

**Quarterly reporting of   
government-funded activity   
to the 2015 National VET   
Provider Collection**

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National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

**TEChnical paper**

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# P:\PublicationComponents\Icons\TargetWithArrowFindings_Purple.emfExecutive summary

Since 2015, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has collected and reported data on government-funded students and courses on a quarterly basis. The quarterly data submissions from state government departments responsible for training are cumulative, which allows additional data to be reported and corrections made to previously submitted data. The four reporting and submission periods are:

* January to March, submitted in May
* January to June, submitted in August
* January to September, submitted in November
* January to December, submitted in March.

The first year of quarterly reporting has provided a useful insight into how training activity is reported by the different jurisdictions over a calendar year. This paper presents the results of some initial analysis of that data using the reporting scope that was in place for 2015 reporting, broadly defined as all activity delivered by government providers and government-funded activity delivered by community education and other registered providers.

## Students

Analysis shows that nationally, 49.3% of the annual student numbers were reported to NCVER in the first quarterly submission (January to March 2015). There was, however, considerable variation among the states and territories in the proportion of students reported in the first quarter — ranging from 25.9% in South Australia to 56.3% in Tasmania. The low proportion of students (25.9%) in South Australia appears to be an anomaly associated with the first year, as numbers have increased by 63.1% in the January to March 2016 data submission. Therefore, it is expected that — nationally — the proportion reported in the first quarterly submission will increase in 2016.

## Programs

Program enrolments follow an expected pattern, with a higher proportion of diploma and higher qualifications reported in the January to March submission, compared with other qualifications. Generally, the lower the qualification level, the lower the proportion of program enrolments reported in the January to March submission and the more evenly they are distributed throughout the year.

## Subjects

In 2015, there were almost 14.4 million subject enrolments reported in Australia. Of these, 5.5 million (38.6%) were reported in the January to March submission, of which only 1.5 million subjects had been reported with a final result. The remaining 4 million enrolments were either continuing studies or not yet available outcomes. As a greater number of subject enrolments are reported in each quarterly submission, the proportion with a finalised outcome increases and the proportion with ‘continuing’ or ‘not yet available’ outcomes decreases.

## Qualifications completed

One of the proposed benefits of quarterly reporting is that data on qualifications completed could be reported sooner. The reporting of qualifications completed for government-funded activity currently has a lag of one year, as NCVER waits for additional data to be reported subsequent to the year the qualification was completed.

This analysis shows that the majority of qualifications completed within a calendar year are reported in the January to December submission, providing sufficient information to allow preliminary qualifications completed data to be reported in the year the qualification was completed. For example, 86.7% of 2014 qualifications completed were reported in the January to December 2014 submission, with 97.2% of all 2014 qualifications completed reported by the middle of the following year.

## Summary

A number of revisions to previously submitted data are evident in the quarterly data. Some of these revisions were due to the changes in reporting practices, while others addressed data quality issues in previously submitted data. It will most likely take a few years of quarterly reporting before data submissions stabilise sufficiently enough to be used as reliable trend indicators of annual training activity.

# Background

P:\PublicationComponents\Icons\ExecutiveSummary.emfThe topic of more frequent and timely vocational education and training (VET) data has been an issue of interest for a number of years. The data governance work of the VET Data Strategy Action Group on more frequent and timely VET data became a key element of the VET reform agenda. It was written into the Council of Australian Government (COAG) Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) work program and became one of the Data and Performance Measurement milestones (5.2.1), supporting SCOTESE in its work relating to priority issue #5: *Enhancing national research, analysis, data and information provision on tertiary education and training*.[[1]](#footnote-1)

A trial of more frequent reporting was undertaken by the previous South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST), in association the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) in November 2013. The purpose of the trial was to:

* identify and propose solutions to possible implementation issues
* assess data quality
* assess when completions data is finalised
* and estimate costs associated with the submission and reporting of more frequent VET data.

NCVER received a series of VET data files from DFEEST covering both public and private VET training activity. NCVER and the DFEEST used existing database, validation, analytical data quality and reporting software and tools to clean, extract and validate these data in the same manner used for the annual VET data submissions.[[2]](#footnote-2)

NCVER deemed the trial a success, and the more frequent reporting of VET data was implemented. In the first instance, a mid-year data collection was conducted, in which data for the January to June 2014 period were submitted to NCVER in August 2014 from all states and territories. This was followed by the annual January to December 2014 collection in March 2015. Since then there have been quarterly data submissions to the National VET Provider Collection. The quarterly data submissions are cumulative, which allows additional data to be reported and also corrections made to previously submitted data. The four reporting and submission periods are:

* January to March, submitted in May
* January to June, submitted in August
* January to September, submitted in November
* January to December, submitted in March.

2015 was the first year in which NCVER received four cumulative data submissions from almost all state government departments responsible for training.[[3]](#footnote-3) This paper presents the results of some initial analysis of that data. This analysis uses the reporting scope that was in place for 2015 reporting, broadly defined as all activity delivered by government providers and government-funded activity delivered by community education and other registered providers.

