

Australian vocational education and training statistics

Young people in education and training 2016



National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Highlights

This publication presents a summary of statistics relating to young Australians aged 15 to 19 years who participated in education and training during 2016. It brings together data from multiple sources.

As at August 2016 there were 1.5 million young Australians aged 15 to 19 years, of which an estimated 83.2% participated in education and training. Of these, an estimated:

- 57.1% were at school
 - 14.3% were enrolled in a VET in Schools program
 - 42.8% were at school but not participating in a VET in Schools program
- 16.2% were enrolled in higher education
- 4.4% were undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship, which was not part of a VET in Schools program
- 5.5% were enrolled in other VET programs.

In the 2016 calendar year, among those aged 15 to 19 years there were:

- 844 000 school students
- 233 700 VET in Schools students
- 342 900 higher education students
- 75 800 apprenticeships and traineeship commencements
- an estimated 707 500 VET students
- 316 300 government-funded VET students.

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Introduction

The Australian education and training system offers a range of options for young people. This publication provides a summary of the statistics relating to young people aged 15 to 19 years who participated in education and training during 2016. Information on participation is presented for school students, VET in Schools students,¹ higher education students, apprentices and trainees, and vocational education and training (VET) students.

Table 1 provides an estimate of participation in education and training by 15 to 19-year-olds in Australia, as at August 2016. The sectoral tables (tables 2 to 12) provide statistics on the different types of education and training undertaken by young people during a calendar year.

Tables 9 and 10 provide an estimate of the extent and nature of all VET activity undertaken by young people in 2015 and 2016 that was delivered by all types of Australian training providers both domestically and overseas. Year-on-year training activity comparisons for total VET are presented for 2015 and 2016 data only. 2014 was both the first and a transition year, whereby a number of training providers were granted exemptions from reporting, while others did not report their training activity. Many training providers also reported data for the first time.

Tables 11 and 12 present data for government-funded VET activity undertaken by young people in 2012 to 2016. This activity is broadly defined as all Commonwealth and state/territory government-funded training delivered by all types of Australian training providers.

Refer to the explanatory notes on pages 23–28 for further information on the sectoral tables and methodology used to estimate education and training participation, as shown in table 1.

Data sources

This publication sources data from various statistical collections to obtain a complete picture of the education and training activities of young people aged 15 to 19 years. These include the:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics National Schools Statistics Collection
- NCVET National VET in Schools Collection
- Department of Education and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection
- NCVET National Apprentice and Trainee Collection
- NCVET National VET Provider Collection.

More information

The data in this publication may be revised for a variety of reasons. For the latest and additional data on young people aged 15 to 19 years, please visit the National Centre for Vocation Education Research (NCVER) Portal <<http://www.ncver.edu.au>>.

¹ VET in Schools refers to the vocational education and training undertaken by school students as part of their senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE).

Australia in summary

Participation estimate

It is estimated that, as at August 2016, 83.2% of Australians aged 15 to 19 years participated in education and training. *Table 1*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016, an estimated:

- 57.1% were at school, 16.2% were enrolled in higher education, 4.4% were undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship and 5.5% were enrolled in other VET programs. *Table 1*
- 81.6% of males aged 15 to 19 years were undertaking education and training, compared with 85.0% of females aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 1*
- Almost all 15-year-olds (98.8%) and 16-year-olds (94.4%) were at school. *Table 1*
- By 18 years of age, 32.2% were enrolled in higher education courses, 7.4% were undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships, and 9.2% were enrolled in other VET programs. *Table 1*

School students

As at August 2016, there were 844 000 school students aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 2*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016:

- 50.9% were male and 49.1% were female *Table 2*
- 30.8% were studying at Year 10 level, 32.1% were at Year 11 level and 28.0% were at Year 12 level. *Table 2*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- school students aged 18 years increased by 2.3% to 56 500, while those aged 19 years decreased by 7.2% to under 5 000 students. *Table 2*

VET in Schools students

In the 2016 calendar year, there were 233 700 students aged 15 to 19 years enrolled in VET in Schools programs. *Table 3*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016:

- 53.8% were male and 46.2% were female *Table 3*
- 56.5% were enrolled in certificate II qualifications and a further 32.2% were enrolled in certificate III qualifications *Table 4*
- the most popular field of education was society and culture (17.7%), followed by management and commerce (17.4%) and food, hospitality and personal services (16.0%) *Table 4*
- 7.2% were undertaking a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. *Table 3*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- VET in Schools students aged 15 to 19 years decreased by 5.2%, with school-based apprentice and trainees declining by 14.1% to 16 900 *Table 3*
- the greatest declines occurred in Tasmania (-34.7% to 3 100), followed by Queensland (-13.5% to 75 700) *Table 3*
- There were declines across all age levels between 15 and 18 years, with the largest decline among those aged 15, down 7.8% to 38 900 *Table 3*

- there were declines across all qualification levels, with students studying certificate I qualifications declining by 18.3% to 19 600. *Table 4*

Higher education students

In the 2016 calendar year, there were 342 900 higher education students aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 5*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016:

- 43.8% were male and 56.2% were female *Table 5*
- 91.5% were full-time students *Table 5*
- the most popular field of education was management and commerce (22.9%). *Table 6*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- the number of higher education students aged 15 to 19 years increased by 2.6% *Table 5*
- part-time students increased by 6.0% to 29 300 *Table 5*
- those studying outside Australia increased by 11.1% to 66 300 students *Table 5*
- the number of students studying non-AQF courses increased by 12.4% to 16 300, with the number of students studying enabling courses² increasing by 17.9% to 11 100. *Table 6*

Apprentices and trainees

In the 2016 calendar year, there were 75 800 commencements in apprenticeships and traineeships by those aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 7*

Selected characteristics show that:

- 63.8% were male and 36.2% were female *Table 7*
- over a third (38.8%) were part-time apprentices and trainees *Table 7*
- 22.0% were doing a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship *Table 7*
- 85.7% were undertaking training at certificate III level *Table 8*
- 50.9% were in trade occupations and 49.1% were in non-trade occupations. *Table 8*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- apprenticeship and traineeship commencements increased by 2.1% *Table 7*
- the greatest increase occurred in New South Wales (6.4% to 22 000 commencements) *Table 7*
- apprentices and trainees attending school increased by 6.4% to 20 200 *Table 7*
- commencements in trade occupations decreased by 2.7% to 38 600 *Table 8*
- commencements in non-trade occupations increased by 7.5% to 37 200. *Table 8*

Total VET students

In the 2016 calendar year, there were an estimated 707 500 VET students aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 9*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016:

- 52.6% were male and 46.0% were female *Table 9*
- 84.8% were part-time students *Table 9*

² Enabling courses are courses of instruction that enable a person to undertake a course leading to a higher education award.

