

Government-funded students and courses 2024

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



The number of students enrolled in nationally recognised training decreased 2.7% in 2024, to 1 156 045 compared to 2023, a participation rate of 6.4% among Australian residents aged 15-64 years².

Students in nationally recognised qualifications remained relatively stable in 2024, reducing by 0.9% from 2023, following an increase of 7.2% between 2022 and 2023. Equally, students attending TAFE also remained relatively stable, reducing by 0.6%.

Nationally recognised student numbers decreased in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory, while increasing in other jurisdictions.

The changes varied significantly across training type, provider type and student cohort.

In addition, 95 800 students were enrolled in non-nationally recognised training, a decrease of 0.9% from the year before.

Table 1 Change in students enrolled in nationally recognised training, by type of training, in Australia, 2024

Type of training	Students	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
Qualifications	1 073 420	92.9	10.9	-0.9
Short courses	63 745	5.5	37.0	-4.1
Stand-alone subjects	22 030	1.9	-36.7	-12.6
Total	1 156 045	100.0	6.7	-2.7

Table 2 Change in students enrolled in nationally recognised qualifications, by provider reporting type, in Australia, 2024

Provider reporting type	Students	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
TAFE institutes	578 180	53.9	7.9	-0.6
Private training providers	380 285	35.4	16.4	-2.8
Other training providers	64 565	6	13.8	-2.7
Other government providers	57 595	5.4	20.8	15.0
Community education providers	28 905	2.7	-4.9	-4.2
Total	1 073 420	100	10.9	-0.9

Table 3 Change in students enrolled in nationally recognised qualifications, by select student cohorts, in Australia, 2024

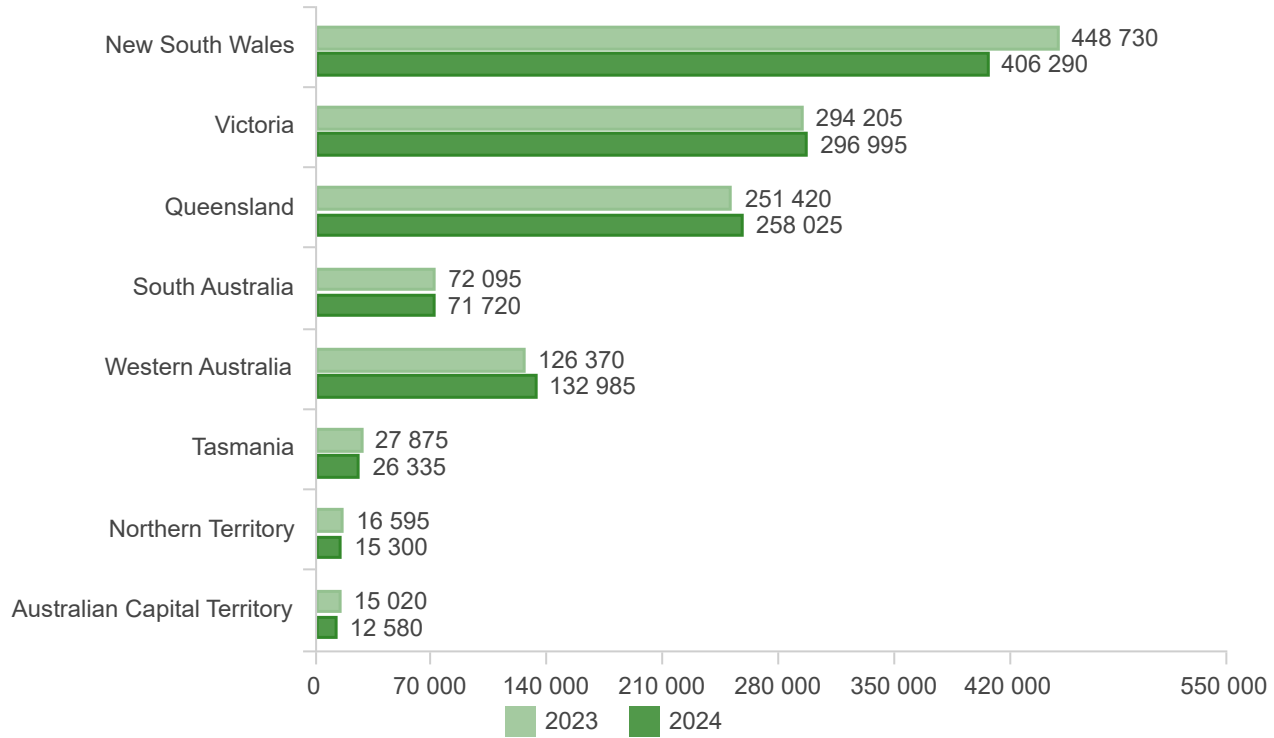
Cohort	Students	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
Females	541 735	50.5	12.9	-1.6
Regional and remote	358 015	33.4	7.4	-0.7
Studied full-time	226 540	21.1	7.9	10.2
Unemployed	175 065	16.3	-12.9	0.7
In school	99 395	9.3	27.4	4.9
With a disability	94 950	8.8	6.0	3.3
Indigenous	77 405	7.2	11.8	6.2

Note: Unemployment rates are influenced by fluctuations in both student employment and unemployment trends.

Students

In 2024, compared with 2023, the number of government-funded students in Australia decreased by 2.6% to 1 220 230.