# P:\PublicationComponents\Icons\Dataanalysis_green.emfSubmissions to the 2015 National VET Provider Collection

Data on government-funded training activity are submitted to NCVER by the state government departments responsible for training, together with a small number of other government departments and registered training providers. Data submission arrangements vary from state to state. Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia each submit a single submission on the government-funded activity in their jurisdiction. In the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Tasmania, there are separate submissions for activity delivered by TAFE (technical and further education) institutes and private providers, while South Australia has additional submissions for community education providers and VET in Schools assessed by TAFE. New South Wales has the most complex submission structure, with individual submissions from the 10 TAFE institutes, the Open Training and Education Network and the NSW Agricultural College. In addition, there are separate submissions for activity delivered by community education providers and private providers, while the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES NSW) submits data on NSW Workplace Training and non-senior secondary certificate VET in Schools.[[4]](#footnote-4)

There were 26 data submissions to the National VET Provider Collection from state training authorities for the January to March 2015, January to June 2015 and January to September 2015 reporting periods   
(table 1). This increased to 28 training authorities in the final January to December 2015 submission, due to full-year data submissions from NSW Workplace Training and SA VISA, which were existing data submitters that had not submitted to the quarterly submissions. In addition, BOSTES NSW submitted VET in Schools activity to the National VET Provider Collection for the first time in the January to December 2015 submission. The other change was for Tasmania — which previously submitted separate TAFE and private provider submissions in the quarterly collections — was that they consolidated their data into a single collection for the full-year submission.[[5]](#footnote-5)

## Students

Nationally, 787 700 students — or 49.3% of the 2015 student total — were reported in the initial January to March submission (table 1). The submission of the remaining 810 200 students (50.7%) was fairly evenly distributed over the next three quarterly submission periods, with an additional 285 500 (17.9%), 285 200 (17.9%) and 239 400 (15.0%) students reported in each submission.

There was considerable variation in the proportion of students reported in the quarterly data submissions across jurisdictions (figure 1). New South Wales (54.8%), Victoria (50.1%), Tasmania (56.3%) and the Australian Capital Territory (51.3%) all reported over half of their 2015 students in the first quarterly submission (table 2). In contrast, South Australia only reported one-quarter (25.9%) of students in the initial submission for the year, but followed up with an additional 42.8% of students in the January to June submission, so that 68.7% of students had been reported in the first half of the year — above the national average of 67.2%.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Table 1 Data submissions by reporting period and training authority, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State/territory  Training authority | Jan-Mar 2015 | Jan-Jun 2015 | Jan-Sep 2015 | Jan-Dec 2015 |
| New South Wales |  |  |  |  |
| 101 - TAFE NSW - New England Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 102 - TAFE NSW - Hunter Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 103 - TAFE NSW - Sydney Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 104 - TAFE NSW - Open Training and Education Network | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 105 - TAFE NSW - Riverina Institute of TAFE | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 106 - TAFE NSW - Illawarra Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 107 - TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute of TAFE | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 108 - TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 109 - TAFE NSW - Western Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 111 - TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 112 - TAFE NSW - North Coast Institute | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 124 - NSW Agricultural College | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 130 - NSW Board of Adult and Community Education | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 135 - NSW Workplace Training | **🗶** | **🗶** | **🗶** | **✓** |
| 145 - NSW Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards | **🗶** | **🗶** | **🗶** | **✓** |
| 151 - NSW Private Providers | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| Victoria |  |  |  |  |
| 205 - Vic Department of Education and Training | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| Queensland |  |  |  |  |
| 305 - Qld Department of Education and Training | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| South Australia |  |  |  |  |
| 500 - SA TAFE | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 540 - SA Adult Community Education | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 550 - SA private providers | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 580 - SA VISA | **🗶** | **🗶** | **🗶** | **✓** |
| Western Australia |  |  |  |  |
| 400 - WA Department of Training and Workforce Development | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| Tasmania |  |  |  |  |
| 600 - Tas TAFE | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **🗶** |
| 605 - Skills Tasmania | **🗶** | **🗶** | **🗶** | **✓** |
| 650 - Tas. private providers | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **🗶** |
| Northern Territory |  |  |  |  |
| 700 - NT TAFE | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 740 - NT private providers | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| Australian Capital Territory |  |  |  |  |
| 800 - ACT Canberra Inst. of Technology | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |
| 830 - ACT private providers | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** | **✓** |

Notes: **✓** Data submitted for reporting period.  
**🗶** Data not submitted for reporting period.

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

Figure 1 Percentage of students reported in quarterly submissions, by state/territory, 2015

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory reported the vast majority of students in the first three quarterly submissions, and only added an additional 7.5%, 7.1% and 7.3% of total student numbers respectively in the final submission for the year. The smallest proportion of additional student numbers in the January to December submission was reported by Tasmania. However, this figure is also affected by the de‑duplication of students that occurred in the amalgamation of two separate submissions into a single data submission.