- 45.9% were attending school *Table 9*
- 38.9% of program enrolments were in certificate II qualifications and 30.4% in certificate III *Table 10*
- the most popular field of education was management and commerce (16.9%), followed by food, hospitality and entertainment (14.1%) and society and culture (13.9%). *Table 10*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- the estimated number of total VET students aged 15 to 19 years decreased by 3.4% *Table 9*
- the greatest declines occurred in New South Wales (-6.1% to 198 900), Victoria (-5.8% to 178 900) and South Australia (-5.4% to 36 700) *Table 9*
- the number of VET students attending school decreased by 4.8% to 324 500 *Table 9*
- enrolments in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications declined by 2.0% to 827 300, while non-AQF enrolments increased by 36.5% to 98 900 enrolments. *Table 10*

Government-funded VET students

In the 2016 calendar year, there were 316 300 government-funded VET students aged 15 to 19 years. *Table 11*

Selected characteristics show that in 2016:

- 56.4% were male and 43.5% were female *Table 11*
- 84.4% were part-time students *Table 11*
- 45.5% were enrolled in certificate III qualifications and 30.7% in certificate II *Table 12*
- the most popular fields of education were engineering and related technologies (17.4%), followed by food, hospitality and personal services (16.0%) and management and commerce (14.7%). *Table 12*

In 2016, compared with 2015:

- government-funded VET students declined by 1.9% *Table 11*
- the greatest declines occurred in Victoria (-15.4% to 59 100 students) and South Australia (-11.1% to 14 000) *Table 11*
- the number of students studying full-time declined by 7.2% to under 50 000 *Table 11*
- the number of students studying AQF qualifications declined by 4.3% to 293 900, while those studying non-AQF enrolments increased by 48.4% to 22 400 *Table 12*
- student numbers declined across all AQF qualification levels, with the number of students studying certificate IV down 22.0% to 18 500, certificate III down 1.6% to 143 900, certificate II down 4.5% to 97 000 and certificate I down 3.8% to 14 100 students. *Table 12*

Participation estimate

Table 1 Estimate of participation of Australians aged 15 to 19 years in education and training by age and sex, as at August 2016

	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	Total
Males						
<i>At school</i>						
VET in Schools programs (%)	11.9	30.9	27.0	6.2	0.6	15.1
School without participation in VET in Schools (%)	86.5	62.3	48.9	13.9	1.0	41.7
<i>Not at school</i>						
Higher education (%)	0.1	0.4	10.5	27.4	27.9	13.6
Apprenticeship or traineeship (%)	0.2	1.7	5.1	10.9	14.3	6.6
Other VET (%)	0.7	2.2	3.7	7.7	8.4	4.6
In education and training (%)^	99.4	97.4	95.3	66.1	52.2	81.6
Not in education and training (%)^	0.6	2.6	4.7	33.9	47.8	18.4
Total 15 to 19 years (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total 15 to 19 years ('000)	147.1	148.1	149.2	152.9	158.6	755.9
Females						
<i>At school</i>						
VET in Schools programs (%)	11.7	28.2	24.0	4.6	0.5	13.6
School without participation in VET in Schools (%)	87.5	67.4	55.9	13.1	1.0	44.0
<i>Not at school</i>						
Higher education (%)	0.2	0.7	16.0	37.3	38.1	18.9
Apprenticeship or traineeship (%)	0.1	0.5	1.5	3.8	4.7	2.1
Other VET (%)	0.8	2.9	4.9	10.7	11.6	6.3
In education and training (%)^	100.3	99.6	102.4	69.4	55.9	85.0
Not in education and training (%)^	-0.3	0.4	-2.4	30.6	44.1	15.0
Total 15 to 19 years (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total 15 to 19 years ('000)	139.3	141.4	141.8	145.7	151.9	720.1
Total						
<i>At school</i>						
VET in Schools programs (%)	11.8	29.6	25.6	5.4	0.6	14.3
School without participation in VET in Schools (%)	87.0	64.8	52.3	13.5	1.0	42.8
<i>Not at school</i>						
Higher education (%)	0.1	0.5	13.2	32.2	32.9	16.2
Apprenticeship or traineeship (%)	0.2	1.1	3.4	7.4	9.6	4.4
Other VET (%)	0.8	2.5	4.3	9.2	10.0	5.5
In education and training (%)^	99.8	98.5	98.8	67.8	54.0	83.2
Not in education and training (%)^	0.2	1.5	1.2	32.2	46.0	16.8
Total 15 to 19 years (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total 15 to 19 years ('000)	286.4	289.5	291.0	298.6	310.5	1 476.0

Notes: ^Although every effort has been made to avoid double-counting, the inherent overlap between data collections, the level of 'not known' data for key data elements and limitations in deriving a true point-in-time estimate have resulted in more people in education and training than the total number of 15-year-olds (based on ABS population data). For further notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For this table in particular refer to explanatory notes 8-13 on pages 24-25.

Sources: Derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Schools, Australia, 2016*, cat.no.4221.0; NCVET National VET in Schools Collection; NCVET National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, based on June 2016 estimates; NCVET National VET Provider Collection; Department of Education Higher Education Statistics Collection; ABS *Australian demographic statistics December 2016*, cat.no.3101.0, table 59.

Sectoral tables

School students

Table 2 School students aged 15 to 19 years by selected student characteristics, 2012–16

	2012 (^{'000})	2013 (^{'000})	2014 (^{'000})	2015 (^{'000})	2016 (^{'000})	%	2015–16 % change
State or territory of the school							
New South Wales	258.4	261.2	263.7	265.4	265.8	31.5	0.2
Victoria	214.7	216.0	219.2	222.6	225.0	26.7	1.1
Queensland	150.2	153.5	155.7	157.5	159.6	18.9	1.3
South Australia	64.5	64.4	65.2	65.8	65.8	7.8	-0.1
Western Australia	71.1	73.6	75.7	83.6	83.7	9.9	0.1
Tasmania	22.2	20.6	21.0	20.8	20.5	2.4	-1.1
Northern Territory	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	0.9	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	15.7	15.8	16.1	16.3	16.3	1.9	0.0
Sex							
Males	407.6	413.5	419.8	427.6	429.3	50.9	0.4
Females	396.3	398.8	403.9	411.7	414.7	49.1	0.7
Age							
15 years	279.0	280.6	282.6	284.2	283.0	33.5	-0.4
16 years	260.7	265.6	268.5	270.5	273.0	32.3	0.9
17 years	207.0	208.2	214.1	224.0	226.7	26.9	1.2
18 years	51.5	52.7	53.4	55.3	56.5	6.7	2.3
19 years	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.2	4.8	0.6	-7.2
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region							
Major cities							
Inner regional							
Outer regional							
Remote							
Very remote							
Outside Australia							
Not known							
							Student remoteness information is not available
Mode of study							
Full-time	792.2	801.5	812.9	828.8	833.9	98.8	0.6
Part-time	11.7	10.8	10.8	10.5	10.1	1.2	-3.6
School level							
Year 7 or below	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	26.3
Year 8	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.2	-6.4
Year 9	59.2	60.1	61.8	62.3	62.3	7.4	0.1
Year 10	242.6	255.1	257.7	260.8	260.3	30.8	-0.2
Year 11	261.9	254.5	264.9	267.8	270.7	32.1	1.1
Year 12	226.3	228.4	224.6	234.2	236.3	28.0	0.9
Ungraded secondary	12.5	12.9	13.4	12.7	13.0	1.5	2.5
Total	803.9	812.3	823.7	839.3	844.0	100.0	0.6

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on school students, see <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/MF/4221.0>.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools, Australia*, 2016, cat.no.4221.0.

