

Student equity in VET: participation, achievement and outcomes

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This publication presents information on how different equity groups fare in their VET journey. The featured equity groups have historically been disadvantaged in accessing and benefitting from education in Australia. We focus on their participation, achievement in and outcomes from VET.

Equity groups

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Not employed	12

People with disability

in the Australian population

18%

in the workforce

9%

enrolled in VET

4%

ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2019

PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019

People with disability

172 265



51%



48%

61%
Aged under
40 years



39%
Aged 40 years
and over

People without disability

3 507 330



46%



51%

66%
Aged under
40 years



34%
Aged 40 years
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

54%



28%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2019

VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

54%



75%

at private training providers

34%



18%

at TAFE institutes

12%



11%

at community education providers

Type of training (by number of students)

67%



46%

enrolled in qualifications

4%



4%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

40%



65%

enrolled in subject bundles*

* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

People with disability

People without disability

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

21%  17%
Society and culture

18%  21%
Management and commerce

15%  8%
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

38%  41%

Subject load pass rate^

77%  83%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

37%  58%
had an improved employment status after training

40%  32%
enrolled in further study after training

87%  89%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

10%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

13%  22%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

in the Australian population

3%

in the workforce

2%

enrolled in VET

4%

ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016
NCVER Total VET students and courses 2019

PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019

Indigenous

148 570



49%



50%

75%
Aged under
40 years



25%
Aged 40 years
and over

non-Indigenous

3 605 750



47%



51%

66%
Aged under
40 years



34%
Aged 40 years
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

54%



31%

Source: NCVER Total VET students and courses 2019

VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

59%



72%

at private training providers

32%



19%

at TAFE institutes

10%



12%

at community education providers

Type of training (by number of students)

66%



48%

enrolled in qualifications

4%



4%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

47%



63%

enrolled in subject bundles*

* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

Indigenous

non-Indigenous

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

20%  17%
Society and culture

17%  21%
Management and commerce

14%  15%
Engineering and related technologies

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

31%  42%

Subject load pass rate^

76%  83%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

51%  56%
had an improved employment status after training

36%  33%
enrolled in further study after training

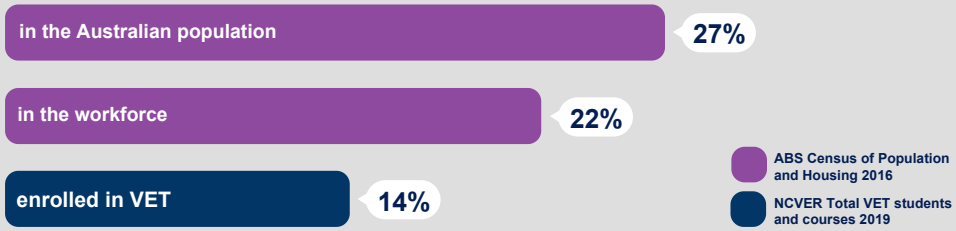
91%  88%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

6%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

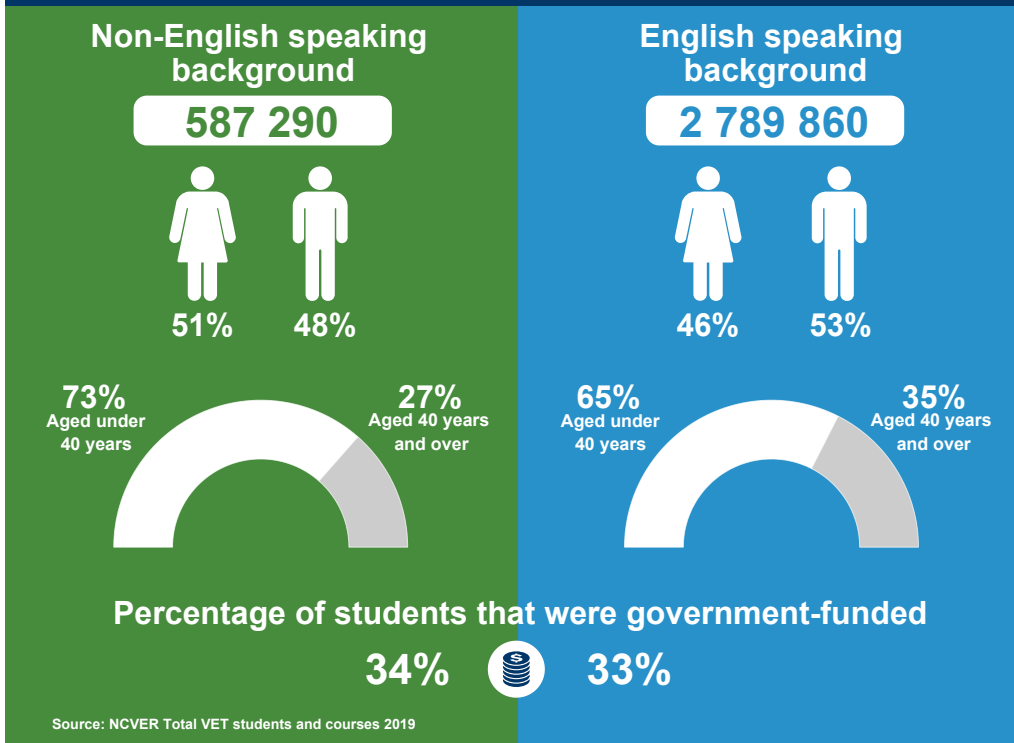
18%  21%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

