

Government funding of VET 2024



Nationally, total government expenditure on Vocational Education and Training (VET) increased 55.8% between 2019 and 2024 to \$10.0 billion.

The largest increase was employer assistance expenditure mainly driven by temporary Australian Government subsidies introduced to support apprenticeship commencements and completions during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 to 2022). Over this period the Australian Government's employer assistance expenditure increased from \$1.3 billion to \$3.8 billion (192.8%) and has been decreasing since with the continued phasing out of pandemic support initiatives.

Expenditure on apprentices increased by \$2.9 billion (129%) between 2020 and 2022. This was followed by an 11% decrease between 2022 and 2023 and a 32.4% decrease between 2023 and 2024 to \$3.1 billion, as a result of the decrease in employer subsidies mentioned above.

VET delivery expenditure increased 36.1% between 2019 and 2024 reflecting a period of COVID-19 pandemic support, Fee Free TAFE from 2023 and National Skills Agreement policy initiatives which began in January 2024. These programs have impacted provider level reporting with expenditure to public providers up to \$5.3 billion and private providers up to \$1.3 billion in 2024.

Government funding of VET

In 2024, Government funding for VET decreased 8% to \$9.9 billion compared to 2023. The Australian Government contributed \$4.9 billion (49.3%), remaining higher than pre-pandemic levels. State and territory governments collectively contributed \$5.0 billion (50.7%).

Table 1 Governments funding and contributions (\$ million), 2024 - National

Government contribution	Funding	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
Australian Government	4 872.8	49.3	84.2	-19.6
State and territory contributions	5 015.4	50.7	34.8	7.0
Total	9 888.2	100.0	55.3	-8.0

Government expenditure on VET

Government expenditure on VET in 2024 was \$10.0 billion, a decrease of 8.2% from 2023. Employer assistance expenditure reduced 52.9% from 2023, following the 18.6% decrease reported between 2022 and 2023, reflecting the phasing out of pandemic support programs. All other areas of VET expenditure increased between 2023 and 2024, with VET delivery expenditure increasing 9.2% from 2023, and 36.1% from 2019.

Table 2 Governments VET expenditure (\$ million), 2024 - National

Provider reporting type	VET expenditure	Proportion (%)	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2023 (%)
VET delivery	6 711.5	67.2	36.1	9.2
Employer assistance	1 537.8	15.4	157.1	-52.9
Student support	387.5	3.9	159.7	122.3
Capital expenditure	439.2	4.4	143.0	9.1
Systems administration and governance	914.5	9.2	65.8	1.7
Total	9 990.6	100.0	55.8	-8.2

Contribution and allocation of VET government funding

Governments' contributions and allocation of funding

VET in Australia is funded by the Australian and state and territory governments. The state and territories provide funding to support VET delivery for local and national skills needs, and the Australian Government provides funding to support national skills. In addition, the Australian Government supports the states and territories with VET services by means of funding provided under intergovernmental funding arrangements.

In 2024, government funding provided through VET appropriations and VET intergovernmental funding arrangements was \$9.9 billion, a decrease in nominal terms of \$859.3 million (8.0%) from 2023.

- The Australian Government provided \$4.9 billion, a decrease of \$1.2 billion (19.6%).
- State and territory governments collectively provided \$5.0 billion, an increase of \$325.9 million (7.0%).

Allocation of funding

The chart below highlights the flow of government funding within a jurisdiction and the flow of funding from the Australian Government to the states and territories, both funding flows make up the funding allocation for VET government expenditure in 2024.