VET in Schools students

Table 3 VET in Schools students aged 15 to 19 years by selected student characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015–16	
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	%	% change
State or territory that funds or accredits the training							
New South Wales	60.9	60.0	59.9	53.8	52.2	22.3	-2.9
Victoria	48.4	47.9	48.9	49.5	48.9	20.9	-1.1
Queensland	83.3	84.0	77.1	87.5	75.7	32.4	-13.5
South Australia	11.6	11.8	12.1	12.3	12.6	5.4	2.4
Western Australia	24.6	24.6	27.0	33.2	35.5	15.2	7.1
Tasmania	7.0	5.0	6.0	4.8	3.1	1.3	-34.7
Northern Territory	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.0	21.7
Australian Capital Territory	4.9	4.8	3.5	3.6	3.3	1.4	-7.6
Sex							
Males	127.6	126.9	125.6	132.4	125.7	53.8	-5.0
Females	114.7	112.8	111.0	114.0	107.9	46.2	-5.3
Age							
15 years	46.4	42.9	42.3	42.1	38.9	16.6	-7.8
16 years	97.3	96.8	95.6	99.5	93.9	40.2	-5.7
17 years	79.5	80.3	79.1	85.2	81.7	35.0	-4.1
18 years	17.1	17.9	17.5	17.7	17.3	7.4	-2.3
19 years	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.9	0.8	1.5
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region							
Major cities	138.3	139.0	135.0	142.8	138.2	59.2	-3.2
Inner regional	59.5	58.4	57.0	57.8	53.7	23.0	-7.1
Outer regional	29.1	28.9	28.7	30.1	26.0	11.1	-13.5
Remote	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.4	4.7	2.0	-14.2
Very remote	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.3	1.0	-14.0
Outside Australia	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	-57.1
Not known	7.2	5.7	8.1	7.3	8.6	3.7	18.5
School-based apprentice and trainee status							
School-based apprentices and trainees	22.5	21.7	20.5	19.7	16.9	7.2	-14.1
Other VET in Schools students	219.8	218.1	216.1	226.8	216.8	92.8	-4.4
Total	242.3	239.7	236.6	246.5	233.7	100.0	-5.2

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on VET in Schools students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/vet-in-schools>>.

Source: NCVET National VET in Schools Collection, 2012-16.

Table 4 VET in Schools students aged 15 to 19 years by selected major program characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015–16	
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	%	% change
Qualification level							
Diploma or higher	1.4	1.9	2.1	3.9	2.7	1.2	-31.5
Certificate IV	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.6	3.5	1.5	-2.1
Certificate III	59.9	67.6	76.7	77.9	75.2	32.2	-3.5
Certificate II	144.1	133.8	125.6	135.4	132.1	56.5	-2.4
Certificate I	31.0	31.0	25.9	24.0	19.6	8.4	-18.3
Other	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.7	0.5	0.2	-69.0
Field of education							
Natural and physical sciences	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.5	7.8
Information technology	10.5	18.2	18.1	18.6	15.7	6.7	-15.7
Engineering and related technologies	27.3	25.0	24.1	26.3	24.4	10.4	-7.4
Architecture and building	17.9	19.7	19.7	20.5	20.0	8.6	-2.6
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	7.7	7.8	8.1	8.5	8.3	3.5	-3.1
Health	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.9	7.7	3.3	-2.4
Education	0.3	1.0	0.7	1.6	0.9	0.4	-45.7
Management and commerce	59.2	42.9	38.7	41.4	40.6	17.4	-1.9
Society and culture	32.6	36.7	41.8	43.2	41.4	17.7	-4.0
Creative arts	20.3	19.5	19.1	19.3	18.5	7.9	-4.1
Food, hospitality and personal services	42.2	40.9	39.1	39.1	37.4	16.0	-4.5
Mixed field programmes	16.4	20.1	17.3	17.9	17.7	7.6	-1.3
No field of education	-	-	1.7	1.1	0.1	0.0	-91.6
Total	242.3	239.7	236.6	246.5	233.7	100.0	-5.2

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on VET in Schools students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/vet-in-schools>>.

Source: NCVET National VET in Schools Collection, 2012-16.

Higher education students

Table 5 Higher education students aged 15 to 19 years by selected student characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		2015–16
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	%	% change
State or territory of provider							
New South Wales	86.9	90.7	94.7	99.8	102.5	29.9	2.7
Victoria	75.1	80.8	85.1	88.7	92.4	26.9	4.1
Queensland	58.0	61.1	62.7	63.9	64.5	18.8	1.0
South Australia	19.2	19.9	20.9	21.0	22.2	6.5	5.8
Western Australia	35.6	36.9	38.1	35.4	35.6	10.4	0.6
Tasmania	5.6	5.5	5.6	6.0	5.5	1.6	-8.0
Northern Territory	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.3	-4.4
Australian Capital Territory	7.2	7.3	7.7	8.0	8.5	2.5	6.0
Multi-state	7.6	8.3	9.3	10.2	10.6	3.1	3.4
Sex							
Males	127.6	135.4	141.9	146.1	150.1	43.8	2.7
Females	168.6	176.1	183.0	188.1	192.9	56.2	2.5
Age							
15 years	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	5.7
16 years	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.4	1.0	-0.7
17 years	50.0	52.1	53.8	52.7	51.9	15.1	-1.6
18 years	112.7	120.2	124.4	130.1	134.0	39.1	3.0
19 years	130.2	135.6	142.9	147.4	152.9	44.6	3.8
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region							
Major cities	200.0	211.6	218.8	221.8	223.7	65.2	0.9
Inner regional	33.7	34.4	35.0	35.5	35.3	10.3	-0.7
Outer regional	14.0	14.3	14.6	14.9	15.0	4.4	0.5
Remote	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.4	1.7
Very remote	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	-1.4
Outside Australia	45.8	49.0	54.1	59.7	66.3	19.3	11.1
Not known	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.2	44.4
Mode of study							
Full-time	273.7	287.0	299.2	306.6	313.6	91.5	2.3
Part-time	22.5	24.5	25.7	27.6	29.3	8.5	6.0
Total	296.2	311.5	324.9	334.2	342.9	100.0	2.6

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on higher education students, see <<https://education.gov.au/student-data>>.

Source: Department of Education and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection, 2012–16.

Table 6 Higher education students aged 15 to 19 years by selected major course characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015–16	
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	%	% change
Qualification level							
<i>AQF qualifications</i>							
Postgraduate courses	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	16.0
Bachelor degree (pass and honours)	268.1	279.4	290.2	297.4	302.1	88.1	1.6
Advanced diploma	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.3	-39.5
Associate degree	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.9	0.8	8.3
Diploma	11.2	13.3	15.4	17.3	19.8	5.8	14.5
Other undergraduate courses	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	8.3
<i>AQF sub-total</i>	<i>284.2</i>	<i>298.1</i>	<i>310.3</i>	<i>319.7</i>	<i>326.6</i>	<i>95.2</i>	<i>2.2</i>
<i>Non-AQF qualifications</i>							
Enabling courses	7.5	8.8	9.6	9.4	11.1	3.2	17.9
Non-award courses	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	1.5	2.4
<i>Non-AQF sub-total</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>16.3</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>12.4</i>
Field of education							
Natural and physical sciences	32.7	35.7	37.4	38.1	39.2	11.4	2.9
Information technology	10.2	10.6	11.5	12.6	13.6	4.0	7.6
Engineering and related technologies	23.8	25.2	25.7	26.0	26.8	7.8	3.3
Architecture and building	7.2	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.6	2.2	4.3
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.0	1.2	3.2
Health	41.1	43.3	45.3	47.3	48.7	14.2	3.1
Education	20.5	20.6	21.2	20.7	19.6	5.7	-5.2
Management and commerce	64.8	67.8	72.0	75.5	78.6	22.9	4.1
Society and culture	56.3	59.9	62.0	64.1	64.7	18.9	0.8
Creative arts	28.0	28.5	29.3	29.4	29.5	8.6	0.5
Food, hospitality and personal services	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	385.9
Mixed field programmes	3.1	3.9	4.6	4.3	5.0	1.5	17.3
Non-award courses	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	1.5	2.4
Total	296.2	311.5	324.9	334.2	342.9	100.0	2.6

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on higher education students, see <<https://education.gov.au/student-data>>.

