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SUPPORT DOCUMENT

Terms and definitions:

Government funding   
of VET 2023

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Revised December 2024

This document was produced as an added resource for the publication sourced from the National VET Funding Collection. The report is available on the NCVER’s Portal: <https://www.ncver.edu.au>.

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# Introduction

## Purpose

The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand specific data terms.

This document covers the data terms used in *Government funding of VET 2023* publication and related data products.

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>>.

## Using this document

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 of the meaning behind the term and any relevant information
* Applies to a listing of which publications the term is applicable to using the following acronyms/abbreviations

**VET** Vocational Education and Training

**GFVET** Government funding of VET

**All** All publications which are:

Government-funded students and courses, Total VET students and courses, VET in Schools, VET Qualification Completion Rates, Government funding of VET

# Terms and definitions

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Applies to** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Accredited courses | Nationally recognised courses accredited by VET regulators.  They are programs below AQF level 1 and successful completion results in a statement of attainment outcome. | All |
| Apprenticeships | Identifies whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship /Traineeship Training Contract. The term ‘Apprenticeship’ includes both apprenticeships and traineeships. | GFVET |
| Apprenticeship status | Funding for programs that directly and indirectly support apprentices and trainees. | GFVET |
| Apprenticeship unknown category | Unknown funding may arise when a grant or funding arrangement has been provided for the support services but the impact at the training level is unclear. |  |
| Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) | The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a geographical framework created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. | GFVET |
| Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS) | AVETMISS is a national data standard, which ensures the accuracy and consistency of vocational education and training (VET) information. | All |
| Australian Government ongoing specific-purpose payments | Commonwealth payments to state and territory governments made under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009 to support state and territory governments to achieve the long-term objectives identified in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. | GFVET |
| Capital | Capital funding expensed over the year on capital projects that relate to VET matters. | GFVET |
| Capital funding | Government funding provided to training organisations for capital projects that relate to VET matters. This includes equipment acquisition, and construction of industry-based and school-based skill centres. | GFVET |
| Community Education Provider | Refers to not-for-profit, community-based organisations with a primary focus on adult education. Community-based adult education providers deliver courses relating to leisure, personal and community education development, employment skills, preparation for VET and nationally recognised programs of study. | GFVET |
| Disability status | Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment, or long-term condition. | All |
| Employer assistance | Expenditure on VET programs that support employers to engage in VET by training their workforce or employing an apprentice or trainee. Funding may be provided by grants, incentive payments and support services. | GFVET |
| Enterprise RTO | Companies accredited to deliver qualifications to their own workforce and includes government and non-government RTOs. | GFVET |

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Applies to** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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. | GFVET | |
| Funding allocations | The allocation of Commonwealth national agreement and partnership payments to states and territories. | GFVET | |
| Funding contributions | Governments’ funding for VET. | GFVET | |
| Funding distributions | Government spending of VET funding. | GFVET | |
| Government funding | Funding provided by the Australian and state/territory departments responsible for training for VET including Commonwealth funding provided to states/territories under the Federal Financial Relations Act 2009. | GFVET | |
| Indigenous status | Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. | All | |
| Intergovernmental Agreement | Commonwealth-state/territory funding agreements are made through the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) system to support joint long-term objectives outlined in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development and supporting partnership and project agreements which may be jointly funded.  For more information about the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) system refer to Federal Financial Relations <<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>>. | GFVET | |
| Level of education | The AQF qualification type of a program in which a student is enrolled.  AQF qualification types are associated with an AQF level, with the level defining the relative complexity and depth of achievement.  For more information about how the AQF levels and qualification types are related refer to the AQF <https://www.aqf.edu.au>. | All | |
| National Agreement | The National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, identifies the long-term objectives of the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments for skills and workforce development.  For more information about the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development refer to Federal Financial Relations <<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>>. | GFVET | |
| National Partnership Agreement | A national agreement between the Commonwealth and state/territory which defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs, and performance benchmarks or milestones for the agreed project, service delivery, improvement, or reform.  For more information on National Partnership Agreements refer to Federal Financial Relations <<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>>. | | GFVET | |
| National Project Agreement | Similar to National Partnership Agreements, but where the project is of low value and low risk.  For more information on National Project Agreements refer to Federal Financial Relations <<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>>. | | GFVET | |
| Nominal terms | Nominal terms are actual dollars with no adjustment for inflation. | | GFVET | |
| Non-award courses | Training courses that do not lead to a formal certification (e.g., AQF qualification) which denotes that the student has achieved a learning outcome or competency stipulated in the course rules. Non-award courses are often developed where a training need cannot be met through the delivery of available nationally recognised programs and/or subjects. | | GFVET | |
| Not attributable funding | Expenditures that do not directly link to the student or training attribute as the funding has broader objectives, or there is insufficient information to model for the attribute. | | GFVET | |