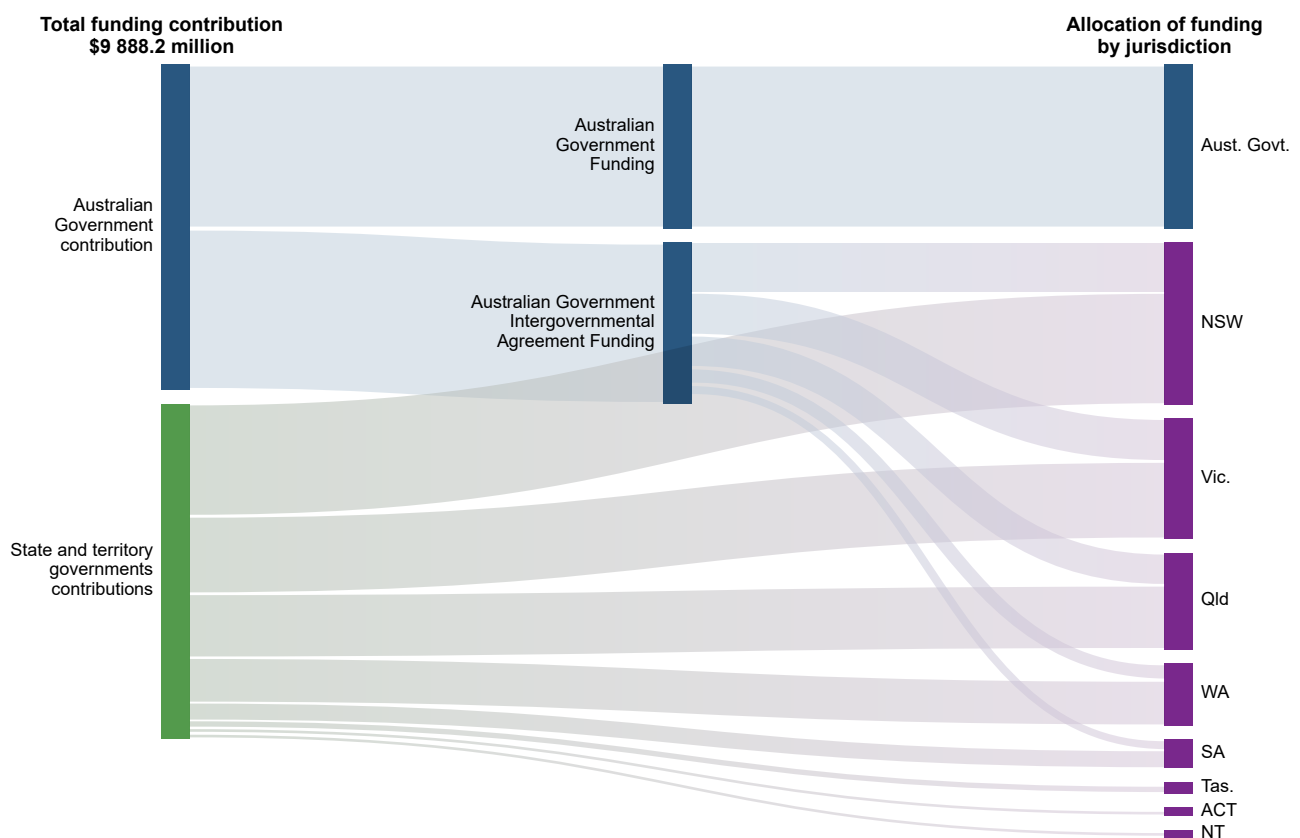
VET funding flows on a recurrent basis, periodically on a capital basis, and through intergovernmental funding arrangements from the Australian Government to state and territory governments.

In 2024, funding by:

- recurrent and capital flows totalled \$7.5 billion, a decrease of \$1.2 billion (13.4%)
- national agreement flows totalled \$2.4 billion, an increase of \$301.0 million (14.2%).

Each jurisdiction's allocated VET funding consists of its own contribution along with the Australian Government's contribution, provided under intergovernmental funding arrangements.

Figure 1 Contribution and allocations of government funding for VET (\$ million)



Expenditure

This section reports on how allocated funds are spent within a jurisdiction. Reporting is by VET activity, with a further split of VET activity by student or training attributes. Funding expenditure often exceeds reported contributions and allocations due to additional requirements in the year and timing around funding payments.