Table 2 Students by reporting period and state/territory, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan-Mar 2015 | | Jan-Jun 2015 | | Jan-Sep 2015 | | Jan-Dec 2015 | | |
| State/territory | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual | | Number | % of annual |
| New South Wales | 259 700 | 54.8 | 308 200 | 65.0 | 383 400 | 80.9 | | 474 000 | 100.0 |
| Victoria | 252 200 | 50.1 | 346 400 | 68.8 | 430 500 | 85.5 | | 503 600 | 100.0 |
| Queensland | 134 900 | 47.6 | 187 200 | 66.1 | 242 900 | 85.7 | | 283 300 | 100.0 |
| South Australia | 28 000 | 25.9 | 74 300 | 68.7 | 100 000 | 92.5 | | 108 100 | 100.0 |
| Western Australia | 70 700 | 48.8 | 96 500 | 66.6 | 126 300 | 87.1 | | 145 000 | 100.0 |
| Tasmania | 20 600 | 56.3 | 27 800 | 76.0 | 34 000 | 92.9 | | 36 600 | 100.0 |
| Northern Territory | 9 700 | 40.2 | 14 000 | 58.1 | 19 900 | 82.6 | | 24 100 | 100.0 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 11 900 | 51.3 | 18 800 | 81.0 | 21 500 | 92.7 | | 23 200 | 100.0 |
| **Australia** | **787 700** | **49.3** | **1 073 200** | **67.2** | **1 358 500** | **85.0** | | **1 597 800** | **100.0** |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

Most jurisdictions display slight variations in the pattern of data submission between TAFE and other government providers, community education providers and other training organisations (figure 2). For example, in New South Wales, the quantum of students reported by other training providers was considerably larger in the January to December data submission compared with the first three quarterly submissions. In South Australia, the small quantum of students in the January to March data submission is noticeable when compared with the data submissions for the remainder of the year. In the Australian Capital Territory, there was reduction in students in the January to September data submission due to a revision in the number of students reported at other training organisations.

Figure 2 Students by provider reporting type and data submission period, by state/territory, 2015

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| New South Wales | Victoria |
|  |  |
| Queensland | South Australia |
|  |  |
| Western Australia | Tasmania |
|  |  |
| Northern Territory | Australian Capital Territory |
|  |  |

Note: Scales are different for each graph.  
Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

## Programs

The submission of program enrolment data (table 3) follows a similar pattern to the submission of student data (table 2). Overall, 46.9% of all program enrolments were reported in the January to March submission (compared with 49.3% for students), followed by an additional 17.7% in January to June (compared with 17.9% of students), 20.1% in January to September (compared with 17.9% for students) and 15.3% in January to December (compared with 15.0% for students).

All jurisdictions reported more program enrolments than students — except the Northern Territory (all quarters).

Table 3 Program enrolments by reporting period and state/territory, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan-Mar 2015 | | Jan-Jun 2015 | | Jan-Sep 2015 | | Jan-Dec 2015 | |
| State/territory | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual |
| New South Wales | 273 200 | 51.6 | 324 100 | 61.2 | 420 100 | 79.4 | 529 400 | 100.0 |
| Victoria | 280 000 | 49.1 | 388 200 | 68.1 | 490 600 | 86.1 | 569 900 | 100.0 |
| Queensland | 150 400 | 44.4 | 214 400 | 63.3 | 288 700 | 85.3 | 338 600 | 100.0 |
| South Australia | 29 000 | 25.1 | 77 000 | 66.5 | 108 900 | 94.0 | 115 800 | 100.0 |
| Western Australia | 83 700 | 44.3 | 117 400 | 62.2 | 164 100 | 86.9 | 188 800 | 100.0 |
| Tasmania | 21 300 | 50.2 | 29 200 | 68.7 | 37 200 | 87.7 | 42 400 | 100.0 |
| Northern Territory | 9 400 | 43.7 | 13 600 | 62.9 | 18 000 | 83.6 | 21 600 | 100.0 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 13 300 | 47.4 | 21 300 | 75.8 | 26 000 | 92.3 | 28 100 | 100.0 |
| **Total** | **860 400** | **46.9** | **1 185 100** | **64.6** | **1 553 600** | **84.7** | **1 834 600** | **100.0** |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

All jurisdictions — except South Australia and the Northern Territory — reported higher proportions of diploma and higher qualifications in the January to March data submission than other qualifications (table 4). Generally, the lower the qualification level, the lower the proportion of program enrolments reported in the January to March data submission. This may reflect that diploma and higher qualifications are more likely to be run over the full year and have limited intakes, whereas lower level courses are shorter and offered more frequently.

In South Australia, the proportion of program enrolments reported in the January to March submission was the lowest of all jurisdictions, at 25.1% for all qualifications (table 4). The reporting of program enrolments in this first quarter submission was far more even, with 33.0% of certificate III enrolments, 23.8% of certificate IV, 23.5% of certificate II and 23.4% of diploma and higher qualifications reported. The lowest proportion was for certificate I qualifications (14.6%) and non-AQF programs (21.4%).

In contrast, New South Wales reported the highest proportion of program enrolments in the first quarter (51.6% of all qualification levels). Over three-quarters (76.9%) of diploma and higher qualifications were reported in the January to March submission, 69.8% of certificate IV qualifications and 54.4% of certificate III qualifications.