Source: Department of Education and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection, 2012–16.

Apprentices and trainees

Table 7 Apprentice and trainee commencements for those aged 15 to 19 years by selected characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015–16
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	% % change
State or territory that funds or accredits the training						
New South Wales	27.3	23.7	21.6	20.7	22.0	29.0
Victoria	31.5	22.1	20.7	19.7	20.1	26.6
Queensland	24.3	19.7	17.5	17.3	18.1	23.9
South Australia	7.1	6.0	5.5	4.9	4.8	6.3
Western Australia	10.5	8.5	8.5	7.4	6.6	8.7
Tasmania	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.6
Northern Territory	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.9
Sex						
Males	60.4	51.0	48.5	48.1	48.4	63.8
Females	45.5	33.3	29.6	26.1	27.5	36.2
Age						
15 years	13.3	9.7	8.2	7.8	7.6	10.0
16 years	20.8	16.2	14.8	14.5	14.7	19.4
17 years	22.7	18.8	17.5	16.7	17.1	22.5
18 years	28.4	23.2	21.9	20.9	21.8	28.7
19 years	20.8	16.5	15.7	14.5	14.7	19.3
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region						
Major cities	63.9	49.5	45.7	44.0	45.1	59.4
Inner regional	26.8	21.9	20.7	19.6	19.9	26.2
Outer regional	11.6	9.9	8.9	8.2	8.3	11.0
Remote	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.8
Very remote	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8
Outside Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Mode of study						
Full-time	58.6	52.1	48.4	46.5	46.4	61.2
Part-time	47.2	32.2	29.7	27.8	29.4	38.8
School status						
At school	27.7	21.1	19.8	19.0	20.2	26.6
Not at school	73.5	62.2	58.2	55.3	55.6	73.4
Not known	4.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
School-based status						
School-based	19.2	17.1	17.4	16.3	16.7	22.0
Not school-based	86.6	67.2	60.7	58.0	59.2	78.0
Total	105.9	84.3	78.1	74.3	75.8	100.0
						2.1

Note: ** Per cent change not calculated where base numbers are less than 10.

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on apprentices and trainees, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/apprentices-and-trainees>>.

Source: NCVET National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, 2012-16.

Table 8 Apprentice and trainee commencements for those aged 15 to 19 years by selected training characteristics, 2012–16

	2012 ('000)	2013 ('000)	2014 ('000)	2015 ('000)	2016 ('000)	%	2015–16 % change
Qualification level							
Diploma or higher	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	2.5
Certificate IV	5.4	3.7	3.6	2.8	2.6	3.5	-4.9
Certificate III	86.9	70.8	65.3	64.2	65.0	85.7	1.2
Certificate II	11.8	8.9	8.4	6.7	7.1	9.3	4.7
Certificate I	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.8	922.2
Occupation (ANZSCO) group							
Managers	2.2	1.4	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	6.3
Professionals	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	42.3
Technicians and trades workers	44.2	41.1	39.2	39.7	38.6	50.9	-2.7
Community and personal service workers	18.8	15.3	14.4	12.8	13.5	17.8	6.0
Clerical and administrative workers	10.9	8.0	7.3	6.3	6.7	8.8	6.3
Sales workers	22.9	12.6	10.7	9.7	10.8	14.2	10.4
Machinery operators and drivers	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.9	20.6
Labourers	5.0	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	5.1	3.3
Total	105.9	84.3	78.1	74.3	75.8	100.0	2.1

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on apprentices and trainees, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/apprentices-and-trainees>>.

Source: NCVET National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, 2012-16.

Total VET students

Table 9 Estimated total VET students aged 15 to 19 years by selected student characteristics, 2015-16

	2015 (^{'000})	2016 (^{'000})	%	2015-16 % change
State or territory where the training was delivered				
New South Wales	211.8	198.9	28.1	-6.1
Victoria	190.0	178.9	25.3	-5.8
Queensland	173.9	171.3	24.2	-1.5
South Australia	38.8	36.7	5.2	-5.4
Western Australia	66.5	66.4	9.4	-0.1
Tasmania	10.0	9.7	1.4	-2.9
Northern Territory	5.3	5.3	0.7	-1.7
Australian Capital Territory	10.5	10.1	1.4	-3.8
Overseas	11.1	11.0	1.6	-0.7
Other	14.8	19.1	2.7	29.3
Sex				
Males	389.4	372.2	52.6	-4.4
Females	330.4	325.8	46.0	-1.4
Age				
15 years				
16 years		Individual age information is not available		
17 years				
18 years				
19 years				
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region				
Major cities	420.9	412.1	58.2	-2.1
Inner regional	168.3	159.4	22.5	-5.3
Outer regional	79.1	72.5	10.3	-8.3
Remote	12.6	11.7	1.7	-6.9
Very remote	6.3	5.6	0.8	-10.4
Outside Australia	24.1	22.4	3.2	-7.1
Not known	21.4	23.8	3.4	11.1
Mode of study				
Full-time	107.3	107.8	15.2	0.5
Part-time	625.5	599.7	84.8	-4.1
School status				
At school	340.8	324.5	45.9	-4.8
Not at school	317.9	305.0	43.1	-4.0
Not known	74.0	78.0	11.0	5.4
Apprentice/trainee status				
Apprentices and trainees undertaking off-the-job training	111.2	111.5	15.8	0.3
Not apprentices and trainees	621.5	596.0	84.2	-4.1
Total	732.7	707.5	100.0	-3.4

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on total VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/data/total-vet-activity>>.

Source: NCVER National VET Provider Collection, 2015-16 and NCVER National VET in Schools Collection, 2015-16.

Total VET students

Table 10 Total VET program enrolments among students aged 15 to 19 years by selected program characteristics, 2015-16

	2015 (^{'000})	2016 (^{'000})	%	2015-16 % change
Qualification level				
<i>AQF qualifications</i>				
Graduate diploma or professional specialist (graduate diploma level)	0.0	0.0	0.0	59.3
Graduate certificate or professional specialist (graduate certificate level)	0.1	0.2	0.0	27.9
Bachelor degree (pass and honours)	0.3	0.2	0.0	-42.8
Advanced diploma	6.0	5.5	0.6	-7.8
Associate degree	0.1	0.2	0.0	14.5
Diploma	64.0	55.9	6.0	-12.7
Certificate IV	51.1	42.4	4.6	-17.1
Certificate III	278.1	281.1	30.4	1.1
Certificate II	358.2	360.5	38.9	0.6
Certificate I	86.5	81.4	8.8	-5.9
<i>AQF sub-total</i>	844.5	827.3	89.3	-2.0
<i>Non-AQF qualifications</i>				
Other recognised courses	60.0	80.7	8.7	34.5
Non-award courses	12.4	18.2	2.0	46.2
<i>Non-AQF sub-total</i>	72.4	98.9	10.7	36.5
Field of education				
Natural and physical sciences	3.5	3.7	0.4	8.0
Information technology	43.9	39.8	4.3	-9.2
Engineering and related technologies	116.0	112.9	12.2	-2.7
Architecture and building	88.5	89.0	9.6	0.6
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	27.8	28.6	3.1	2.6
Health	34.6	39.7	4.3	14.6
Education	21.2	21.2	2.3	0.3
Management and commerce	160.9	156.1	16.9	-3.0
Society and culture	128.4	128.8	13.9	0.3
Creative arts	50.5	49.8	5.4	-1.2
Food, hospitality and personal services	134.5	130.5	14.1	-3.0
Mixed field programmes	87.5	87.6	9.5	0.0
No field of education	19.6	38.4	4.1	95.7
Total	916.9	926.2	100.0	1.0

Note: Data in this table are based on program enrolments, not students. A student can be enrolled in more than one program. Therefore the total in this table will not match that of table 9.