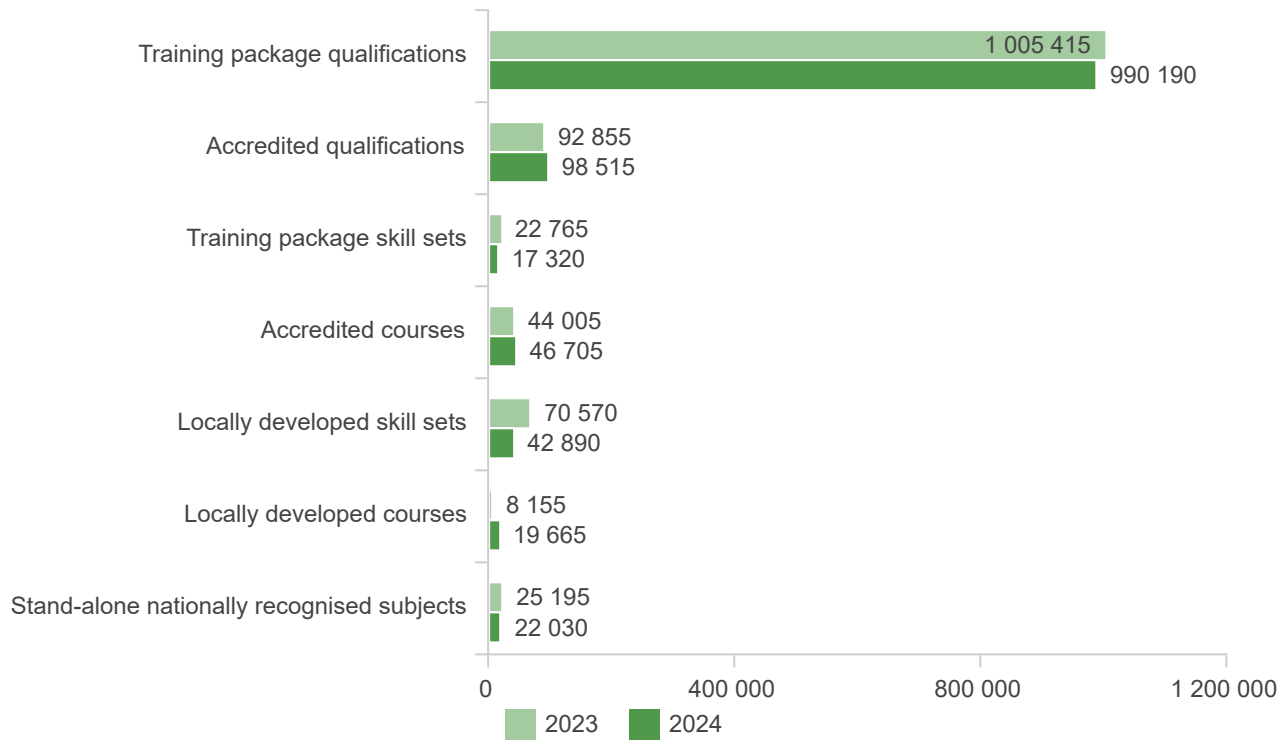
Figure 2 Government-funded students by state or territory that administered the training, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



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.

The majority of government-funded students were enrolled in nationally recognised VET. Between 2023 and 2024, numbers in Australia decreased by 2.7% to 1 156 045 students. Of these, 85.7% were enrolled in training package qualifications.

Figure 3 Students enrolled in government-funded nationally recognised VET by type of training, 2023 and 2024 - 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. Students may be enrolled in one or more programs, in stand-alone subjects, or a combination of both.

In 2024, there were 1 073 420 students enrolled in nationally recognised qualifications in Australia, remaining relatively stable from 2023 (down 0.9%). Nationally recognised qualifications are comprised of both training package qualifications and accredited qualifications.

Students varied across different cohorts.

Table 4 Government-funded students enrolled in nationally recognised qualifications in Australia by selected cohorts, 2024

Cohort	Students	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
Females	541 735	50.5	12.9	-1.6
Indigenous	77 405	7.2	11.8	6.2
With a disability	94 950	8.8	6.0	3.3
Regional and remote	358 015	33.4	7.4	-0.7
Aged 15 to 19 years	270 360	25.2	12.1	3.5
School students	99 395	9.3	27.4	4.9
Had a previous highest education level of year 12	321 540	30.0	9.2	-1.9
Studied full-time	226 540	21.1	7.9	10.2
Unemployed	175 065	16.3	-12.9	0.7

Note: Nationally recognised qualifications are comprised of training package qualifications and accredited qualifications. For more detailed information please refer to the Government-funded students and courses 2024 annual Databuilder.

In 2024, there were 95 800 government-funded students enrolled in non-nationally recognised VET in Australia, consisting of:

- non-nationally recognised programs including higher education qualifications (61 640 students)
- non-nationally recognised stand-alone subjects (34 310 students).

Participation rate

In 2024, an estimated 6.7% 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 18.8%).

Table 5 Estimated participation rate in government-funded VET, 2019 to 2024 (%) - Australia

Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
15 to 19 years	19.0	18.5	19.7	19.0	18.8	18.8
20 to 24 years	12.9	13.5	15.3	14.5	13.4	12.7
25 to 44 years	6.0	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.4	5.8
45 to 64 years	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.0
15 to 64 years	6.8	7.0	7.4	7.0	7.1	6.7

Sources: NCVER, National VET Provider 2024; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (April) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted April 2025.