Table 4 Program enrolments by qualification level, reporting period and state/territory, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State/territory Reporting period | Graduate diploma | Graduate certificate | Bachelor degrees | Advanced diploma | Associate degree | Diploma | Certificate IV | Certificate III | Certificate II | Certificate I | Non-AQF qualification | Total |
| **New South Wales** | . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 100 | 0 | 1000 | 3500 | 200 | 72700 | 44600 | 77100 | 31100 | 8200 | 34700 | 273200 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 100 | 0 | 900 | 2900 | 200 | 78600 | 48000 | 93900 | 36300 | 9700 | 53200 | 324100 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 100 | 0 | 1000 | 4200 | 300 | 92300 | 62900 | 121900 | 47100 | 14200 | 76100 | 420100 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 100 | 0 | - | 4300 | - | 96300 | 63900 | 141900 | 91400 | 20600 | 110900 | 529400 |
| **Victoria** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 100 | 300 | 1500 | 9100 | 100 | 40300 | 69000 | 101900 | 25100 | 15600 | 17100 | 280000 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 100 | 700 | 1600 | 10100 | 100 | 49600 | 90400 | 139700 | 41000 | 24300 | 30600 | 388200 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 100 | 800 | 1900 | 12100 | 100 | 60500 | 112600 | 171700 | 54100 | 31000 | 45700 | 490600 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 100 | 700 | 1900 | 12700 | 0 | 67100 | 126800 | 195400 | 69100 | 36300 | 59600 | 569900 |
| **Queensland** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 0 | 100 | - | 700 | - | 19700 | 15600 | 75600 | 19800 | 4300 | 14500 | 150400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 0 | 100 | - | 800 | 300 | 22500 | 21200 | 111700 | 29100 | 6600 | 22100 | 214400 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 100 | 200 | 0 | 1100 | 400 | 29800 | 29800 | 147800 | 39100 | 8800 | 31600 | 288700 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 100 | 300 | 0 | 1300 | 400 | 33500 | 35000 | 172800 | 46500 | 10700 | 38000 | 338600 |
| **South Australia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 0 | - | 0 | 400 | - | 4100 | 4200 | 10500 | 4900 | 1400 | 3500 | 29000 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 0 | - | 400 | 1800 | 0 | 11400 | 12100 | 24400 | 13800 | 5100 | 8000 | 77000 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 2700 | 0 | 15500 | 16600 | 31500 | 20600 | 8600 | 12800 | 108900 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 0 | - | 400 | 2700 | 0 | 16000 | 17500 | 31900 | 20800 | 9900 | 16500 | 115800 |
| **Western Australia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | - | 0 | - | 1400 | 200 | 8900 | 14900 | 26900 | 11400 | 5500 | 14500 | 83700 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | - | 0 | - | 1500 | 200 | 10700 | 19400 | 37300 | 18700 | 10000 | 19500 | 117400 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | - | 0 | - | 1900 | 300 | 14100 | 27200 | 50200 | 27300 | 14400 | 28800 | 164100 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | - | 0 | - | 1900 | 300 | 15800 | 32100 | 58700 | 32800 | 17900 | 29200 | 188800 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4 Program enrolments by qualification level, reporting period and state/territory (continued) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State/territory Reporting period | Graduate diploma | Graduate certificate | Bachelor degrees | Advanced diploma | Associate degree | Diploma | Certificate IV | Certificate III | Certificate II | Certificate I | Non-AQF qualification | Total |
| **Tasmania** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | - | - | - | 200 | - | 2000 | 3200 | 9200 | 3300 | 1100 | 2200 | 21300 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | - | - | - | 200 | - | 2400 | 3900 | 12500 | 4600 | 1600 | 4000 | 29200 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | - | - | - | 200 | - | 2700 | 4600 | 15500 | 5800 | 2200 | 6100 | 37200 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | - | - | - | 200 | - | 2800 | 5000 | 17800 | 6600 | 2500 | 7500 | 42400 |
| **Northern Territory** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 500 | 1800 | 3800 | 1900 | 1300 | 100 | 9400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 600 | 2100 | 5200 | 3100 | 2300 | 100 | 13600 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 900 | 2900 | 6800 | 4200 | 3000 | 200 | 18000 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 0 | 0 | - | 100 | - | 1300 | 3800 | 7800 | 4700 | 3500 | 300 | 21600 |
| **Australian Capital  Territory** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | - | 100 | 0 | 500 | - | 2300 | 2700 | 5600 | 700 | 300 | 1100 | 13300 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | - | 100 | 100 | 600 | - | 3200 | 5400 | 7900 | 1200 | 400 | 2400 | 21300 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | - | 100 | 100 | 800 | - | 3800 | 5900 | 9700 | 1600 | 600 | 3300 | 26000 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | - | 0 | 100 | 600 | - | 3900 | 6600 | 10500 | 1800 | 700 | 3900 | 28100 |
| **Australia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | 200 | 500 | 2500 | 15900 | 500 | 150500 | 155900 | 310800 | 98200 | 37700 | 87700 | 860400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | 300 | 1000 | 3000 | 18000 | 900 | 179000 | 202400 | 432800 | 147700 | 60100 | 140100 | 1185100 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | 400 | 1200 | 3500 | 23100 | 1100 | 219700 | 262500 | 555000 | 199700 | 82800 | 204700 | 1553600 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | 400 | 1000 | 2400 | 23900 | 800 | 236800 | 290700 | 636800 | 273800 | 102100 | 265800 | 1834600 |

Note: AQF = Australian Qualifications Framework.

