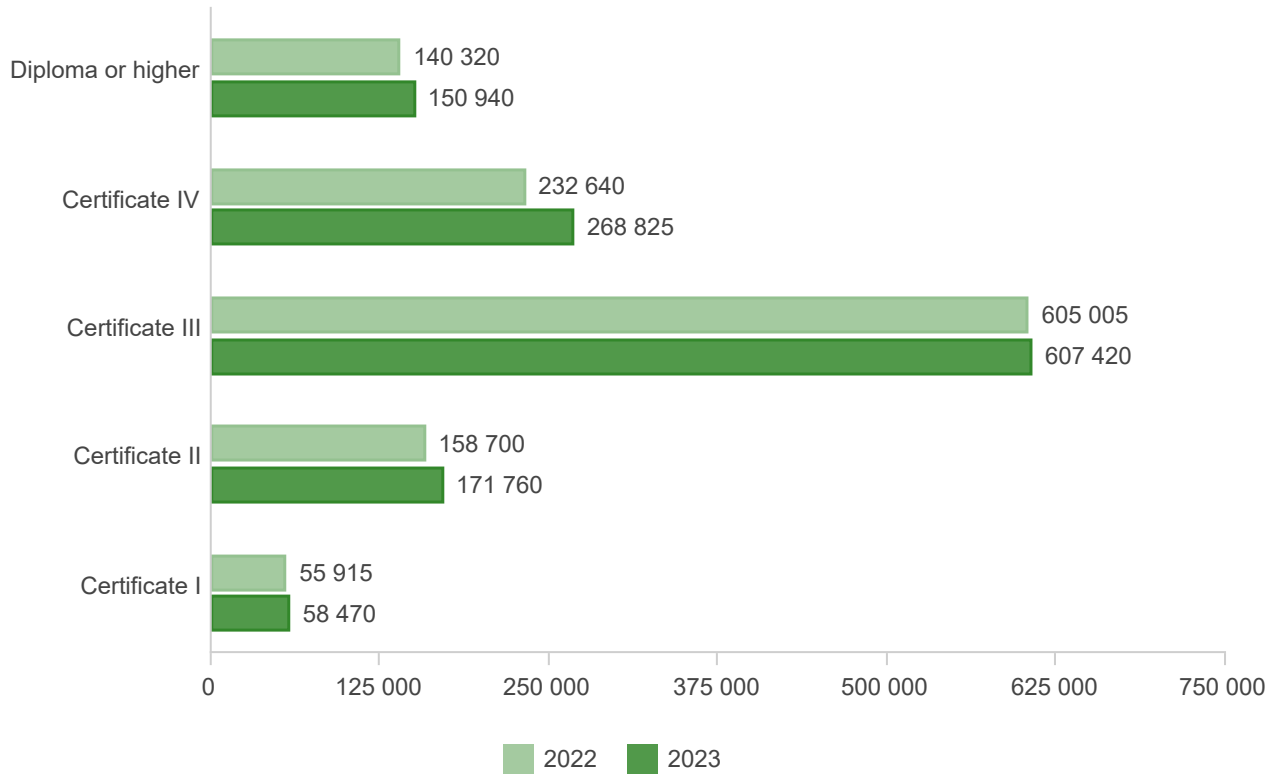
Note: This chart contains information on Training package qualifications and Accredited qualifications, and excludes higher education qualifications