Notes: Participation rates are derived by calculating 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' (excludes offshore population), as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to go for training, work, or other purposes.

In 2024, 1 447 providers were delivering government-funded VET in Australia, 34 less than in 2023.

Table 6 Distinct number of training providers by reporting type, 2019 to 2024 - Australia

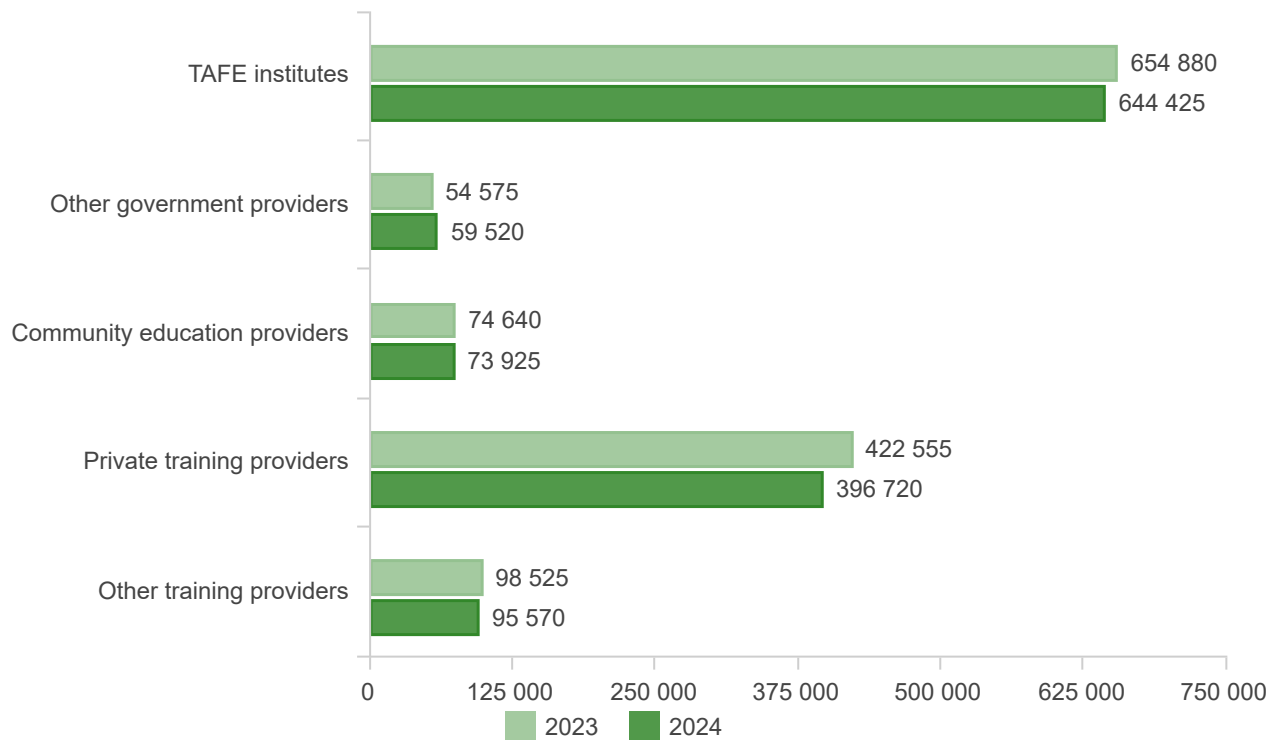
Provider reporting type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAFE institutes	25	24	24	24	24	24
Other government providers	10	10	10	10	10	10
Community education providers	338	314	315	293	283	283
Private training providers	1 042	982	982	959	981	957
Other training providers	258	250	242	231	234	223
Total	1 620	1 527	1 518	1 464	1 481	1 447

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

Students by provider reporting type

In 2024, 52.8% of government-funded students in Australia were enrolled at TAFE institutes.

Figure 4 Government-funded students by provider reporting type, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