For further notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28.

For further information on total VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/data/total-vet-activity>>.

Source: NCVER National VET Provider Collection, 2015-16 and NCVER National VET in Schools Collection, 2015-16.

Government-funded VET students

Table 11 Government-funded VET students aged 15 to 19 years by selected student characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		2015–16
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	%	% change
State or territory that funds or accredits the training							
New South Wales	151.5	144.6	137.5	121.2	128.1	40.5	5.7
Victoria	119.6	105.0	85.5	69.9	59.1	18.7	-15.4
Queensland	73.8	64.5	63.5	66.9	68.0	21.5	1.7
South Australia	27.1	28.3	18.7	15.7	14.0	4.4	-11.1
Western Australia	43.6	40.4	38.3	36.1	34.7	11.0	-3.9
Tasmania	8.0	6.5	7.0	5.0	5.2	1.6	3.3
Northern Territory	4.9	4.2	4.4	3.9	4.0	1.2	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.2	1.0	-8.9
Sex							
Males	235.8	218.4	198.5	180.7	178.3	56.4	-1.3
Females	196.7	178.5	160.0	141.3	137.6	43.5	-2.6
Age							
15 years	38.5	31.8	24.4	20.7	20.6	6.5	-0.4
16 years	89.7	82.7	71.6	66.0	65.2	20.6	-1.2
17 years	103.4	94.6	85.7	80.3	78.7	24.9	-2.0
18 years	104.0	97.4	89.1	79.6	78.2	24.7	-1.8
19 years	97.4	91.2	88.1	75.6	73.5	23.2	-2.8
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region							
Major cities	253.8	232.3	210.0	187.0	183.6	58.0	-1.8
Inner regional	108.4	97.9	88.3	81.2	80.0	25.3	-1.5
Outer regional	51.5	46.8	41.4	38.7	38.1	12.0	-1.7
Remote	9.0	8.2	7.6	7.2	6.8	2.2	-4.4
Very remote	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.4	1.1	-5.8
Outside Australia	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	-44.0
Not known	5.8	8.1	7.8	4.3	4.2	1.3	-2.3
Mode of study							
Full-time	74.9	70.3	67.8	53.1	49.3	15.6	-7.2
Part-time	358.1	327.4	291.1	269.1	267.0	84.4	-0.8
School status							
At school	177.1	166.9	139.8	128.0	126.0	39.8	-1.6
Not at school	241.2	219.4	213.4	188.5	184.4	58.3	-2.2
Not known	14.7	11.4	5.7	5.8	5.9	1.9	2.0
Apprentice/trainee status							
Apprentices and trainees undertaking off-the-job training	137.6	114.6	103.0	96.6	97.3	30.8	0.8
Not apprentices and trainees	295.4	283.0	255.9	225.7	218.9	69.2	-3.0
Total	433.0	397.7	358.9	322.3	316.3	100.0	-1.9

For notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on government-funded VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/students-and-courses>>.

Source: NCVET National VET Provider Collection, 2012–16.

Table 12 Government-funded VET students aged 15 to 19 years by selected major program characteristics, 2012–16

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015–16
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	% % change
Qualification level						
<i>AQF qualifications</i>						
Graduate diploma or professional specialist (graduate diploma level)	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 **
Graduate certificate or professional specialist (graduate certificate level)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 **
Bachelor degree (pass and honours)	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0 -7.1
Advanced diploma	4.4	3.4	2.7	2.4	2.0	0.6 -16.8
Associate degree	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 -50.0
Diploma	21.3	19.5	20.8	18.4	18.2	5.8 -0.9
Certificate IV	31.0	32.1	29.1	23.8	18.5	5.9 -22.0
Certificate III	190.1	173.8	166.4	146.3	143.9	45.5 -1.6
Certificate II	138.6	123.1	105.3	101.6	97.0	30.7 -4.5
Certificate I	23.1	21.4	15.4	14.7	14.1	4.5 -3.8
<i>AQF sub-total</i>	<i>408.7</i>	<i>373.5</i>	<i>339.7</i>	<i>307.2</i>	<i>293.9</i>	<i>92.9 -4.3</i>
<i>Non-AQF qualifications</i>						
Other recognised courses	15.5	13.8	10.6	8.1	14.1	4.5 72.9
Non-award courses	1.7	1.8	2.7	1.1	1.0	0.3 -8.7
Subject only – no qualification	7.1	8.5	5.9	5.8	7.3	2.3 25.3
<i>Non-AQF sub-total</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>19.2</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>7.1 48.4</i>
Field of education						
Natural and physical sciences	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.7	1.9	0.6 11.4
Information technology	10.4	12.3	11.3	9.3	8.5	2.7 -8.5
Engineering and related technologies	75.5	69.0	60.7	57.5	55.1	17.4 -4.2
Architecture and building	43.0	39.7	38.8	40.1	41.4	13.1 3.4
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	13.8	13.1	12.2	12.0	12.0	3.8 -0.1
Health	12.9	13.0	14.4	14.1	13.9	4.4 -1.2
Education	2.5	4.0	6.5	6.3	6.3	2.0 -0.9
Management and commerce	89.5	68.8	61.6	49.3	46.5	14.7 -5.6
Society and culture	47.5	46.0	40.4	34.6	33.2	10.5 -4.1
Creative arts	18.9	17.0	15.2	12.2	12.0	3.8 -1.5
Food, hospitality and personal services	73.0	66.4	59.2	55.2	50.5	16.0 -8.6
Mixed field programmes	37.9	38.9	28.8	21.5	19.3	6.1 -10.3
No field of education	7.1	8.5	8.7	8.5	15.7	5.0 85.6
Total	433.0	397.7	358.9	322.3	316.3	100.0 -1.9

Notes: ** Per cent change not calculated where base numbers are less than 10.

For further notes on tables, see the explanatory notes on pages 23-28. For further information on government-funded VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/students-and-courses>>.

Source: NCVER National VET Provider Collection, 2012–16.

Terms

School sector

Age of the student is as at 1 July of the collection year.

Full-time students are those who undertook a workload equivalent to, or greater than that prescribed for a full-time student of that year level. This may vary between states and territories and from year to year.

Part-time students are those who undertook a workload less than that specified as full-time. Part-time secondary student estimates vary considerably between states and territories, as each education authority has different policies and organisational arrangements.

Secondary education typically commences after completion of primary education, at around 12 years of age, and lasts for five or six years. In all states and territories, except South Australia, secondary education may span Year 7 to Year 12. In South Australia it may span Year 8 to Year 12.

Students are persons who, prior to the census date, were formally enrolled in a school and active in a course of study other than preschool or TAFE (technical and further education) courses. Students not present at school on the census date were included if they were expected to be absent for fewer than four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations).

School level comprises pre-Year 1 through to Year 12, plus ungraded primary and ungraded secondary.

Schools (other than a special school) satisfy the following criteria:

- Their major activity is the provision of full-time day primary or secondary education or the provision of primary or secondary distance education.
- They are headed by a principal (or equivalent) responsible for the school's internal operation.
- It is possible for students to enrol for a minimum of four continuous weeks, excluding school vacation breaks.