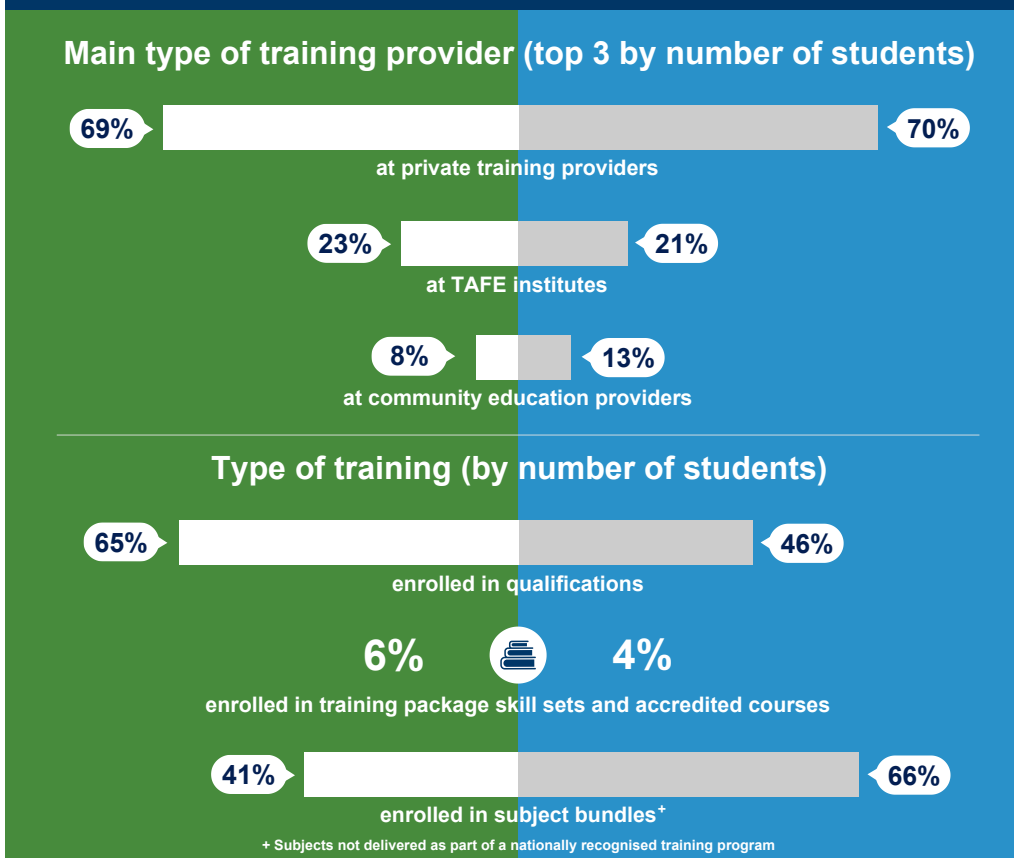
Non-English speaking background



PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019



VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019



Non-English speaking background

English speaking background

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

28%  17%
Management and commerce

18%  6%
Mixed field programmes

17%  17%
Society and culture

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

41%  41%

Subject load pass rate^

82%  84%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

49%  58%
had an improved employment status after training

33%  32%
enrolled in further study after training

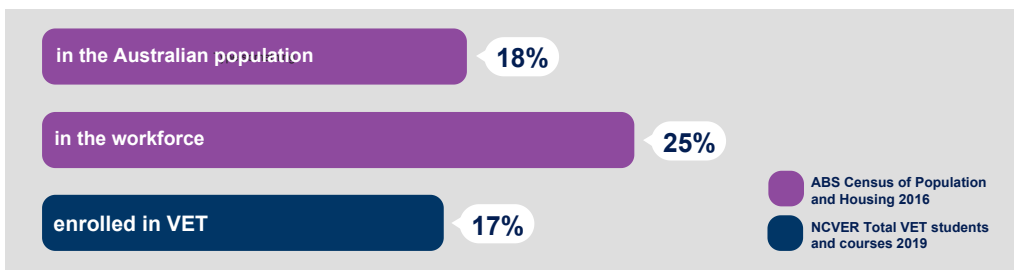
91%  88%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