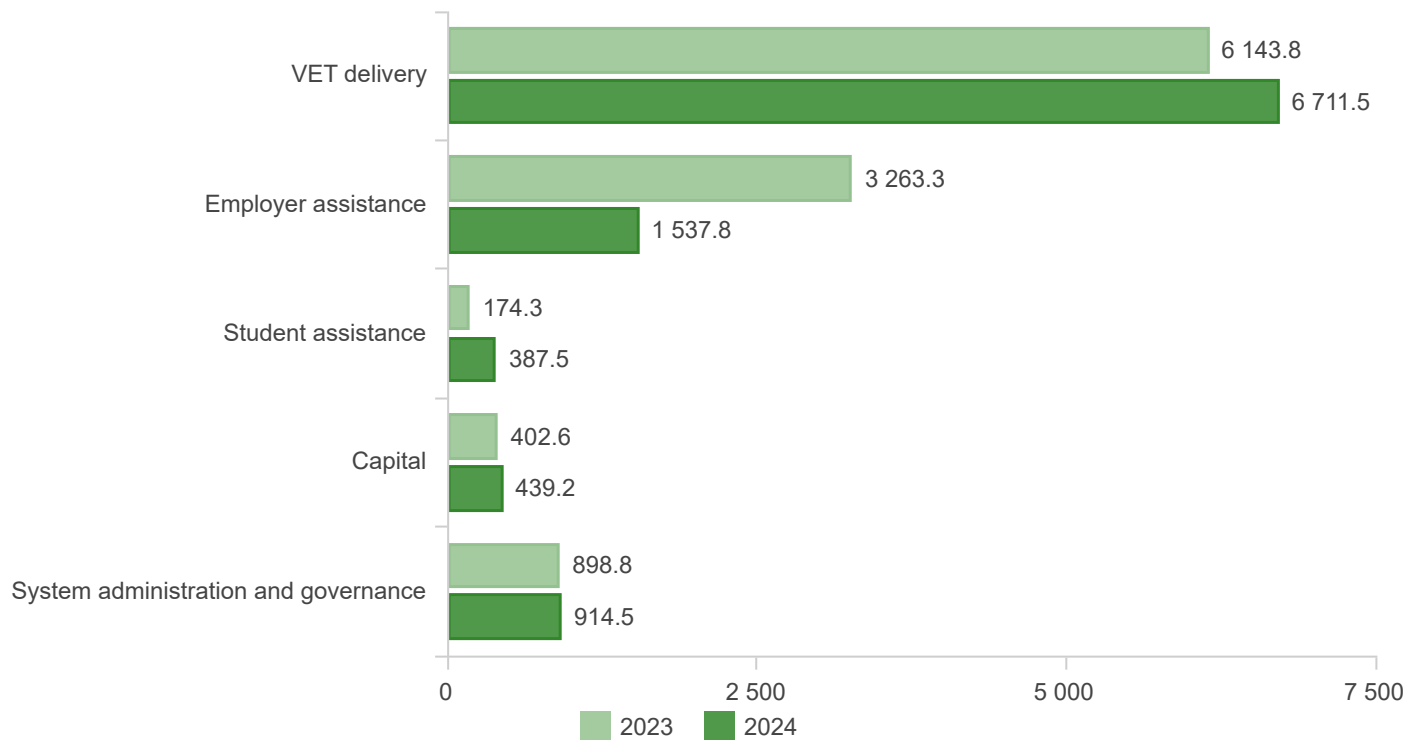
In 2024, Government expenditure on VET totalled \$10.0 billion, a decrease of \$892.2 million (8.2%) from 2023.

Expenditure by VET activity

In 2024, compared with 2023, expenditure increased in all areas except employer assistance as follows:

- VET delivery increased by \$567.8 million (9.2%) to \$6.7 billion
- employer assistance decreased by \$1.7 billion (52.9%) to \$1.5 billion
- student assistance increased by \$213.2 million (122.3%) to \$387.5 million
- capital increased by \$36.6 million (9.1%) to \$439.2 million
- system administration and governance increased by \$15.7 million (1.7%) to \$914.5 million.

Figure 2 Government expenditure by VET activity (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:
Government VET delivery expenditures include subsidies for training, block funding, VET in Schools funding, other – other VET portfolio, other – other agency, fee assistance funding, learner needs funding, community service payments and operational base funding.
Employer assistance expenditures include incentive payments to employers for employing an apprentice or reskilling their workforce.
Student assistance expenditures include equipment, travel and other costs, completion incentives and general support services.
Capital expenditure may be a result of expenditure for equipment acquisition, or large projects such as construction of industry-based and school-based skills centres.
For more information, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: terms and definitions*.

Expenditure by student and training attributes

Expenditure by student and training attributes explore the programs reported under each VET activity and report the expenditure in relation to a student or training characteristic where possible. Reporting is based on actual payments, modelled and estimated data. Not all funding can be directly attributable to a category and is reported as 'not attributable'. Not attributable reporting is important to consider with each student or training category as it remains a direct and/or indirect cost of the training.

For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes – Expenditure by student and training attributes and jurisdiction notes and caveats*.