The term 'school' includes schools in institutions and hospitals, mission schools and similar establishments. The term excludes preschools, kindergarten centres, pre-primary schools or pre-primary classes in, or attached to, non-special schools, senior technical and agricultural colleges, evening schools, continuation classes and institutions such as business or coaching colleges.

Higher education sector

Age of the student is as at 30 June of the collection year.

AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) is a national framework of credentials that covers qualifications from certificate I through to a doctoral degree. For more details on the AQF, visit <<http://www.aqf.edu.au>>.

Census date is the date on which a student's enrolment is taken to be finalised.

Full-time students are those whose student load, aggregated across all units of study (including work experience in industry units) for all courses in the collection year, is equivalent to the level required by a student undertaking at least 0.75 equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL) per year.

Field of education is a classification of courses, specialisations and units of study with the same or similar vocational emphasis or principal subject matter of the course, specialisation and unit of study.

Major course is the course which incurs the greatest student load in the submission for students enrolled in more than one course. Where two or more courses incur equal student load, the major course is determined by the higher education provider.

Student remoteness (ARIA+) region is the degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.

Unit of study is a subject or unit a person may undertake with a provider and which can be undertaken as part of a course.

VET sector (including VET in Schools, apprentices and trainees and other VET)

Age of apprentices and trainees is calculated at key points in the training contract, such as commencement and completion.

Age of VET students is as at 30 June of the collection year.

Apprentice/trainee status indicates whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship/Traineeship Training Contract.

At school refers to whether a student is still at school. This includes both school students undertaking VET that is recognised on their senior secondary certificate of education (VET in Schools) and those undertaking VET that is not recognised on the senior secondary certificate of education.

ANZSCO (Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations) is a classification of the occupation of individuals. The classification is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (1st edition, revision 1.2, ABS cat.no.1220.0).

AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) is a national framework of credentials that covers qualifications from certificate I through to a doctoral degree. For more details on the AQF, visit <<http://www.aqf.edu.au>>.

Commencements refer to apprentices and trainees starting a program of training. The date of commencement is the date on which an apprentice or trainee's contract of training is registered or approved under the provisions of the relevant state/territory legislation.

Field of education describes the broad area of study related to a qualification or subject in which a student is enrolled. It is one part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

Full-time apprentices or trainees are those whose ordinary hours of employment, including the training component, are at least the usual hours of employment for a full-time employee in that occupation.

Full-time VET students are those whose program of study constitutes at least 75% of the normal full-time study load. The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) defined a full-time study load as 720 contact hours per year. Therefore any student undertaking 540 hours or more is regarded as a full-time student.

Government-funded VET refers to all domestic government-funded VET activity delivered by all types of Australian training providers.

In-training refers to apprentices and trainees who are actively training at the end of each quarter under the terms of their training contract and who have not completed, cancelled, withdrawn or suspended their training, or had their training contract expire without meeting all of the prescribed requirements of their program.

Major program relates to the highest qualification attempted by a student in the reporting year.

Non-trades refer to those apprentices and trainees employed in occupations outside the trades. 'Non-trades' includes all occupations listed under the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO 1st edition, revision 2) with the exception of major group 3 (Technicians and trades workers).

Other VET in Schools programs are VET subjects and courses undertaken as part of a student's senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE) and provide credit towards a nationally recognised VET qualification. These programs exclude VET subjects and courses undertaken as part of a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

Part-time apprentices and trainees are defined as those whose ordinary hours of employment, including the training component, are fewer than full-time. Part-time provisions vary across Australia and across occupations, with 'part-time' defined by each state and territory.

School-based apprentices and trainees combine attendance at school with formal engagement with the workplace and study towards a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

School status indicates whether a student is still at school or not.

Senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE) recognises the successful completion of senior secondary education and provides pathways to further study at university, TAFE institutes, and to the world of work. SSCE is usually gained through two years of full-time study following completion of Year 10. In some states,

however, it may also be possible to commence the SSCE prior to Year 11. The SSCE may also be gained by older candidates.

State or territory where the training was delivered is the state or territory relating to the specific training location where the activity was delivered.

State or territory where the training was delivered – other refers to other Australian territories (for example, Christmas Island) and where the delivery location is 'not known'. For students, 'other' also includes instances where the student received training that was delivered in more than one state or territory.

Student remoteness (ARIA+) region is the degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.

Subject enrolment is the registration of a student at a training delivery location for the purpose of undertaking a module, unit of competency or subject.

Students are individuals who were enrolled in a subject or completed a qualification during the reporting period.

Total VET refers to all domestic and overseas VET activity delivered by all types of Australian training providers, not just those in receipt of government-funding – otherwise known as 'total VET activity' (TVA).

Trades refers to those apprentices and trainees employed in trades occupations under major group 3 (Technicians and trades workers) of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO 1st edition, revision 2).

VET in Schools refers to the vocational education and training (VET) undertaken by school students as part of their senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE).

Vocational education and training (VET) is education (excluding higher education) which gives people work-related knowledge and skills.

Explanatory notes

Scope

- 1 The data on school students are sourced from the (non-finance) National Schools Statistics Collection, which is published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its annual publication, *Schools, Australia*. The collection covers government and non-government schools, students and staff, as at the first Friday in August of the reference year. The scope is all establishments whose major activity is the administration of the provision of full-time day primary, secondary and/or special education, or primary or secondary education by distance education. Students who are undertaking technical and further education, tertiary studies, apprenticeships, work placements, VET in Schools or a combination of such pathways in addition to 'normal' school subjects are in the scope of the collection, regardless of the year of schooling in which these alternative pathways are undertaken. For further information on school students, see <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/MF/4221.0>>.
- 2 The data on VET in Schools students are sourced from the NCVER National VET in Schools Collection. From 2014, this collection is compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS), release 7.0. The collection includes activity from 1 January to 31 December of the reference year. The scope is all activity undertaken as part of a student's senior secondary certificate of education (SSCE) that provides credit towards a nationally recognised VET qualification. For further information on VET in Schools students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/vet-in-schools>>.
- 3 The data on higher education students are sourced from the Higher Education Statistics Collection, which is published by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The scope is students enrolled in higher education courses from 1 January to 31 December of the reference year. The collection includes activity reported by all higher education providers approved under Subsection 19–70(1) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. For further information on higher education students, see <<https://education.gov.au/student-data>>.
- 4 An apprentice or trainee is a person who undertook a contract of training with an employer and a training provider. The data on apprentices and trainees are sourced from the NCVER National Apprentice and Trainee Collection (June 2016 estimates). This collection is compiled under AVETMISS, release 7.0. Due to lags in processing numbers, recent quarterly activity is estimated. For further information on apprentices and trainees, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/apprentices-and-trainees>>.
- 5 The data on total VET activity statistics are sourced from the NCVER National VET Provider Collection and National VET in Schools Collection, with duplicated training and student activity removed. These collections are compiled under AVETMISS, release 7.0. The collection includes activity from 1 January to 31 December of the reference year. Year-on-year training activity comparisons for total VET activity are presented for 2015 and 2016 data only. 2014 was both the first and a transition year, whereby a number of training providers were granted exemptions from reporting, while others did not report their training activity. Many training providers also reported data for the first time. For further information on total VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/data/total-vet-activity>>.
- 6 The data on government-funded VET students were derived from the NCVER National VET Provider Collection. From 2014, this collection is compiled under AVETMISS, release 7.0. The collection includes activity from 1 January to 31 December of the reference year. The scope is all domestic government-funded VET activity delivered by all Australian training providers. For further information on government-funded VET students, see <<https://www.ncver.edu.au/data/collection/students-and-courses>>.
- 7 Data on the 15 to 19-year-old population were derived from the ABS *Australian demographic statistics December 2016*. This publication contains estimates of the resident population of Australian states and territories as at 30 June of each reference year. For further information on population statistics, see <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3101.0Dec%202016?OpenDocument>>.