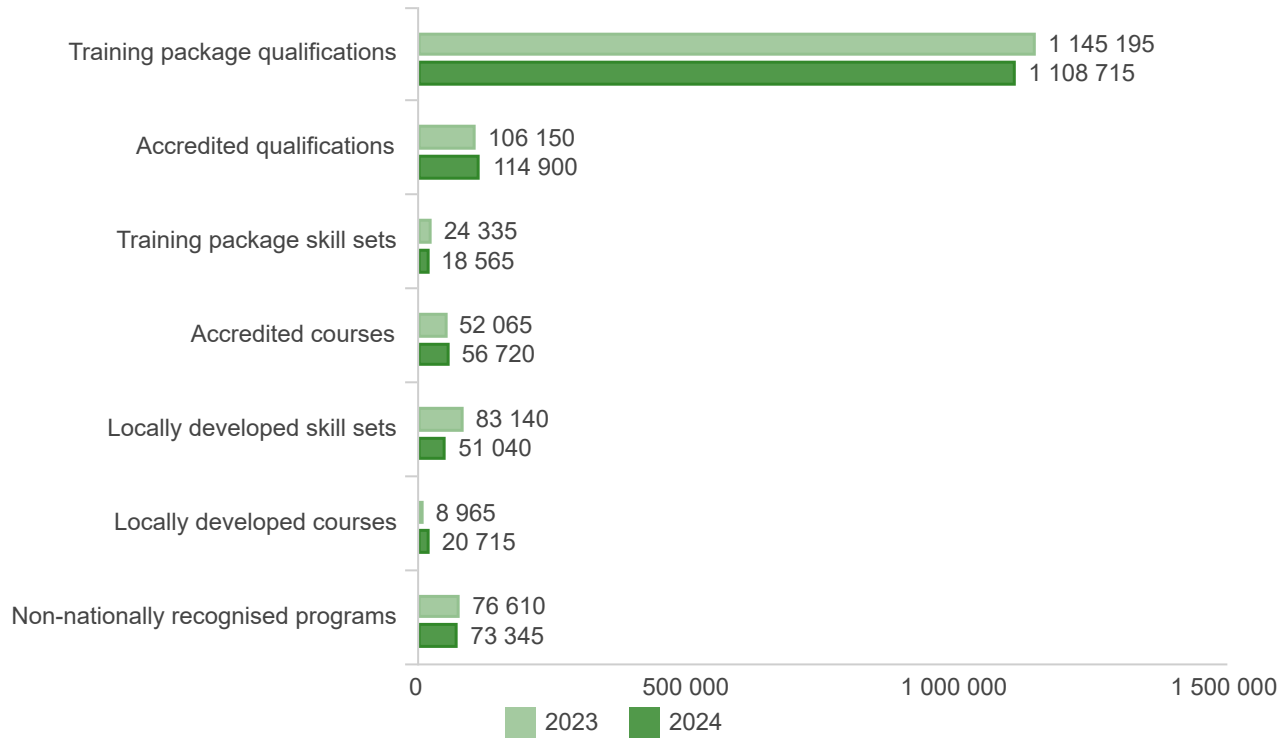
Note: The sum of students will not add to the 2024 total (1 220 230) for Australia as a student may have enrolled in multiple provider types in a year.

'Other training providers' includes TAFE institutes undertaking training outside of their head office state or territory.

Program enrolments

In 2024, there were 1 444 000 enrolments in government-funded programs, a decrease of 3.5% from 2023. Of these, 84.7% were in nationally recognised qualifications, i.e. training package qualifications and accredited qualifications.

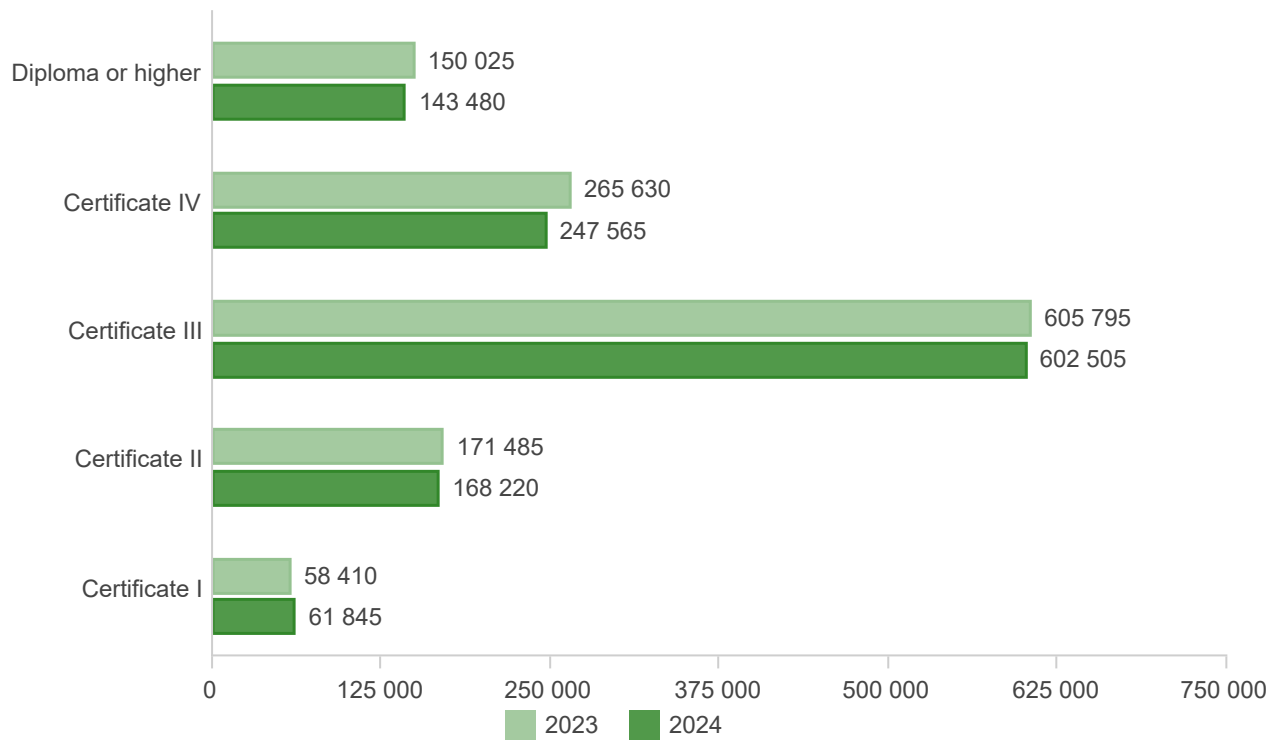
Figure 5 Government-funded program enrolments by type of training, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



Qualification enrolments

In 2024, there were 1 223 615 enrolments in government-funded nationally recognised qualifications, a decrease of 2.2% from 2023. The majority of these qualification enrolments were in Certificate III level, followed by Certificate IV.