Expenditure by apprenticeship status

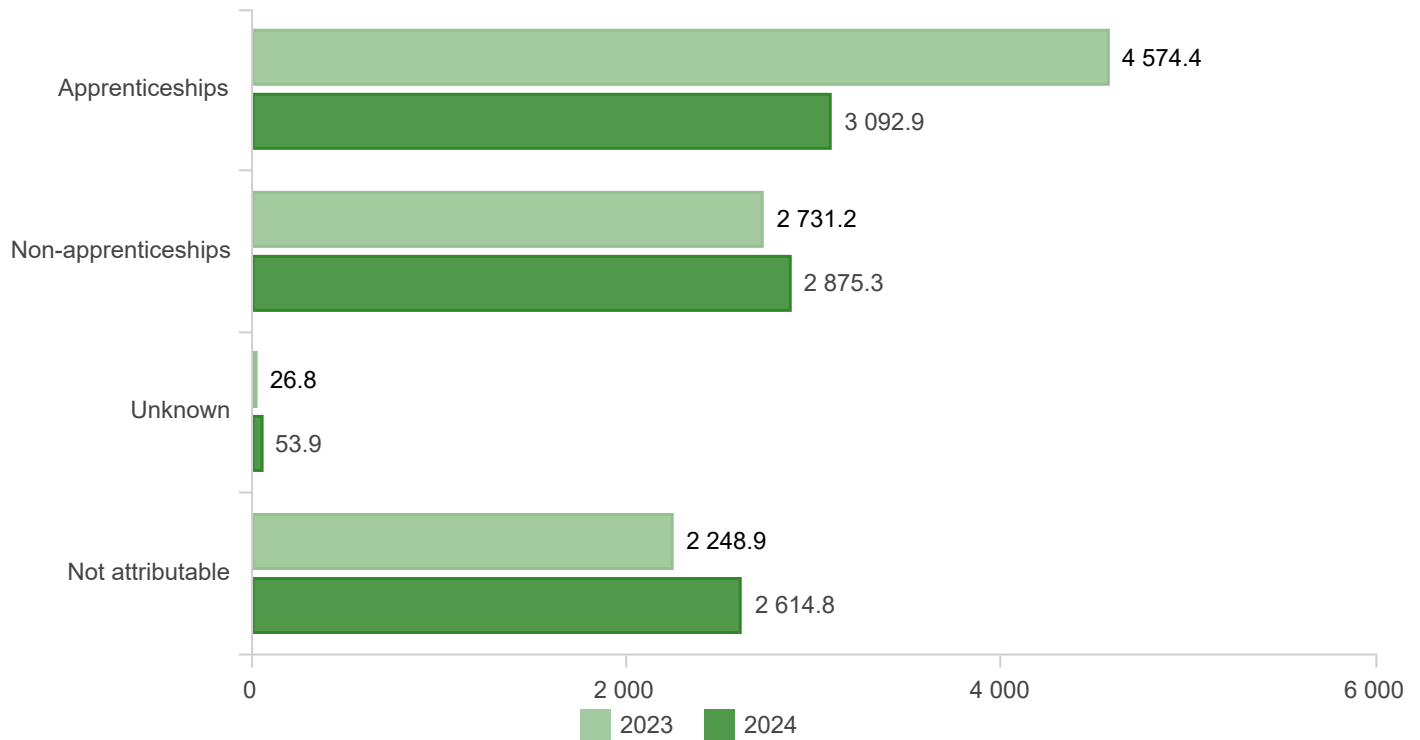
Apprenticeship programs are reported under the VET activities of VET delivery, employer assistance and student assistance.

In 2024, these activities totalled \$8.6 billion, a decrease of \$944.5 million (9.9%), with VET delivery expenditure increasing 9.2%, and employer assistance expenditure decreasing 52.9% between 2023 and 2024.

In 2024, compared with 2023, reported expenditure by:

- apprenticeship status decreased by \$1.5 billion (32.4%) to \$3.1 billion
- non-apprenticeship status increased by \$144 million (5.3%) to \$2.9 billion.