In 2023, Engineering and related technologies was the most popular known field of education (232 490 or 18.5%) for government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments, followed by Society and culture (196 310 or 15.6%).
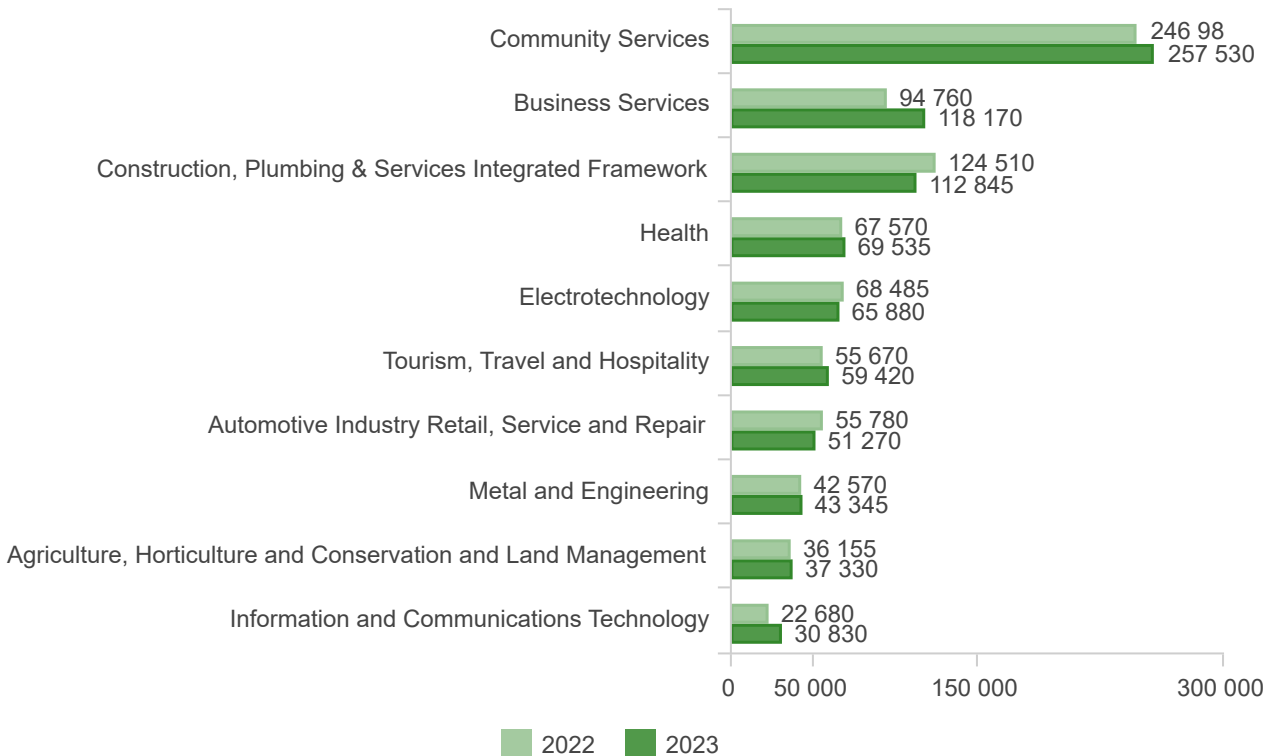
Figure 9 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by field of education, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

Field of education	2022	2023
Engineering and related technologies	234 485	232 490
Society and culture	202 230	196 310
Management and commerce	163 575	195 100
Architecture and building	137 980	130 585
Education	91 500	118 955
Mixed field programmes	95 260	99 670
Food, hospitality and personal services	89 470	89 780
Health	74 490	79 875
Information technology	26 300	37 150
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	38 920	36 620
Creative arts	25 215	27 765
Natural and physical sciences	13 150	13 120

Note: This chart contains information on Training package qualifications and Accredited qualifications, and excludes higher education qualifications

In 2023, of those 1 151 200 government-funded nationally recognised training package qualification enrolments, Community Services held the largest share (257 530 or 22.4%), followed by Business Services (118 170 or 10.3%).

Figure 10 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by top 10 training packages, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