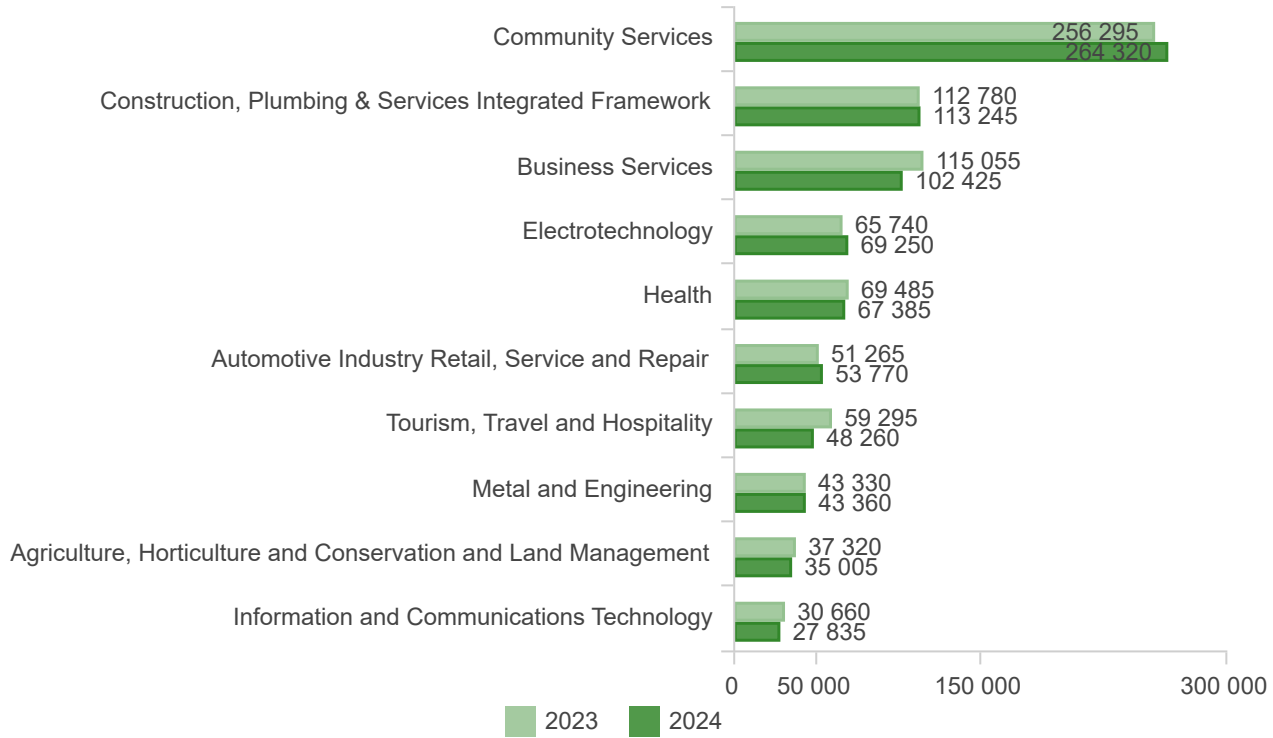
Figure 6 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by level of education, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



Note: This chart contains information on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications, and excludes higher education qualifications.

In 2024, training package qualifications comprised 90.6% of government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments in Australia. Among these, Community Services accounted for the largest share (264 320 or 23.8%), followed by Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework (113 245 or 10.2%).

Figure 7 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification enrolments by top 10 training packages, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



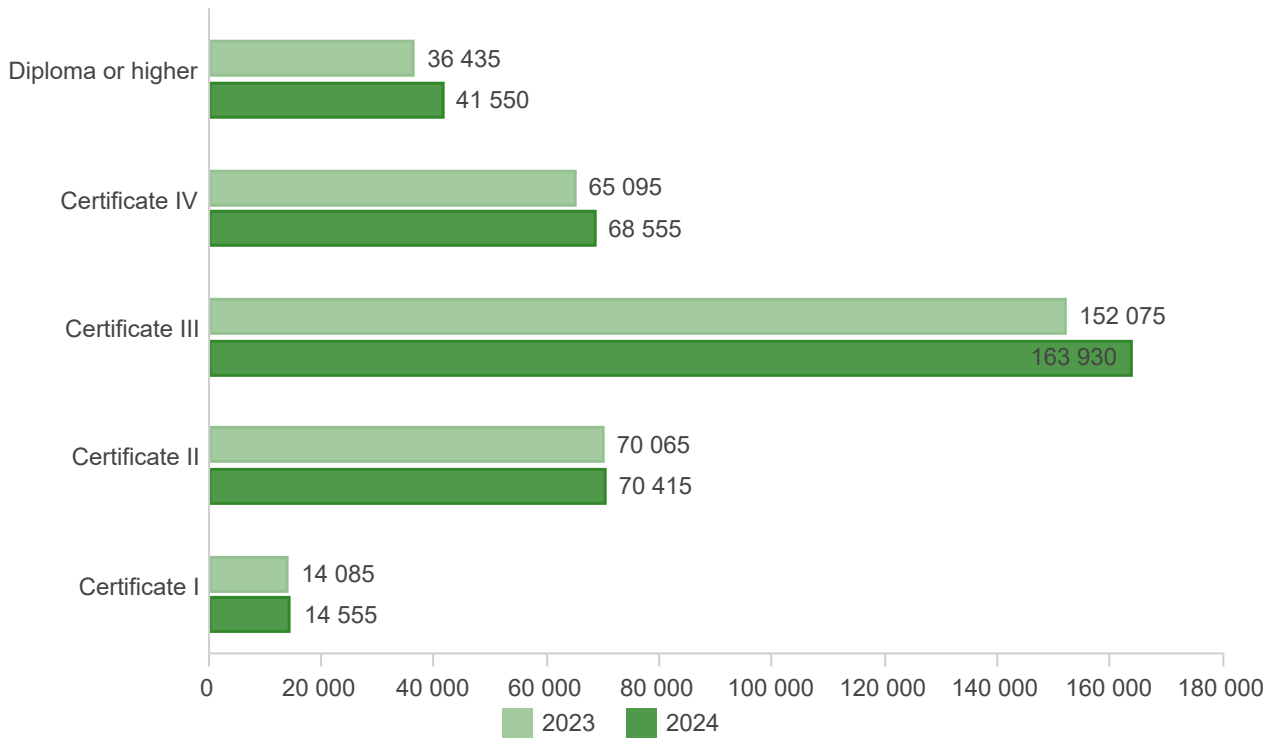
Note: This chart is subset of training package qualifications only.

