

# Government funding of VET 2020: 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 the *Australian vocational education and training statistics: government funding of VET 2020* publication 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 VOCEDplus 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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting under training package funding information.
Apprentice/trainee status	Identifies whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship/ Traineeship Training Contract.	Apprenticeship Non-apprenticeship Unknown Funding not attributable by apprenticeship	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting under apprenticeship categories.
Bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level	Refers to the ABS <a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</a>	Bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category.
Capital funding	Refers to funding provided by Commonwealth, state and territory governments for capital purposes that relate to VET matters, including major capital projects, equipment acquisition, and construction of industry-based and school-based skill centres.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line recurrent capital funding.
Commonwealth ongoing specific-purpose payments	Refers to Commonwealth payments to state and territory governments under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory government public VET systems and refer to the specific purpose payments for the long-term objectives as identified in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Training.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line ongoing specific purpose payments.
Employer assistance	Funding that supports employers to engage in VET, including funding for workforce training and advice and incentives to engage apprentices and trainees.	General assistance for employers to engage in VET Information and administrative support Tax exemptions/offsets/rebates	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting under employer assistance categories.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Intergovernmental funding arrangements	<p>The Commonwealth government supports states and territories with VET services by providing ongoing specific purpose payments made through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. The objectives and outcomes tied to the payments are defined in the <i>National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development (NASWD)</i>.</p> <p>Commonwealth funding is also provided through time-limited National Partnerships and Project Agreements such as the 2018 National Partnership Agreement on the Skilling Australians Fund.</p>	N/A	Refer to <a href="http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au">www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au</a>
Jurisdiction that administered funding	Is the Commonwealth, state or territory that administered the government funding for VET.	<p>New South Wales</p> <p>Victoria</p> <p>Queensland</p> <p>Western Australia</p> <p>South Australia</p> <p>Tasmania</p> <p>Northern Territory</p> <p>Australian Capital Territory</p> <p>Australian Government</p>	Funds are reported in the AVETMISS funding collection by the administering jurisdiction.
Level of education	VET funding directed towards each level of education under the 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.	<p>Graduate diploma</p> <p>Graduate certificate</p> <p>Advanced diploma</p> <p>Diploma</p> <p>Certificate IV</p> <p>Certificate III</p> <p>Certificate II</p> <p>Certificate I</p> <p>Other-non-award course</p> <p>Skill set</p> <p>Bridging or enabling course not identifiable by level</p> <p>Training not elsewhere classified</p> <p>Funding not attributable by level of training</p>	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting under level of training categories.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
National Agreement	Defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs and performance indicators for Commonwealth national ongoing specific purpose payments made to states and territory governments under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory government public VET systems, currently the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.	N/A	Refer to <a href="http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au">www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au</a>
National Partnership Agreement Funding	Defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs and performance indicators for Commonwealth funding to states and territories through a time-limited agreement such as those established under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 and enabled through the COAG Reform Fund Act 2008 that are for VET purposes, currently the National Partnership Agreement on the Skilling Australians Fund.	N/A	Refer to <a href="http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au">www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au</a>
Nominal terms	Nominal terms mean reported figures are current figures and have not been adjusted 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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line Non-award courses under training package funding information.  Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line Other non-award courses under level of training funding information.
Ongoing specific purpose payments	Payments associated with the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development	Ongoing specific purpose payments	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category.
Public VET asset base	The value of public VET assets includes property, plant and equipment used for VET delivery by public VET entities.	Land Buildings Plant and Equipment Motor Vehicles Other	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting under VET assets categories.
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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reported under provider type information.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Provider type Other Organisations	Refers to organisations that are not registered training providers	Other organisations	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reported under provider type information.
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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reported under provider type information.
Provider type Public	Refers to TAFE institutes and Universities – Government	Public	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reported under provider type information.
Recurrent funding	Revenues appropriated by the jurisdiction out of its own funds to cover training portfolio costs and any relevant VET programs.	Recurrent	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reporting under jurisdiction 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)
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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reported under level of education information.
State and territory contributions to the Commonwealth	The amount for funding transfers from a state or territory government to the Commonwealth for a VET related matter.	Loan cost Other	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category reporting under state and territory payments to the Commonwealth categories.
Student assistance for equipment, travel and other – loan values	Student support funding not directly linked to a training outcome and captures loans, grant and subsidy funding paid directly to students 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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification categories.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
System administration & governance	Captures funding 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 for the jurisdiction's VET portfolio Supply and services for the jurisdiction's VET portfolio	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification categories.
Time-limited funding	Payments associated with a National Partnership or Project Agreement.	Time-limited funding	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category.
Trade Support Loans	Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist apprentices and trainees working in skills need areas to help them cover the cost of living and learning.	Trade Support Loans	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category.
Training packages	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 <a href="http://www.training.gov.au">http://www.training.gov.au</a> . 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, <a href="http://www.training.gov.au">www.training.gov.au</a> .	As training package code	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as training package code and description under training package funding information. Must be a valid national code listed on the National Training Register ( <a href="http://training.gov.au">training.gov.au</a> ).
Training not elsewhere classified	Funding for training not classified as a training package, a non-award course or accredited course.	Training not elsewhere classified	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category under training package funding information.
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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification category.



Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
VET delivery funding	Funding that directly delivers a training outcome. This includes funding for 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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – reporting line as classification categories reported under VET delivery.
VET Student Loans	Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist eligible vocational education and training (VET) students studying at approved training providers to pay for all, or part, of their tuition costs. Loans are income-contingent with students repaying their loans through the Australian taxation system.	Full-fee paying students State-subsidised students	Refer to <a href="https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students">https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students</a>
VET Student Loans - loan values - 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	Refer to <a href="https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students">https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students</a>
VET Student Loans - loan values – 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	Refer to <a href="https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students">https://www.employment.gov.au/information-vet-student-loans-students</a>
Wrap-around services for students	Funding to RTOs or other organisations to provide non-learning support to target/priority groups specific to training funded by the jurisdiction. This funding 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	Collected in the AVETMISS funding collection – 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	VET FEE-HELP was effective 2009-2016. In 2017 the VET Student Loans program replaced the VET FEE-HELP scheme. In the Government funding of VET publication, student loan totals include VET FEE HELP grandfathering in years 2017 to 2020.	N/A	<a href="https://www.employment.gov.au/vet-fee-help-providers">https://www.employment.gov.au/vet-fee-help-providers</a>