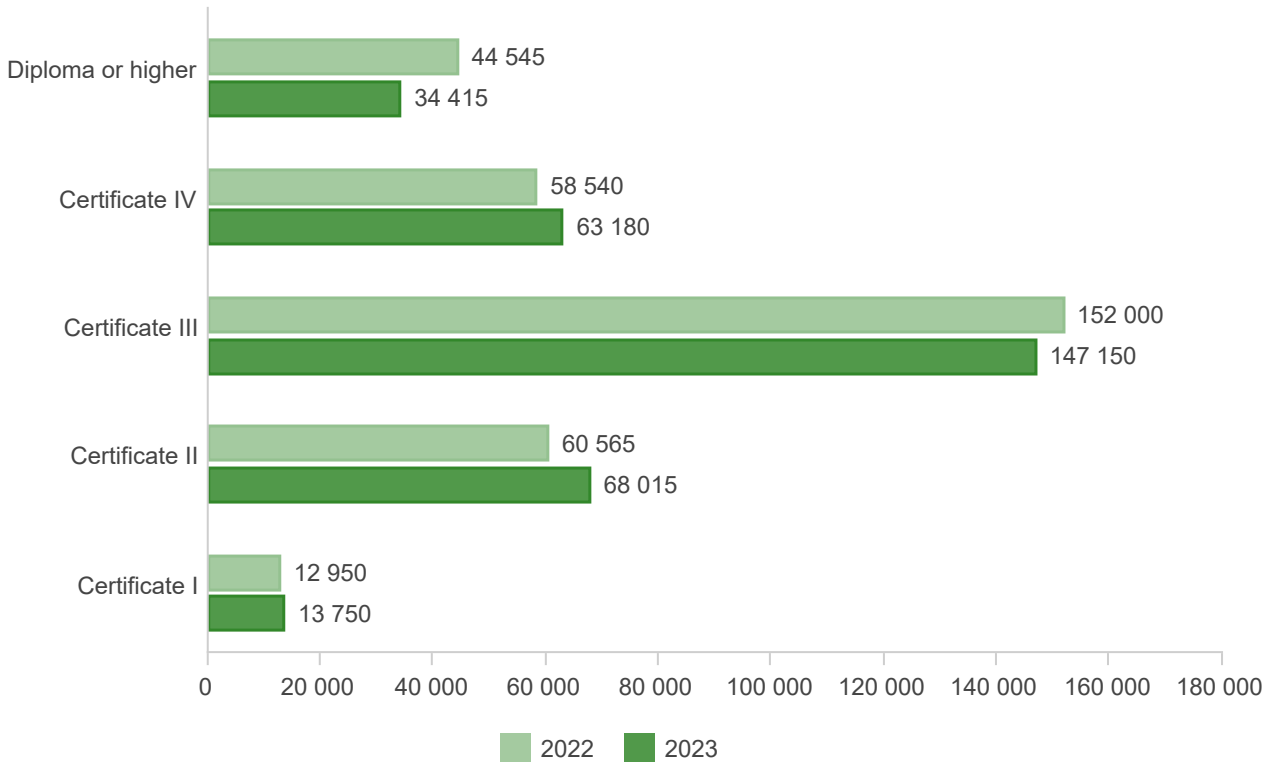| Training package	2022	2023
Community Services	246 98	257 530
Business Services	94 760	118 170
Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework	124 510	112 845
Health	67 570	69 535
Electrotechnology	68 485	65 880
Tourism, Travel and Hospitality	55 670	59 420
Automotive Industry Retail, Service and Repair	55 780	51 270
Metal and Engineering	42 570	43 345
Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management	36 155	37 330
Information and Communications Technology	22 680	30 830

Note: This chart is subset of Training package qualifications only.

Qualification completions

In 2023, there were 326 515 government-funded nationally recognised qualification completions. This number will be revised with subsequent releases of *Government-funded students and courses*.

The highest proportion of qualifications completed in 2023 were at Certificate III level (45.1%), followed by Certificate II (20.8%).

Figure 11 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification completions by level of education, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

Level of education	2022	2023
Diploma or higher	44 545	34 415
Certificate IV	58 540	63 180
Certificate III	152 000	147 150
Certificate II	60 565	68 015
Certificate I	12 950	13 750

Note: This chart contains information on Training package qualifications and Accredited qualifications, and excludes higher education qualifications

Subject Enrolments

In 2023, there were 10 955 305 enrolments in government-funded VET subjects in Australia.

Of these, 133 105 (1.2%) were in stand-alone subjects, consisting of:
▪ stand-alone nationally recognised subjects (64 910), up 1.5% on 2022, which are comprised of units of competency and accredited units
▪ stand-alone non-nationally recognised subjects (68 195), up 20.2% on 2022, which are modules.