9%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

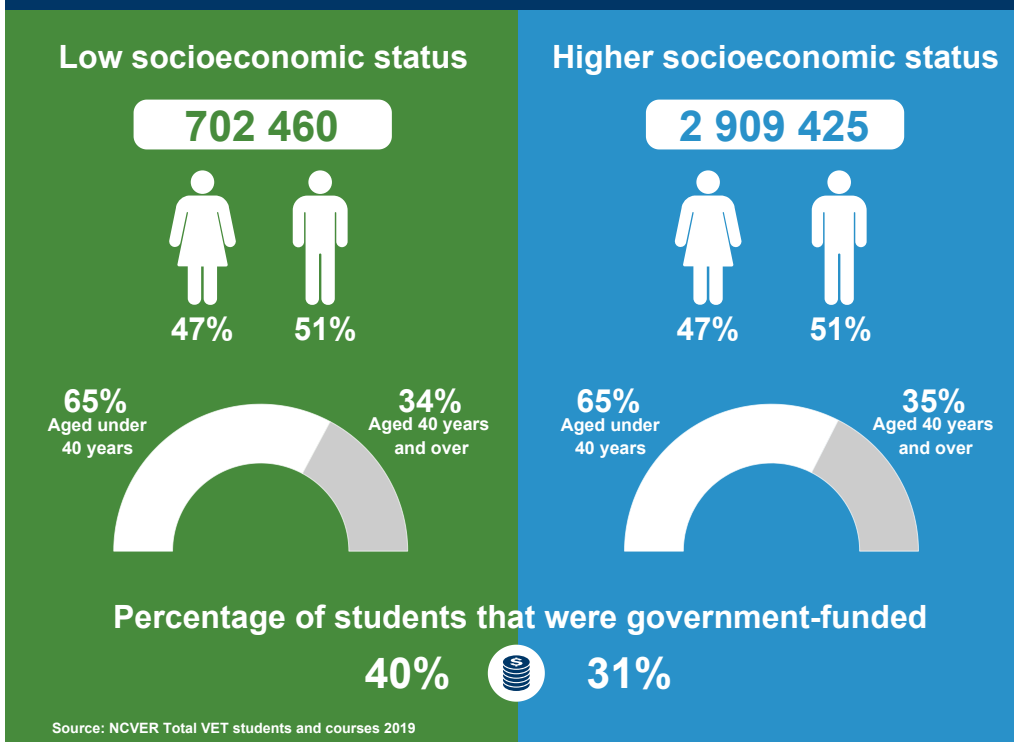
23%  20%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