Methodology for education and training estimate as at August 2016

- 8 Table 1 provides an estimate of participation in education and training by Australians aged 15 to 19 years as at August 2016. Where possible, the data were based on counts of individuals as at 31 August 2016. If this date was not possible, the closest date to 31 August 2016 was selected. As a result, the number of:
- school students is as at 5 August 2016
 - apprentices and trainees is as at 30 September 2016
 - total persons is as at 30 June 2016
 - higher education students is based on students enrolled in at least one unit of study with a census date between 1 June and 30 September 2016 (inclusive)
 - government-funded VET students, total VET students and VET in Schools students are as at 31 August 2016.
- 9 The estimates provided in table 1 were derived from various data collections. To avoid double-counting, students who participated in more than one education and training sector were allocated an 'activity' based on a hierarchy (at school with participation in VET in Schools, at schools with no participation in VET in Schools, higher education, apprenticeships or traineeships and other VET programs). For example, school students undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship were not included in the data on young people engaged in an apprenticeship or traineeship, as they are covered in the schools collection.
- 10 The scope of the data and methodology used to derive the estimate for 'other VET programs' was changed for the August 2014 estimate. The source was changed from government-funded VET students to total VET students. As a result of the changes, the estimate in table 1 of this 2016 publication is comparable with table 1 of the 2014 and 2015 publications but should not be compared with any years prior to 2014. Further details on the methodology are provided below.

Methodology of the education and training activity of Australians aged 15 to 19 years

Activity	Data source	Data derivation rules
At school		
School with participation in VET in Schools programs	NCVER National VET in Schools Collection	VET in Schools students with at least one subject enrolment with a start date on or before 31 August 2016 and an end date on or after 31 August 2016. VET in Schools students with an overseas postal address were excluded.
School without participation in VET in Schools	ABS National Schools Statistics Collection; NCVER National VET in Schools Collection	School students in the National Schools Statistics Collection as at 5 August minus VET in Schools students (excluding those with an overseas postal address) as at 31 August 2016 in the NCVER National VET in Schools Collection. Full-fee-paying overseas students (FFPOS) whose 'Australian resident' status may be ambiguous were included.
Not at school		
Higher education	Department of Education and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection	Students with at least one unit of study enrolment with a census date between 1 June 2016 and 30 September 2016 inclusive. Excludes students recorded as being a New Zealand citizen, a student with a temporary entry permit, a diplomat or a dependant of a diplomat, or a student residing outside Australia during the unit of study.
Apprenticeship or traineeship	NCVER National Apprentice and Trainee Collection	Apprentices and trainees in-training as at 30 September 2016. Apprentices and trainees at school were excluded. Apprentices and trainees with an overseas postal address were excluded.
Other VET programs	NCVER National VET Provider Collection (total VET scope)	Total VET students with at least one subject enrolment with a start date on or before 31 August 2016 and an end date on or after 31 August 2016. Students with an overseas postal address were excluded. Students at school, enrolled in at least one VET in Schools subject and/or undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship were excluded.
Population		
Total students aged 15 to 19 years	ABS <i>Australian demographic statistics</i>	Persons aged 15 to 19 years as at 30 June 2016. These data include international students if they are living in Australia for 12 out of 16 months.

- 11 There may be a small overlap in the statistics in table 1 between the higher education sector and other sectors, which could not be removed. For example, a student enrolled in higher education and undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship at the same time will be counted twice.
- 12 Although every effort has been made to avoid double-counting, the inherent overlap between data collections, the level of 'not known' data for key data elements and limitations in deriving a true point-in-time estimate have resulted in more people in education and training than the total number of 15-year-olds (based on ABS population data).
- 13 The data in table 1 do not match the data in the sectoral tables (tables 2–12) for the following reasons:
 - The statistics in table 1 only include students as at August 2016 and apprentices and trainees as at September 2016. The sectoral tables capture all students and apprentice and trainee commencements in the reference year, with the exception of schools data, which are based on a census date in August each year.
 - The statistics in table 1 exclude international students (where possible), whereas international students are included in most sectoral tables.
 - The estimate in table 1 attempts to address the double-counting of students due to overlaps between the coverage of the collections and young people participating in more than one education and training activity. This methodology was not applied to the sectoral tables.
 - A de-duplication process has been applied to total VET student counts in table 9 of this publication. This process has not been applied to the calculation of participation rates in table 1. Please refer to points 30–36 of the explanatory notes for further information on the de-duplication of total VET student counts.

Data quality and comparability issues

VET in Schools students

- 14 VET in Schools data may not be comparable across states and territories due to differences in definitional and compilation practices used by states and territories to populate some fields. For example, the inclusion of students below Year 11 in the National VET in Schools Collection varies by state and territory.
- 15 The South Australian Department of State Development reported VET in Schools data for South Australia for the first time in 2014. Previous years' data were reported to NCVER by the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Board. From 2015 collection of this training direct from the training organisations was improved and saw other outcomes, such as competency not achieved/fail and withdrawn outcomes, also reported. The SACE Board does not allow recognised prior learning (RPL) or non-accredited training.
- 16 There are data quality issues associated with the 2013 VET in Schools data from the Northern Territory, with school type and school-based apprentice and trainee data not reported.
- 17 From 2014, the data cover all VET in Schools delivery in the Northern Territory. Previous years' data for the Northern Territory were reported based on SACE reporting scope and therefore omit students without a SACE registration, including all middle years students.
- 18 Due to an issue with processing the 2015 Australian Capital Territory data submission, the number of school-based apprentices and trainees reported for the ACT in 2015 was under reported.
- 19 VET in Schools data for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is for VET studied by students where the registered training organisation (RTO) was an ACT college and the outcomes were certificated by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies. It does not include VET studied by students with external RTOs.
- 20 For the Australian Capital Territory, the 2016 data covers only VET in Schools students who enrolled in qualifications and achieved at least one competency.
- 21 In WA, 2016 marks the first year that Year 12 students are certified under the WA Certificate of Education (WACE) 2016 policy. This policy stipulates, as one of the requirements, a student now has to complete at least four Year 12 ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) courses or successfully

complete a certificate II (or higher) VET qualification to achieve a WACE. As the WACE is a credential based on Year 11 and 12 achievement, the 2016 Year 12 students may have started working towards the achievement of their WACE as early as Year 10 in 2014. Any Year 10 VET certificate level achievement will contribute to the WACE achievement.

- 22 In Victoria, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) collects data relating to enrolments in and completion of VET units of competency by students who are enrolled into the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Whilst the enrolments sit within VET certificates the VCAA does not collect data regarding the certificate completion, this responsibility lies with the RTO. The certificate completion data that is available is limited to the 21 VCAA approved VCE VET programs where the qualification completion requirements are imbedded within the structure of the VCE VET program.
- 23 Changes in numbers of VET in Schools students in Tasmania should be treated with caution as both data collection methodologies and quality assurance have improved in recent years.
- 24 The change in Tasmanian VET in School student numbers over the 2011–2013 period was mainly due to changes in the post-compulsory education and training system in Tasmania. This impacted on the methodology for counting VET in Schools students because 2012 data were collected using a methodology different from other years. As a result 2011 and 2013 and onwards data are not comparable with 2012 data, and caution should be exercised in comparing data between years.
- 25 In 2015, a major RTO in Tasmania had reduced VET in Schools activity.