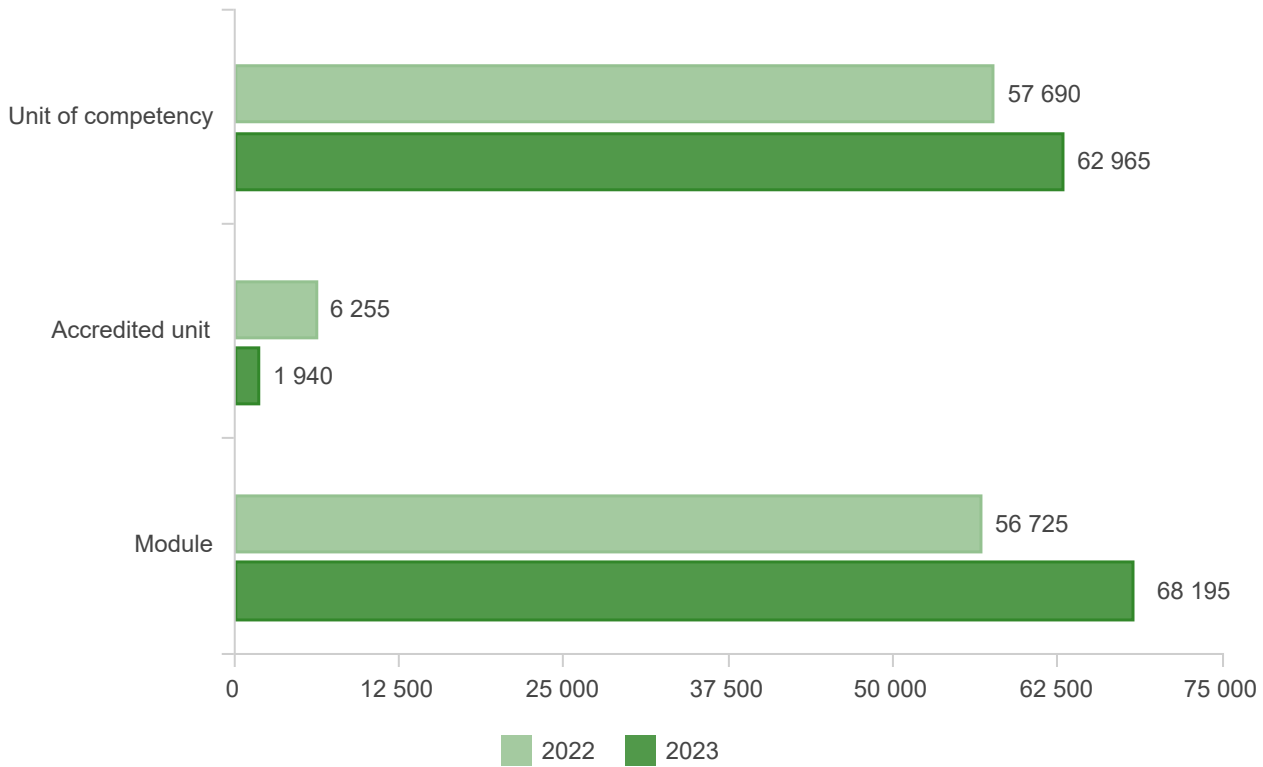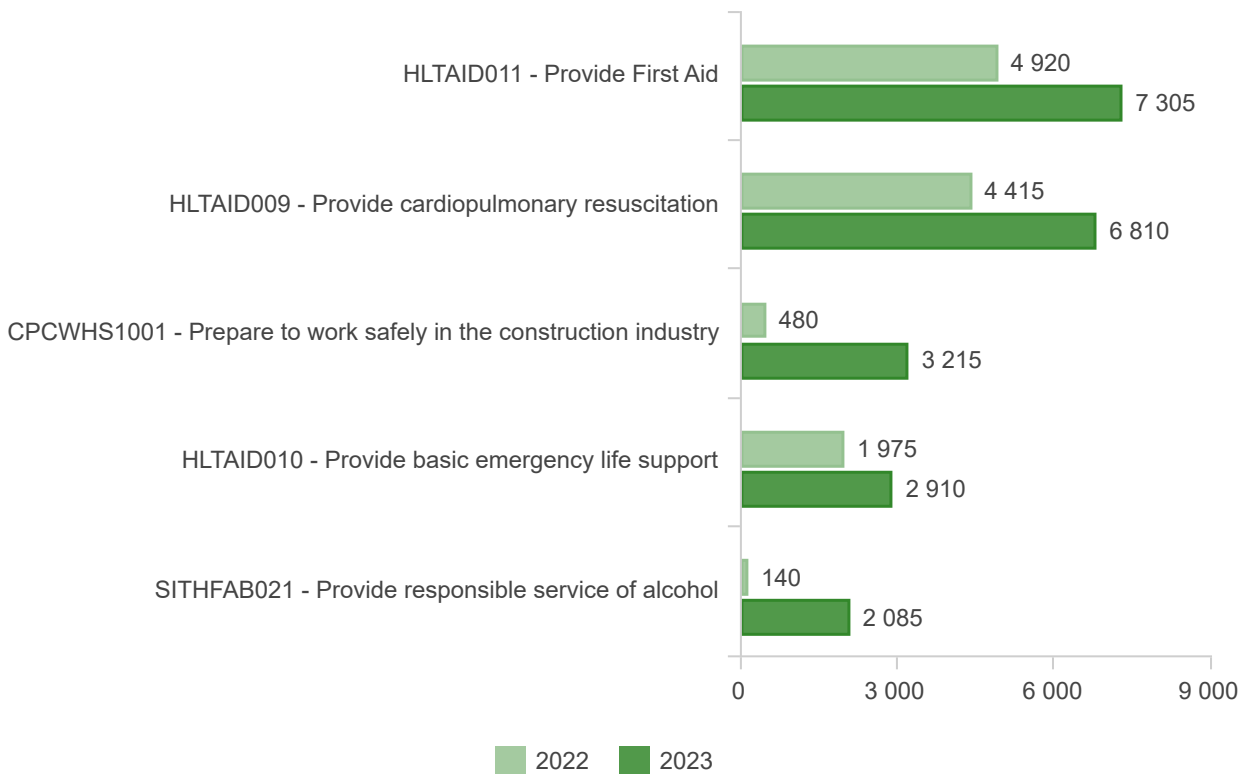**Figure 12 Government-funded stand-alone subject enrolments by subject type, 2022 and 2023 - Australia**