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

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A number of data revisions in the quarterly submissions are evident when examining program enrolment data at the qualification level in table 4. For example:

* In New South Wales there was a change in the reporting of bachelor and associate degree qualifications by TAFE NSW in 2015. TAFE NSW reported both bachelor and associate degree program enrolments in the first three quarterly data submissions, with 1000 (Q1), 900 (Q2) and 1000 (Q3) program enrolments for bachelor degrees and 200 (Q1), 200 (Q2) and 300 (Q3) program enrolments at the associate degree level (table 4). However, in the January to December 2015 submission, TAFE NSW did not report any program enrolments at either the bachelor or associate degree level, and instead reported these to the Commonwealth’s Higher Education Statistics Collection.
* In Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, there were revisions to the number of program enrolments reported for some higher qualifications. In Victoria, program enrolments at the graduate certificate level declined from 800 enrolments in the January to September data submission to 700 enrolments in the final January to December submission and enrolments at the associate degree level declined from 100 to 0 (table 4).
* In the Australian Capital Territory, graduate certificates declined from 100 in the January to September data submission to 0 in the January to December data submission, while enrolments at the advanced diploma level declined from 800 to 600 in the same period.

Data on program enrolments by type of accreditation, reporting period and state/territory are shown in table 5. This shows that, for most jurisdictions, program enrolments in training package qualifications and nationally accredited qualifications are reported at higher proportions in January to March, and to a lesser extent, the January to June submission, than locally recognised programs and skill sets. Nationally, 93.9% of higher education qualifications, 49.8% of training packages, 43.2% of nationally accredited programs, 36.3% of locally recognised courses and 25.0% of skill sets were reported in the January to March submission.

Data revisions are also evident in table 5. In addition to the previously-mentioned higher level qualifications no longer being reported in New South Wales and Victoria, the other notable revision was in South Australia, where there was a decline in the reporting of locally recognised courses — from 10 500 program enrolments in the January to September data submission to 200 program enrolments in the January to December data submission. This was offset by the increase in skill sets from 1500 program enrolments in the January to September submission to 15 400 program enrolments in the January to December submission.[[7]](#footnote-7) It would appear as though these enrolments may have been incorrectly enrolled as locally recognised courses instead of skill sets in the first three quarterly submissions, then corrected in the final, annual submission.

Table 5 Program enrolments by type of accreditation, reporting period and state/territory, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State/territory  Reporting period | Training package qualifications | | National accredited qualifications | | | Locally recognised programs | | | Higher level qualifications | | | Skill sets | | Total program enrolments |
| **New South Wales** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 219 000 | | 23 100 | | | 13 000 | | | 1 200 | | 17 000 | | 273 200 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 250 500 | | 26 200 | | | 20 100 | | | 1 100 | | 26 200 | | 324 100 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 314 200 | | 37 700 | | | 29 100 | | | 1 300 | | 37 800 | | 420 100 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 388 600 | | 40 900 | | | 34 000 | | | - | | 65 800 | | 529 400 |
| **Victoria** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 225 600 | | 38 000 | | | 12 500 | | | 1 700 | | 2 200 | | 280 000 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 304 900 | | 54 700 | | | 22 900 | | | 1 900 | | 3 800 | | 388 200 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 377 300 | | 70 500 | | | 35 300 | | | 2 200 | | 5 300 | | 490 600 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 432 000 | | 83 700 | | | 47 400 | | | 2 000 | | 4 800 | | 569 900 |
| **Queensland** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 130 300 | | 9 600 | | | 8 400 | | | - | | 2 000 | | 150 400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 182 600 | | 15 500 | | | 12 300 | | | 300 | | 3 600 | | 214 400 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 243 200 | | 22 800 | | | 16 100 | | | 400 | | 6 200 | | 288 700 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 284 800 | | 26 200 | | | 18 700 | | | 400 | | 8 500 | | 338 600 |
| **South Australia** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 23 300 | | 2 300 | | | 1 100 | | | 0 | | 2 400 | | 29 000 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 59 100 | | 9 900 | | | 6 400 | | | 400 | | 1 200 | | 77 000 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 79 000 | | 17 300 | | | 10 500 | | | 500 | | 1 500 | | 108 900 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 82 600 | | 17 100 | | | 200 | | | 400 | | 15 400 | | 115 800 |
| **Western Australia** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 58 400 | | 20 300 | | | 4 800 | | | 200 | | - | | 83 700 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 81 800 | | 27 500 | | | 7 800 | | | 200 | | - | | 117 400 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 111 200 | | 41 700 | | | 10 900 | | | 300 | | - | | 164 100 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 132 100 | | 46 800 | | | 9 600 | | | 300 | | - | | 188 800 |
| **Tasmania** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 17 800 | | 2 200 | | | 600 | | | - | | 700 | | 21 300 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 23 300 | | 3 600 | | | 1 000 | | | - | | 1 200 | | 29 200 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 28 500 | | 5 300 | | | 1 500 | | | - | | 2 000 | | 37 200 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 31 900 | | 6 100 | | | 1 800 | | | - | | 2 600 | | 42 400 |
| **Northern Territory** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 8 800 | | 600 | | | - | | | - | | 0 | | 9 400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 12 500 | | 1 100 | | | - | | | - | | 0 | | 13 600 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 16 500 | | 1 500 | | | - | | | - | | 0 | | 18 000 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 19 800 | | 1 700 | | | - | | | - | | 100 | | 21 600 |
| **Australian Capital Territory** | | | | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 11 600 | | 500 | | | 300 | | | 0 | | 800 | | 13 300 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 18 000 | | 800 | | | 500 | | | 100 | | 1 800 | | 21 300 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 21 600 | | 1 000 | | | 600 | | | 100 | | 2 600 | | 26 000 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 23 100 | | 1 100 | | | 800 | | | 100 | | 3 000 | | 28 100 |
| **Australia** | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |  |
| Jan-Mar 2015 | | 694 800 | | 96 600 | | | 40 800 | | | 3 100 | | 25 100 | | 860 400 |
| Jan-Jun 2015 | | 932 700 | | 139 300 | | | 71 100 | | | 4 100 | | 37 900 | | 1 185 100 |
| Jan-Sep 2015 | | 1 191 600 | | 197 800 | | | 104 000 | | | 4 800 | | 55 400 | | 1 553 600 |
| Jan-Dec 2015 | | 1 394 800 | | 223 700 | | | 112 500 | | | 3 300 | | 100 300 | | 1 834 600 |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