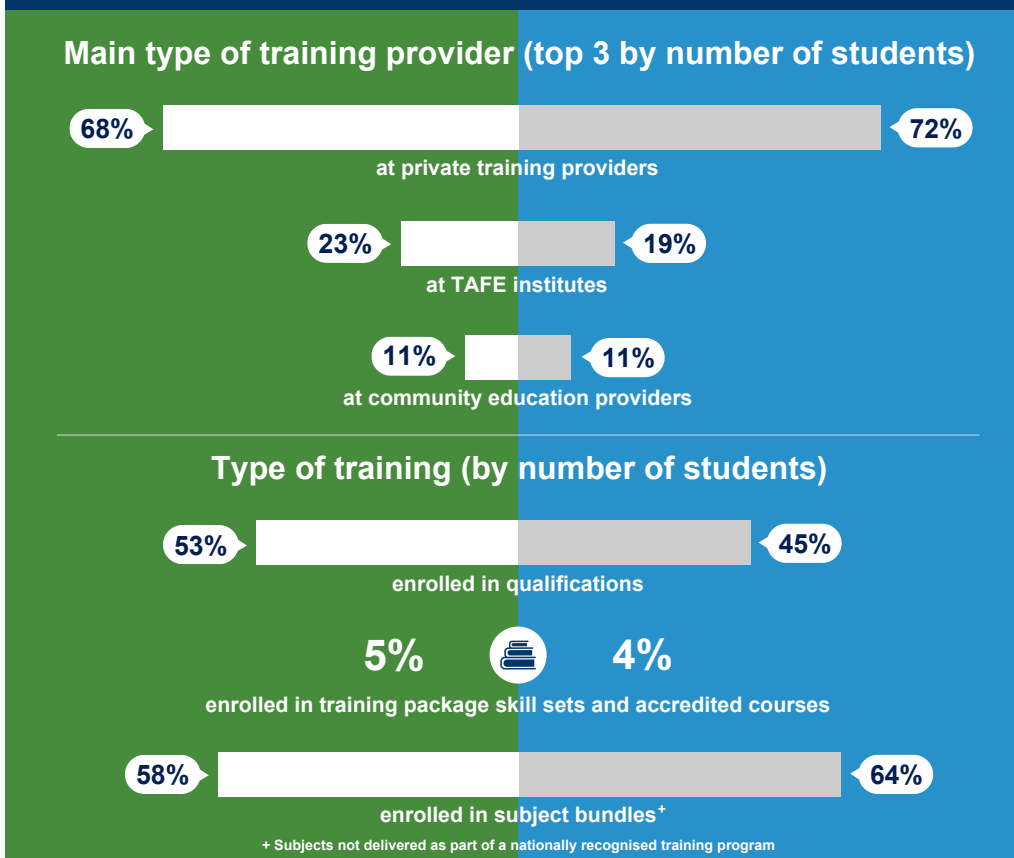
Low socioeconomic status



PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019



VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019



Low socioeconomic status

Higher socioeconomic status

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

20%  18%
Society and culture

16%  17%
Management and commerce

11%  8%
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

37%  42%

Subject load pass rate^

81%  83%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

51%  57%
had an improved employment status after training

32%  33%
enrolled in further study after training

90%  88%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

7%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

17%  22%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

Remote

in the Australian population



2%

in the workforce

2%

enrolled in VET

2%

 ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016
 NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019

Remote

98 280



42%



57%

61%
Aged under
40 years



38%
Aged 40 years
and over

Non-remote

3 741 765



47%



51%

66%
Aged under
40 years



34%
Aged 40 years
and over

Percentage of students that were government-funded

36%



31%

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)

68%



72%

at private training providers

23%



19%

at TAFE institutes

12%



11%

at community education providers

Type of training (by number of students)

45%



49%

enrolled in qualifications

5%



4%

enrolled in training package skill sets and accredited courses

69%



61%

enrolled in subject bundles*

* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

Remote

Non-remote

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

16%  17%
Society and culture

14%  21%
Management and commerce

7%  8%
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

32%  42%

Subject load pass rate^

85%  83%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

64%  56%
had an improved employment status after training

32%  33%
enrolled in further study after training

90%  88%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

4%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

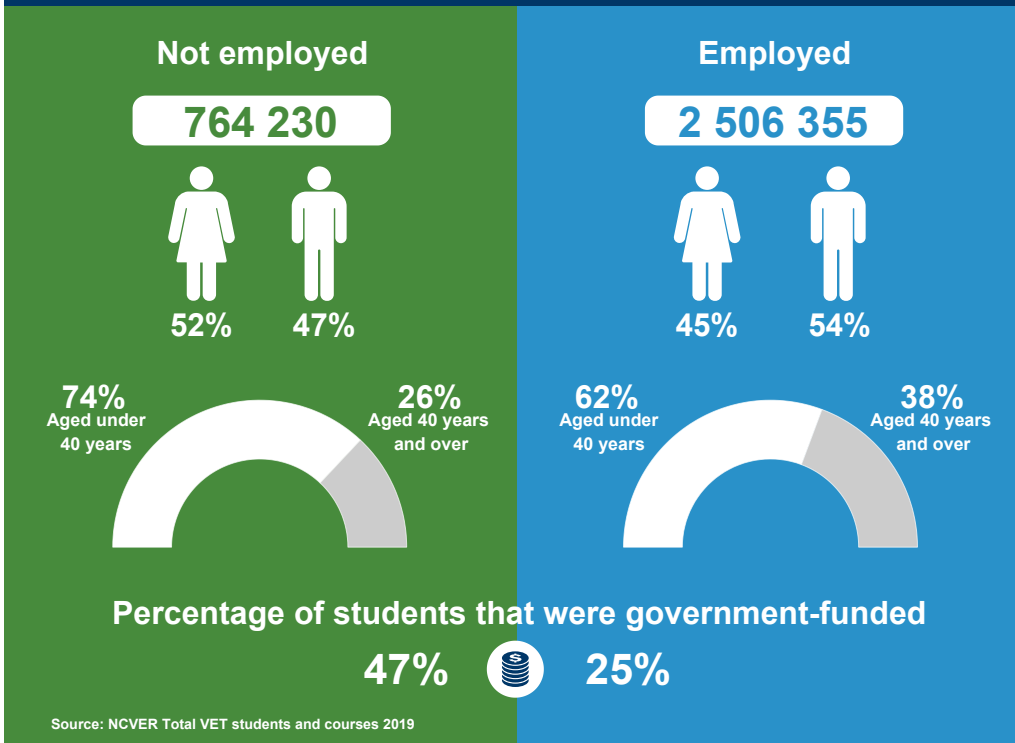
22%  21%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