	2022	2023
Unit of competency	57 690	62 965
Accredited unit	6 255	1 940
Module	56 725	68 195

Figure 13 Government-funded stand-alone subject enrolments by top 5 units of competency, 2022 and 2023 - Australia

	2022	2023
HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid	4 920	7 305
HLTAID009 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation	4 415	6 810
CPCWHS1001 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry	480	3 215
HLTAID010 - Provide basic emergency life support	1 975	2 910
SITHFAB021 - Provide responsible service of alcohol	140	2 085

Note: Data in the figure above are based on stand-alone nationally recognised subject enrolments in units of competency only. In instances where multiple units of competency have an equal number of enrolments, the 5th rank for Qld and NT was randomly selected among the tied units.

Historical time series data

Time series data from 2003 to 2023 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 14 Government-funded students and full-year training equivalents (FYTEs), 2003 to 2023 ('000) - Australia
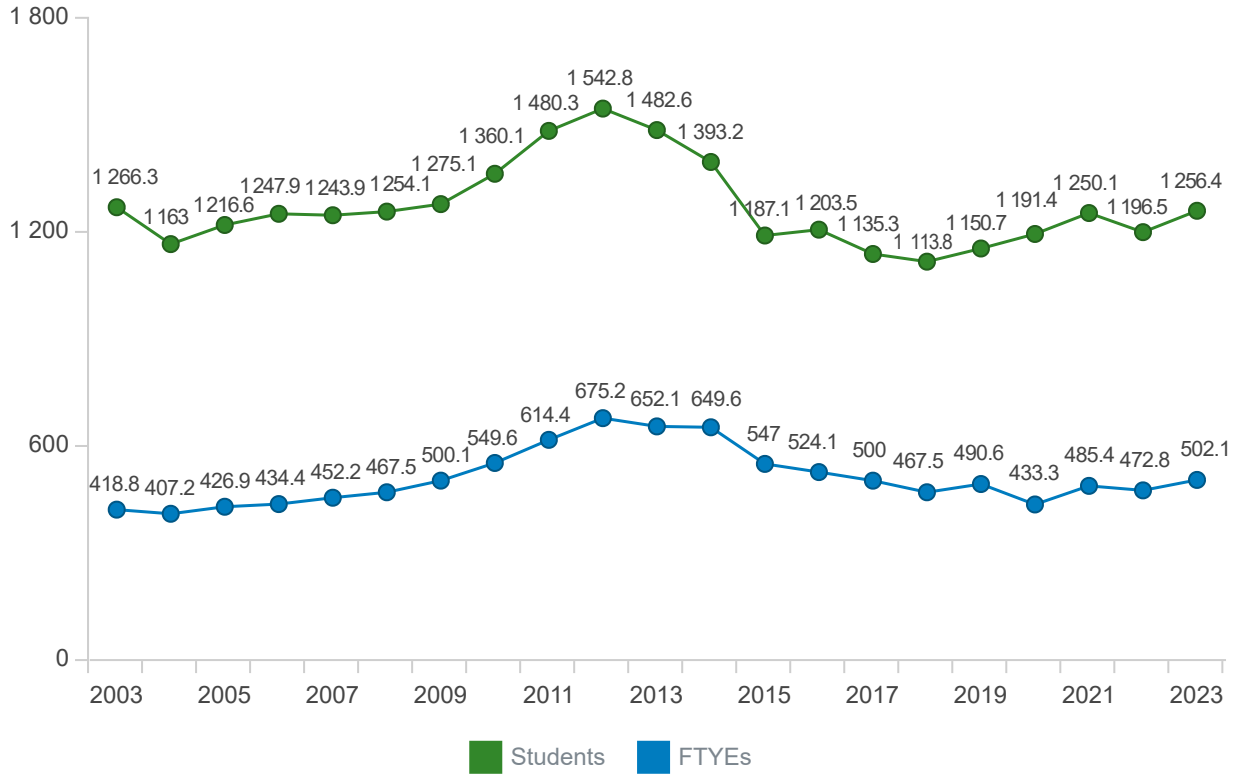