## Subjects

In 2015, there were almost 14.4 million subject enrolments reported in Australia (table 6). Of these,   
5.5 million (38.6%) were reported in the January to March period, followed by an additional 3.0 million (20.7%) in the January to June period, 3.8 million (26.6%) in the January to September period and 2.0 million (14.1%) in the annual submission.

Table 6 Subject enrolments by reporting period and state/territory, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan-Mar 2015 | | Jan-Jun 2015 | | | Jan-Sep 2015 | | | Jan-Dec -2015 | |
| State/territory | Number | % of annual | Number | % of annual | Number | | %  of annual | Number | | %  of annual | |
| New South Wales | 1 868 000 | 48.6 | 2 469 800 | 64.3 | 3 517 600 | | 91.6 | 3 841 900 | | 100.0 | |
| Victoria | 1 819 200 | 36.9 | 2 933 100 | 59.4 | 4 101 000 | | 83.1 | 4 936 400 | | 100.0 | |
| Queensland | 1 027 500 | 35.4 | 1 602 300 | 55.2 | 2 422 500 | | 83.4 | 2 904 300 | | 100.0 | |
| South Australia | 96 900 | 13.0 | 401 800 | 53.8 | 670 600 | | 89.8 | 747 000 | | 100.0 | |
| Western Australia | 482 700 | 36.5 | 717 300 | 54.2 | 1 097 800 | | 83.0 | 1 323 000 | | 100.0 | |
| Tasmania | 127 400 | 48.3 | 178 200 | 67.5 | 231 700 | | 87.8 | 264 000 | | 100.0 | |
| Northern Territory | 47 700 | 30.3 | 85 300 | 54.1 | 123 000 | | 78.0 | 157 700 | | 100.0 | |
| Australian Capital Territory | 77 000 | 38.8 | 127 600 | 64.2 | 178 700 | | 89.9 | 198 700 | | 100.0 | |
| **Australia** | **5 546 500** | **38.6** | **8 515 400** | **59.2** | **12 342 800** | | **85.9** | **14 372 900** | | **100.0** | |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

Table 7 shows that, of the 5.5 million subject enrolments reported in the January to March 2015 period, only 1.5 million subjects (27.6%) had been reported with a final result. This comprised:

* 20.1% reported as ‘assessed — pass’
* 4.0% reported as ‘withdrawn’
* 2.1% reported with ‘recognition of prior learning granted’
* 0.8% reported as ‘assessed — fail’
* 0.6% reported as ‘non-assessed — completed’.

The remaining 4 million enrolments were either continuing (11.6%) or not yet available (60.8%) outcomes.

Table 7 Subject enrolments by subject outcome and reporting period, Australia, 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject outcome** | **Jan-Mar 2015** | **Jan-Jun 2015** | **Jan-Sep 2015** | **Jan-Dec 2015** |
| 20 - Assessed - pass | 1 114 900 | 3 578 600 | 5 713 700 | 9 053 400 |
| 30 - Assessed - fail | 45 000 | 203 900 | 304 200 | 555 900 |
| 40 - Withdrawn | 223 700 | 480 000 | 763 400 | 1 224 700 |
| 51 - Recognition of prior learning - granted | 115 100 | 300 200 | 516 700 | 731 300 |
| 52 - Recognition of prior learning - not granted | 200 | 1 300 | 1 800 | 4 100 |
| 60 - Continuing studies | 642 000 | 969 700 | 1 509 100 | 2 465 500 |
| 81 - Not assessed - completed | 31 600 | 91 600 | 175 700 | 315 500 |
| 82 - Not assessed - not completed | 2 400 | 7 500 | 11 500 | 22 500 |
| 90 - Not yet available | 3 371 600 | 2 882 800 | 3 346 900 | 0 |
| **Total** | **5 546 500** | **8 515 400** | **12 342 800** | **14 372 900** |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

It is also evident from table 7 that the proportion of successful outcomes increases in each submission, with a corresponding decrease in *90 — not yet available* outcomes. The proportion of continuing enrolments also increased in the last two submissions of the year.