Qualification completions

In 2024, there were 359 000 government-funded nationally recognised qualification completions in Australia. This figure will be revised in future releases of *Government-funded students and courses*.

The highest proportion were at Certificate III level (45.7%), followed by Certificate II (19.6%).

Figure 8 Government-funded nationally recognised qualification completions by level of education, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



Note: This chart contains information on training package qualifications and accredited qualifications, and excludes higher education qualifications

Note : For more detailed information on program completions please refer to the *Government-funded students and courses 2024 annual [DataBuilder](#)*.

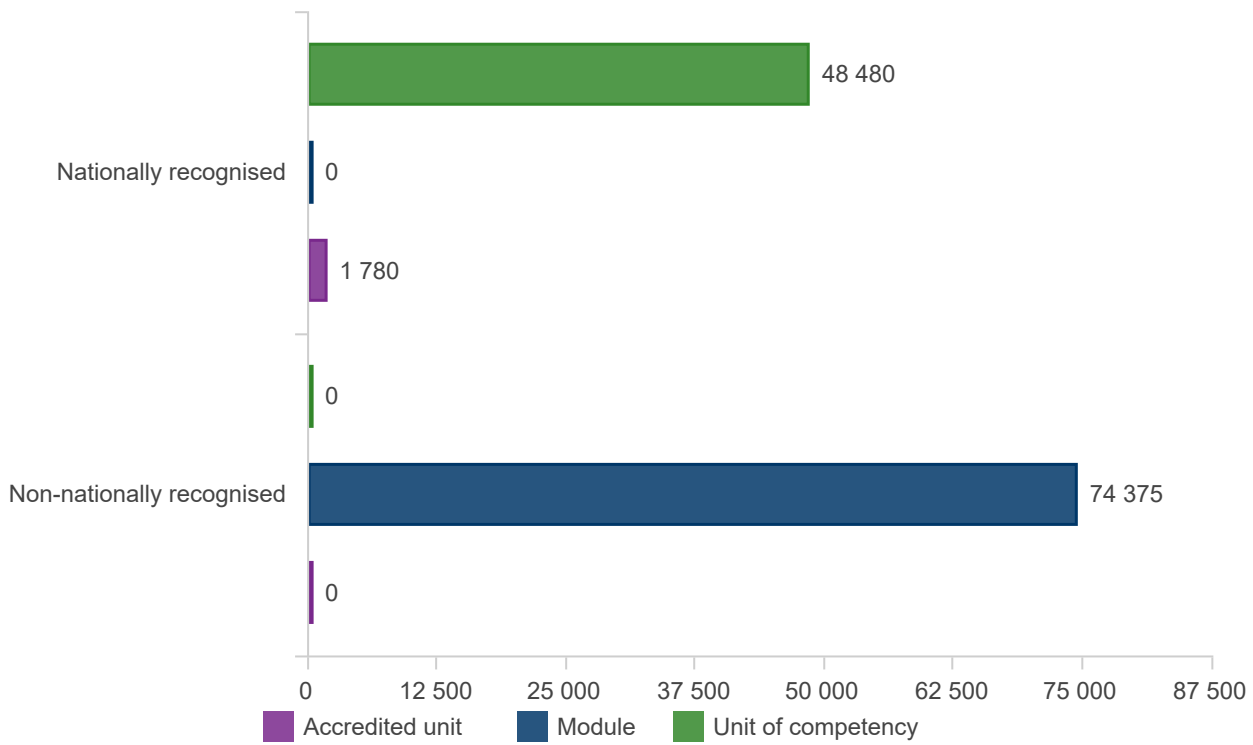
Subject Enrolments

In 2024, there were 10.6 million enrolments in government-funded VET subjects in Australia.