Figure 15 Government-funded program enrolments, 2003 to 2023 ('000) - Australia
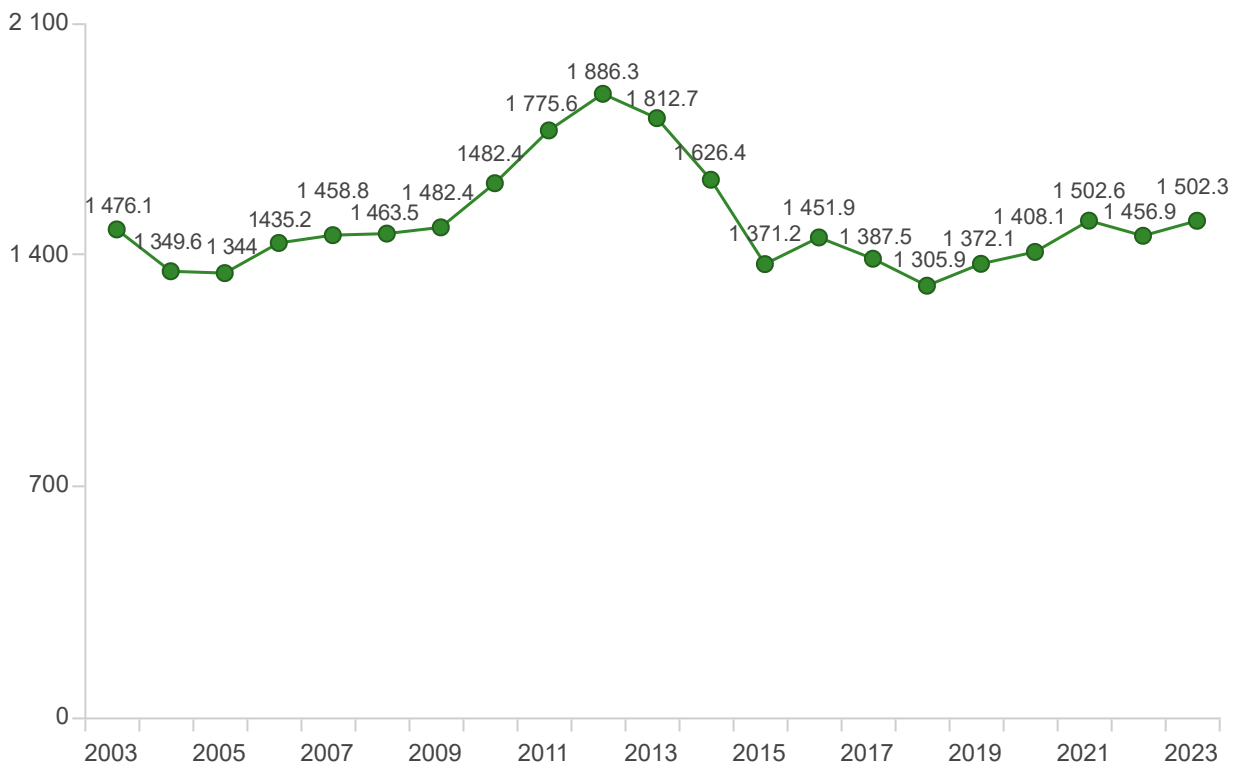
Figure 16 Government-funded qualifications completions, 2003 to 2023 ('000) - Australia