There is considerable variation in the reporting of subject outcomes by reporting period for the different jurisdictions (figure 3). In South Australia, the majority (92.0%) of the January to March 2015 data submission reported finalised outcomes and included only a small proportion (8.0%) of *90 – not yet available* outcomes and did not include any *60 — continuing studies* outcomes*.*[[8]](#footnote-8) As a consequence of the under-reporting of continuing/not yet available outcomes, the proportion of subject enrolments reported as *20 — assessed — pass* was 74.9%, far exceeding the national average of 20.1%.

In contrast, most other jurisdictions reported low proportions of *20 - Assess – pass* outcomes and high proportions of *90 – not yet available* outcomes in the January to March 2015 data submission, as would be expected for the reporting of the first quarter’s activity. Western Australia reported the lowest proportion of subject enrolments with *20 — Assess — pass* outcomes (9.6%) and the highest proportion of *90 — not yet available* outcomes (80.8%) in the January to March 2015 data submission.

The other exception was the Australian Capital Territory, which reported a low proportion of   
*20 — assessed — pass* outcomes (12.4%) in the January to March data submission and a very high proportion of *70 — continuing studies* outcomes (78.6%). This apparent irregularity of reporting outcomes as   
*70 — continuing studies* instead of *90 — not yet available* was corrected in the January to June data submission, with *20 — assessed — pass* outcomes increasing to 56.3% and *70 — continuing studies* outcomes declining to 10.5%.

Figure 3 Subject outcomes by reporting period and state/territory, 2015 (%)

|  |
| --- |
| New South Wales |
|  |
| Victoria |
|  |
| Queensland |
|  |
| South Australia |
|  |
| Western Australia | |
|  | |
| Tasmania | |
|  | |
| Northern Territory | |
|  | |
| **Australian Capital Territory** | |
|  | |

Source: 2015 National VET Provider Collection.

## Qualifications completed

The reporting of qualifications completed for government-funded activity has a lag of one year, as NCVER waits for additional data to be reported subsequent to the year the qualification was completed. The proportion of qualifications reported in the year that the qualification was completed has ranged from a low of 79.4% in 2008 to a high of 92.4% in 2012.[[9]](#footnote-9)

One of the proposed benefits of a quarterly reporting system is that additional qualifications completed data could be reported sooner. The 2015 data provides the first opportunity to test this hypothesis, using qualifications completed in 2014.

Data from the 2014 and 2015 National VET Provider Collection support the earlier reporting of qualifications completed data. Table 8 shows that nationally, 86.7% of Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications completed in 2014 were reported by the end of that same year. An additional 6.0% were reported in the January to March 2015 collection, 4.4% in the January to June 2015 collection, 2.6% in the January to September 2015 collection and the final 0.2% in the January to December 2015 collection.

In view of these results, it could be argued that NCVER should publish data on preliminary qualifications completed following submission of the January to December data (for example, preliminary 2016 qualifications completed could be reported in *Government-funded students and courses 2016*, rather than wait for final figures to be reported in the 2017 release). NCVER has already reported preliminary qualifications completed data in *Total VET students and courses*. However, the correction of data quality issues and non-reporting of data by some training authorities in the early quarterly submissions warrant that data should not be finalised until the January to December submission following the year of completion (for example, 2016 qualifications completed will be finalised in *Government-funded students and courses 2017*).

The proportion of qualifications completed and reported in January to December 2014 ranged from 77.5% in South Australia to 97.5% in Tasmania (table 8).

Table 8 2014 AQF qualifications completed by reporting period and state/territory, 2014–15 (%)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Reporting period | | | | | |
| State/territory | Jan-Jun 2014 | Jan-Dec 2014 | Jan-Mar 2015 | Jan-Jun 2015 | Jan-Sep 2015 | Jan-Dec 2015 |
| New South Wales | 33.1 | 88.1 | 90.6 | 96.0 | 97.3 | 100.0 |
| Victoria | 31.1 | 84.4 | 94.6 | 99.5 | 102.2 | 100.0 |
| Queensland | 31.9 | 89.0 | 90.4 | 94.3 | 97.3 | 100.0 |
| South Australia | 35.4 | 77.5 | 91.3 | 96.7 | 105.4 | 100.0 |
| Western Australia | 18.1 | 91.9 | 96.5 | 98.4 | 99.6 | 100.0 |
| Tasmania | 24.1 | 97.5 | 98.2 | 98.4 | 98.4 | 100.0 |
| Northern Territory | 25.3 | 97.4 | 100.8 | 99.5 | 99.7 | 100.0 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 43.7 | 80.2 | 95.8 | 98.5 | 99.0 | 100.0 |
| **Australia** | **31.0** | **86.7** | **92.8** | **97.2** | **99.8** | **100.0** |

Note: AQF = Australian Qualifications Framework

Source: 2014 and 2015 National VET Provider Collections.