Government-funded VET students

- 26 Changes to reporting scope – from 2016, all fee-for-service activity (including that delivered by TAFE institutes and other government providers) has been excluded from the scope of government-funded activity, so that government-funded VET students data now only reports Commonwealth and state/territory government-funded training activity. The new scope has been backdated to 2003 in all NCVER resources. Fee-for-service activity from TAFE and other government, adult and community education and other registered training organisations is reported in the total VET students data.
- 27 If a student has enrolled with more than one training provider during a collection period it is possible for a student to be counted more than once, so government-funded student counts may be inflated. No de-duplication has been applied to student numbers by NCVER in Government-funded students and courses. The possibility for the same student to enrol in more than one government-funded program is subject of local jurisdictional policy.
- 28 The funding of the South Australian entitlement scheme – ‘Skills for All’ – changed in 2014, which capped the training for many qualifications and led to a decline in government-funded student and subject enrolments in South Australia.
- 29 For the 2015 reporting year, Tasmania endeavoured to uniquely identify each student, irrespective of how many RTOs they attended. The methodology was not continued for 2016 and returned to the original practice of uniquely distinguishing an individual within a training organisation. Consequently, student numbers in 2015 are not comparable with previous or subsequent years.

Total VET students

- 30 In November 2012, the then COAG Standing Council on Tertiary Education Skills and Employment (SCOTESE) agreed to the introduction of mandatory reporting of nationally recognised training activity from 2014 onwards. This is referred to as ‘total VET activity’ (TVA) to reflect that the information is collected from all types of providers. The data on total VET students and program enrolments in tables 1, 9 and 10 were derived from the total VET activity data.
- 31 Since the introduction of ‘total VET activity’, NCVER has applied a process to identify and remove duplicate training activity where the same activity is reported for the same training provider in the same collection period via different data submitters.
- 32 When duplicate training activity is identified, the following hierarchy is applied, whereby only the training activity at the highest hierarchy level is reported:

- data submitted by a State Training Authority
 - data submitted by a Board of Study (or State Training Authority on behalf of a Board of Study)
 - data submitted directly to the NCVET by a registered training organisation.
- 33 If a student has enrolled with more than one training provider during a collection period, it is possible for them to be counted more than once. Therefore, estimated total VET student counts may be inflated. Until now, NCVET has had no reliable way to identify and eliminate duplicate student records, as NCVET does not hold students' names or addresses.
- 34 From 1 January 2015, all new and continuing students undertaking nationally recognised VET in Australia are required to have a unique student identifier (USI) in order to receive a qualification or statement of attainment. The USI is a randomly generated alpha-numeric code recorded against any nationally recognised training undertaken and remains with an individual for life. The implementation of the USI provides a mechanism with which to identify and potentially remove duplicate student records. NCVET has developed a two-step process to de-duplicate total VET student counts, which uses the USI where available and a count of distinct client identifiers within each submission for the residual data.
- 35 The de-duplication method outlined above has been applied to both 2015 and 2016 student counts in table 9 of this publication. Caution must be used when comparing year-on-year de-duplicated student counts, due to differing rates of duplication across reported variables (for example, age, state or territory of student residence), which in part could be due to varying rates of USI provision.
- 36 The de-duplication of student counts process has only been applied to a limited number of demographic variables. Student counts have been de-duplicated based on age ranges rather than individual years and for this reason individual age breakdowns are not available for total VET students (table 9). Furthermore, the participation rates in table 1 of this publication are not based on de-duplicated student counts.
- 37 For further information on the de-duplication process please refer to the fact sheet: *De-duplication of training activity and student counts in 'total VET activity'* located at <https://www.ncvet.edu.au/data/collection/students-and-courses-collection/total-vet-activity-fact-sheets>.

Apprentice and trainee commencements

- 38 From 1 July 2012 the Australian Government discontinued the \$1500 standard employer commencement incentive payment and increased the standard completion incentive by \$500 to \$3000 for existing worker apprentices and trainees in non-National Skills Needs List occupations. The observed changes to commencements and completion levels need to be seen in the context of this policy change. Further details on incentive changes may be found in the 2012–13 Budget http://www.budget.gov.au/2012-13/content/bp2/html/bp2_expense-15.htm.
- 39 In April 2012, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced, through Refocusing Vocational Training in Victoria <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/pages/refocusvet.aspx>, that it would refocus subsidy rates for VET courses to better target areas of greatest public benefit and future jobs growth. New fee and funding rates were effective from 1 July 2012 for all new course commencements. It is likely that changes in subsidy rates for some courses may have influenced employer decisions on whether to commence trainees in the first or second half of the year.

State or territory

- 40 'State or territory' of school (table 2) and higher education (table 5) students refers to the state and territory of the provider/school.
- 41 'State or territory' of total VET students (table 9) refers to the state or territory where the training was delivered. The category of 'other' includes other Australian territories (for example, Christmas Island) and 'not known'. 'Other' also includes a mixed category (where the student is associated with more than one state or territory of training delivery location).

- 42 'State or territory' of government-funded VET students (table 11) and apprentice and trainee commencements (table 7) refers to the state or territory that funds or accredits the training.
- 43 'State or territory' of VET in Schools (table 3) students refers to the state or territory of the data submitter (the senior secondary assessment authority).

Additional information

- 44 Note that percentages presented in this publication are reported to one decimal place. Other numbers, after aggregation, have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Rounding can lead to situations where the numbers in the body of a given table might not add to the rounded totals.
- 45 A dash (-) represents a true zero figure, with no data reported in this category.
- 46 na represents 'not applicable'.
- 47 ** Per cent change not calculated due to small base numbers.
- 48 The NCVET National VET Provider Collection and the NCVET National VET in Schools Collection contain students whose sex was not reported. These unknown data have not been separately reported in tables 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, whereas the total includes all students, including those with unknown status. Therefore, some figures may not sum to the total.
- 49 Student remoteness is based on the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems. ARIA+ is now the standard ABS-endorsed measure of remoteness. In tables 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, student remoteness (ARIA+) is determined from ARIA+ remoteness regions and ABS SA2 regions.
- 50 The category 'outside Australia' in the 'student remoteness' data element refers to the overseas postal addresses of students studying in Australia. The higher education data include overseas students and domestic students who provided an offshore address. The total VET students data include overseas students who are undertaking training from an Australian training provider at an overseas location.
- 51 The category 'other' in the 'qualification level' data element in table 4 includes: education not elsewhere classified; statements of attainment not identifiable by level; bridging and enabling courses; and other courses that do not lead to a qualification under the AQF.
- 52 'Apprentices and trainees' in tables 9 and 11 refer to apprentices and trainees enrolled in the VET system for off-the-job training.
- 53 The category 'postgraduate courses' in the 'qualification level' data element in table 6 includes doctorate by research, doctorate by coursework, master degree by research, master degree by coursework and other postgraduate courses and graduate diploma/postgraduate diploma (pass or honours) extending skills and knowledge in a professional area previously studied.
- 54 Caution should be taken when using data with a large number of 'not known' responses. Data are reported as 'not known' for the following reasons:
- information was not collected
 - partial reporting exemptions are present that allow training providers to submit 'not known' student demographic data
 - a student has not responded to a question on the enrolment form
 - a student has asked for their information not to be disclosed and used for reporting purposes
 - invalid information was supplied
 - where duplicate student records have conflicting demographic information, for example where the same student is reported as both male and female.



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