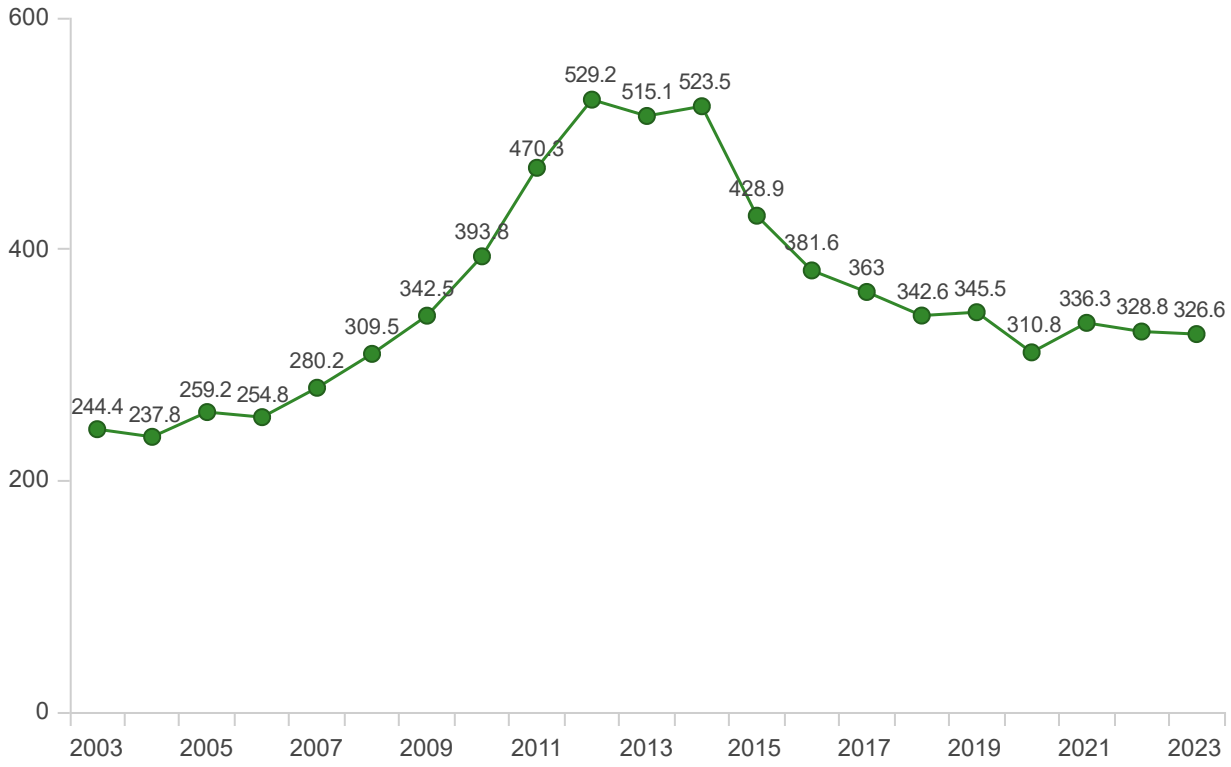
Note: The number of completions in recent years will be revised with subsequent releases of Government-funded students and courses.