Early submissions of qualifications completed data may be revised in subsequent submissions for that year. While adjustments to the qualifications completed data could have been made by all states and territories, it is very evident that adjustments were made for Northern Territory (January to June 2015), Victoria (January to December 2015) and South Australia (January to December 2015), as the number of qualifications completed in that quarter were less than the previous quarter. For example, the additional 200 qualifications completed reported in the Northern Territory in the January to March 2015 collection were adjusted to 100 qualifications completed in the January to June 2015 collection (table 8).

Table 9 shows a smaller proportion of diploma or higher qualifications (78.5%) were reported in the same year as the qualification was completed, compared with other qualification levels — 88.0% for certificate I qualifications, 88.2% for certificate II, 88.6% for certificate III and 86.5% for certificate IV.

Certificate IV qualifications completed were adjusted in the January to December 2015 submission. There were 16 100 qualifications reported in January to September 2015 submission, but this was revised to 15 700 qualifications in the January to December 2015 submission. The cumulative total of certificate IV qualifications completed reported in the January to September 2015 submission was greater (100.3%) than the final total (table 9).

Table 9 2014 AQF qualifications completed by qualification level and reporting period, 2014–15 (%)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification level | Jan-Jun 2014 | Jan-Dec 2014 | Jan-Mar 2015 | Jan-Jun 2015 | Jan-Sep 2015 | Jan-Dec 2015 |
| Diploma or higher | 24.5 | 78.5 | 88.8 | 95.2 | 99.8 | 100.0 |
| Certificate IV | 29.0 | 86.5 | 92.3 | 97.2 | 100.3 | 100.0 |
| Certificate III | 32.7 | 88.6 | 93.7 | 97.7 | 99.6 | 100.0 |
| Certificate II | 32.9 | 88.2 | 93.9 | 97.2 | 99.9 | 100.0 |
| Certificate I | 35.8 | 88.0 | 92.9 | 97.2 | 98.8 | 100.0 |
| **Total AQF** | **31.0** | **86.7** | **92.8** | **97.2** | **99.8** | **100.0** |

Note: AQF = Australian Qualifications Framework.

Source: 2014 and 2015 National VET Provider Collections.

Figure 4 2014 AQF qualifications completed by qualification level, reporting period and state/territory, 2014-15

|  |
| --- |
| New South Wales |
|  |
| Victoria |
|  |
| Queensland |
|  |
| South Australia |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Western Australia |
|  |
| Tasmania |
|  |
| Northern Territory |
|  |
| Australian Capital Territory |
|  |
| Australia |
|  |

Source: 2014 and 2015 National VET Provider Collections.

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The first year of quarterly reporting has provided a useful insight into the training activity in the different jurisdictions throughout a calendar year. In most jurisdictions, between 40% and just over 50% of the annual student numbers were reported to NCVER in the first quarter submission. In addition, between 30% and 50% of subject enrolments are reported in the first quarter submission by seven of the eight jurisdictions. However, only 27.6% of subjects in the first quarter were reported with a final outcome. The proportion of final outcomes increases in each submission, with a corresponding decline in *90 — Not yet available* outcomes. The proportion of continuing enrolments also increased in the last two submissions of the year.

It will most likely take a few years of quarterly reporting before data submissions stabilise and they can be used as reliable trend indicators of annual training activity.

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1. NCVER 2015, ‘More timely reporting trial’, unpublished report, NCVER, Adelaide. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The PC-based validation software was used, but for the interim collection in 2014 the web-based +validation software was used but was not available for validation of AVETMISS R6.1 at the time of the trial. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Data submissions were not received from NSW Workplace Training, BOSTES NSW or SA VISA for the first three quarterly submissions (table 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. BOSTES NSW submitted data on VET in Schools activity that is not associated with a student’s senior secondary school certificate to the National VET Provider Collection. They also submit VET in Schools data that is associated with a student’s senior secondary school certificate to the VET in Schools Collection. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This resulted in an apparent reduction of 3500 students due to the elimination of students previously reported by both training authorities. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As discussed in the reporting of subjects on page 17, the majority of South Australia’s submission was for subjects that had a finalised outcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The skill sets reported in the January to December submission were predominantly comprised of locally recognised skill sets (14 800 program enrolments) and the remaining 600 program enrolments were nationally recognised skill sets. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. In the January to March 2015 data submission for South Australia, there were 6100 subject enrolments reported with an outcome of *90 — not yet available*. The following year South Australia reported 97 000 subject enrolments with an outcome of *90 — not yet available* in the January to March 2016 data submission. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The proportion of qualifications completed and reported in the current year and subsequent year will decline slightly over time, as additional qualification completions are reported in the later National VET Provider Collection submissions. Data on qualifications completed submitted to NCVER more than two years after completion are not reported by NCVER. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)