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Applies to** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Public VET asset base | The value of property, plant and equipment used for VET delivery by public VET entities | GFVET |
| Provider remoteness | Funding by the location of the training organisation that receives the capital funding using the Australia Bureau of Statistics’ Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure. | GFVET |
| Other provider | Refers to enterprise government and non- government, community-based adult education providers, schools: Catholic, government and independent, professional associations, industry associations, universities: government, non-government catholic and non-government independent. | GFVET |
| Other RTO | Refers to professional associations, industry associations, others not elsewhere classified. | GFVET |
| Other organisations (provider type) | Refers to organisations that are not registered training organisations (RTOs). Organisations not listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au) | GFVET |
| Private | Refers to privately-owned and operated training providers that are registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, or a state/territory accrediting body. | GFVET |
| Public | Refers to publicly-owned and operated training providers. | GFVET |
| Public VET assets | Refers to the balance sheet amounts of property, plant and equipment and captures the value of government assets used for VET delivery. | GFVET |
| Provider type University | Universities that provide vocational education and training, including government, non-government catholic and non-government independent. | GFVET |
| Provider type School | Schools that are a registered training organisation or schools that participate in VET, including catholic, government and independent. | GFVET |
| Recurrent funding | Revenues appropriated by the jurisdiction to cover training portfolio costs and VET programs. | GFVET |
| Registered training organisations (RTOs) | Training organisations listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au) and registered by VET regulators to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised certification documentation. | All |
| TAFE | Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFE) institutes are created by an Act of parliament and have responsibilities specified in that and other legislation and via ministerial directions. These institutes are public bodies in receipt of government funding and provide a range of technical and VET courses and other programs (for example, entry and bridging courses, language and literacy courses, adult basic education courses, senior secondary certificate of education courses, personal enrichment courses, and small business courses). | GFVET |
| State and territory contributions to the Commonwealth | A funding transfer from a state or territory government to the Commonwealth for a VET related matter for example loan debt contribution or other contribution which may include transfers for a service, project or as part of a time-limited or ongoing funding agreement. | GFVET |
| State-subsidised students | A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay part tuition costs, where part tuition costs have been subsidised by government. | GFVET |
| Student assistance | Student support expenditure not directly linked to a training outcome. Reporting captures loans, grants and subsidy funding paid directly to student 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. | GFVET |

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Applies to** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Student remoteness | Expenditure by student location based on a student’s permanent address postcode and in line with the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). | GFVET |
| System administration & governance | Expenditure 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. | GFVET |
| Tax exemptions and rebates | Revenues that governments forego to assist employers to engage in VET or to provide support to eligible students whilst they are in training. | GFVET |
| Time-limited funding | Commonwealth National Partnership or Project Agreement payments to state and territory governments. | GFVET |
| Trade Support Loans | Loans funded by the Australian Government to assist apprentices and trainees working in skills need areas, to help cover living and learning costs. | GFVET |
| Training packages | Are nationally endorsed qualifications specified in a national training package. | All |
| Training package skill sets | Are nationally recognised skill sets, specified in a national training package, based on 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. | All |
| Training not elsewhere classified | Funding for training not classified as a training package, a non-award course or accredited course. | GFVET |
| Transfers between states and territories | Funding transfers from state and territory governments to other states or territories for VET related matters. | GFVET |
| VET Funding activities | Funding activities captures all public VET expenditure in scope within a jurisdiction regardless of the funding source and categorises that information based on funding activity and how it was funded. | GFVET |
| Transfers for VET Student Loans | Funding transfers from state and territory governments to the Commonwealth government for Student Loan debt not expected to be repaid by state-subsidised students using the VET Student Loan program. | GFVET |
| VET delivery funding | Expenditure that directly delivers a training outcome. This includes subsidised training and other subsidies targeted at supporting access and recognising additional delivery costs. VET delivery includes funding payments for subsidies for training, block funding, VET in Schools funding, other funding, funding from other organisations, fee assistance funding, learner needs funding, community service funding and operational base funding. | GFVET |
| VET Student Loans | The VET Student Loans program provides loan support to eligible students studying higher level VET qualifications (diploma and above). Loan amounts are capped and only available for courses that address industry needs. Loans are income-contingent, with students repaying their loans through the Australian taxation system. | GFVET |
| VET Student Loans state-subsidised students | A loan undertaken by a VET student to pay part tuition costs, where part tuition costs have been subsidised by government. | GFVET |
| Vocational education and training (VET) | Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. | GFVET |
| VET FEE-HELP | A VET loan scheme provided by the Australian Government from 2009 to 2016. | GFVET |
| VET FEE-HELP grandfathering | A clause to recognise students under the loan arrangement of the ceased VET FEE-HELP program. | GFVET |