Of these, 124 635 (1.2%) were in stand-alone subjects, consisting of:

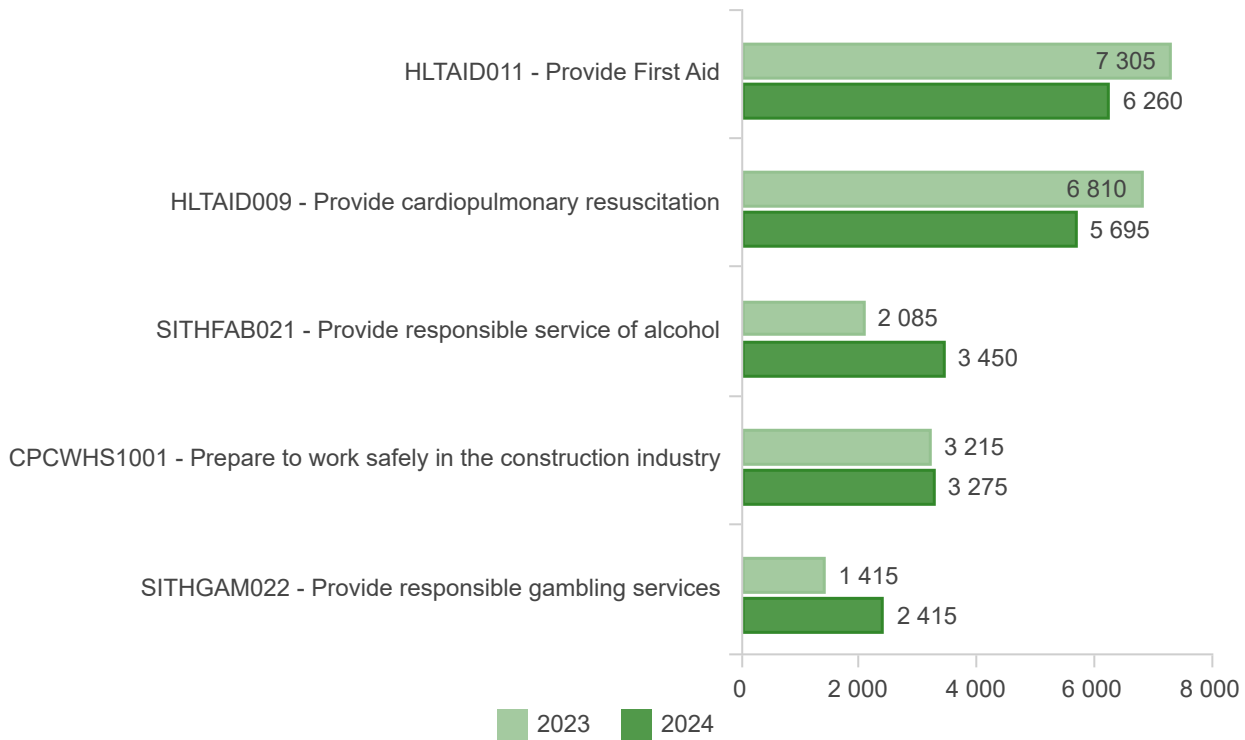
- stand-alone nationally recognised subjects (50 260), down 22.6% on 2023, which are comprised of units of competency and accredited units.
- stand-alone non-nationally recognised subjects (74 375), up 9.1% on 2023, which are modules.

Figure 9 Government-funded stand-alone subject enrolments by subject type, 2024 - Australia



In 2024, 12.9% of government-funded stand-alone units of competency were in HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid.

Figure 10 Government-funded stand-alone subject enrolments by top 5 units of competency, 2023 and 2024 - Australia



Note: Data in the figure above are based on stand-alone nationally recognised subjects and stand-alone non-nationally recognised subject enrolments in units of competency only. In instances where multiple units of competency have an equal number of enrolments, the top 5 units of competency for WA and the 5th rank for QLD, TAS were randomly selected among the tied units. For a full list of units of competency, refer to the DataBuilder.

Historical time series data

Time series data from 2003 to 2024 are presented in the following graphs. Reporting changes over time may affect comparability between years. For further details, refer to the notes accompanying *Historical time series of government-funded VET in Australia, from 1981*.

Figure 11 Government-funded students and program enrolments, 2003 to 2024 ('000) - Australia