Not employed

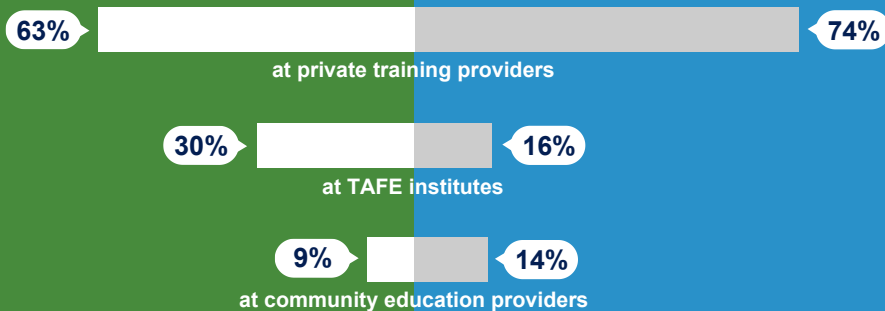


PARTICIPATION IN VET IN 2019

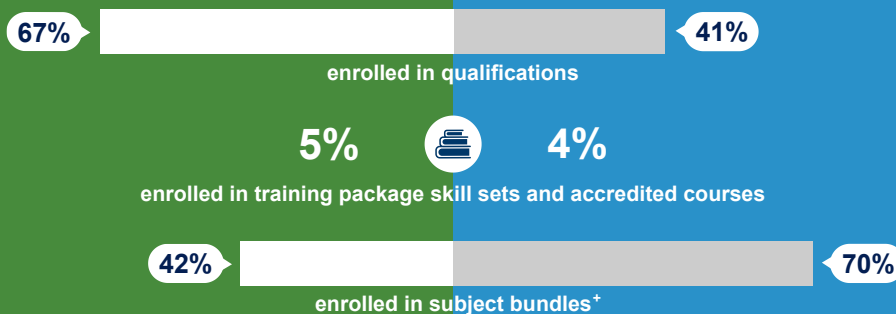


VET UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

Main type of training provider (top 3 by number of students)



Type of training (by number of students)



* Subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised training program

Not employed

Employed

Top 3 fields of education (by number of program enrolments)

Based on the equity group of interest

22%  16%
Society and culture

19%  21%
Management and commerce

16%  3%
Mixed field programmes

Source: NCVET Total VET students and courses 2019

ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Qualification completion rate*

39%  42%

Subject load pass rate^

80%  84%

* Proportion of qualifications commenced in 2015 that were completed by 2019.

^ A subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours studied by students who passed their subject(s) to the total hours committed to by all students who passed, failed or withdrew from the corresponding subject(s).

Source: NCVET VET qualification completion rates 2018

OUTCOMES IN MID-2020

Students who completed a qualification in 2019:

36%  67%
had an improved employment status after training

36%  32%
enrolled in further study after training

90%  88%
satisfied with the overall quality of the training they received

11%  7%
of those employed after training, temporarily stood down due to COVID-19

11%  42%
of those not employed after training, had a job previously that they lost due to COVID-19

Source: NCVET VET student outcomes 2020

Notes:

1. There are high numbers of 'not known' responses for some student characteristics explored in this resource. For more information, refer to the Student equity in VET: participation, achievement and outcomes: data tables.
2. This data excludes international offshore training activity.
3. Students may have enrolled in more than one type of training, with more than one type of provider and with different sources of funding. For this reason, percentages may sum to more than 100.
4. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Sources:

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

[Total VET students and courses 2019](#)

[Government-funded students and courses](#)

[VET qualification completion rates 2018](#)

[VET student outcomes 2020](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

[Census of Population and Housing 2016](#)

[Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018](#)

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