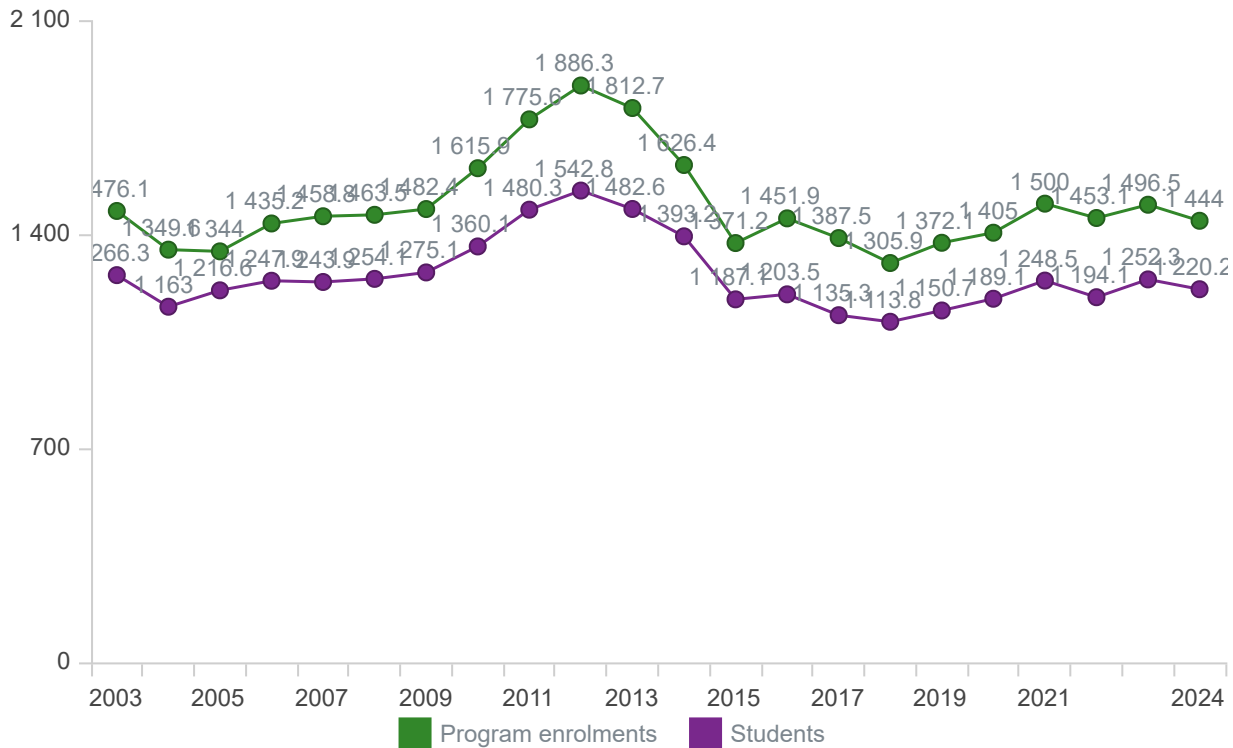
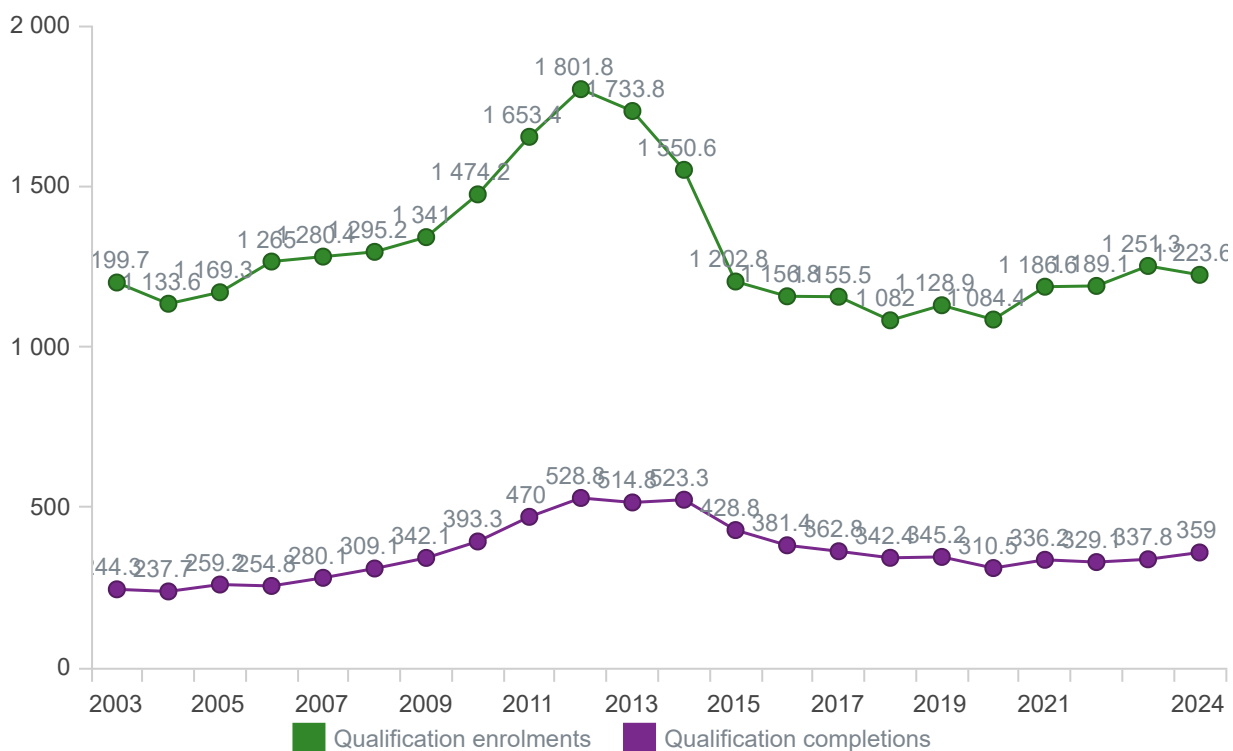


Figure 12 Government-funded qualification enrolments and qualification completions, 2003 to 2024 ('000) - Australia



Note: Qualification enrolments for the years 2003 to 2014 are derived from 'type of accreditation', whereas qualification enrolments for the years 2015 onwards are derived from 'type of training'.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. For information on Fee-Free TAFE please see Fee-Free TAFE - Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government.

2. Participation rates are derived by calculating 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' (excludes offshore population), as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups. Usual residential address refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to go for training, work, or other purposes.

Sources: NCVER, National VET Provider 2024; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National, State and Territory population, (April) Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, Extracted April 2025.

3. Caution should be used when comparing trends, as 2024 NSW figures are likely overstated. For further details, see the explanatory notes.

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