Figure 3 VET delivery, employer assistance and student assistance by apprenticeship status (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:
 'Apprenticeships' refers to apprenticeships and traineeships.
 The unknown category includes grants provided for training support services in general.
 Expenditure not attributable by apprenticeship status includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.
 Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by apprenticeship status due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable".
 For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes and jurisdiction notes and caveats*.
 For timeseries and detailed reporting by apprenticeship status, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by provider type

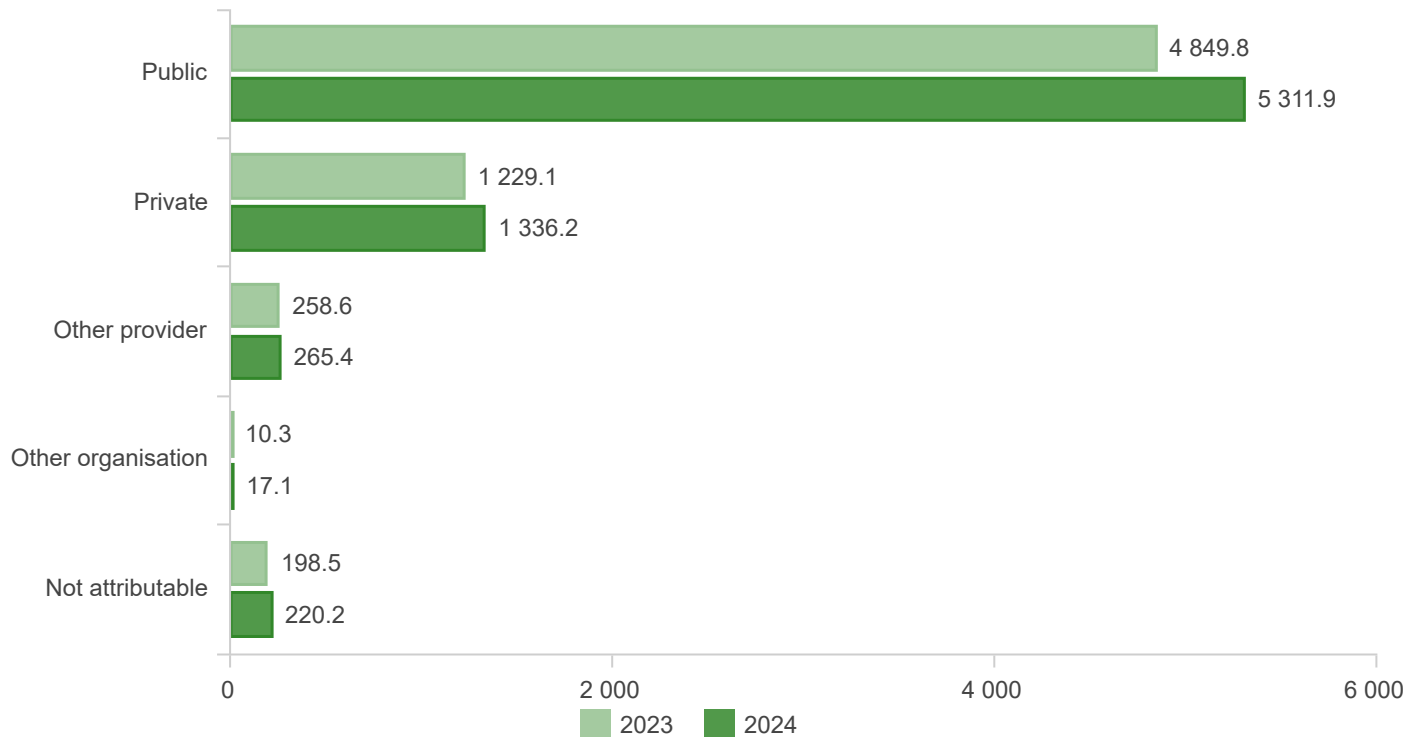
VET delivery and capital expenditure payments are reported by provider type.

In 2024, government expenditure on VET delivery and capital totalled \$7.2 billion, an increase of \$604.4 million (9.2%) from 2023.

In 2024, compared to 2023, government payments to:

- public providers increased by \$462.0 million (9.5%) to \$5.3 billion
- private providers increased by \$107.1 million (8.7%) to \$1.3 billion
- other providers increased by \$6.8 million (2.6%) to \$265.4 million.

Figure 4 Government expenditure on VET delivery and capital by provider type (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:

Public refers to technical and further education (TAFE) institutes, skills institutes, polytechnic and government universities.

Other provider refers to enterprise registered training organisations (RTOs), community-based adult education RTOs, industry-associated RTOs and school RTOs (public, private and independent) and non-government universities.

Other organisation refers to organisations that are not registered training organisations (RTOs) listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au).

Expenditure not attributable by provider type can be a result of operational costs or an accounting adjustment which may lead to a negative total as in the case of a payment reversal.

Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by provider type due to the amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.

The periodic nature of capital expenditure should be considered when analysing provider type data.

For timeseries and detailed reporting by provider type, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

VET delivery expenditure by student and training attributes

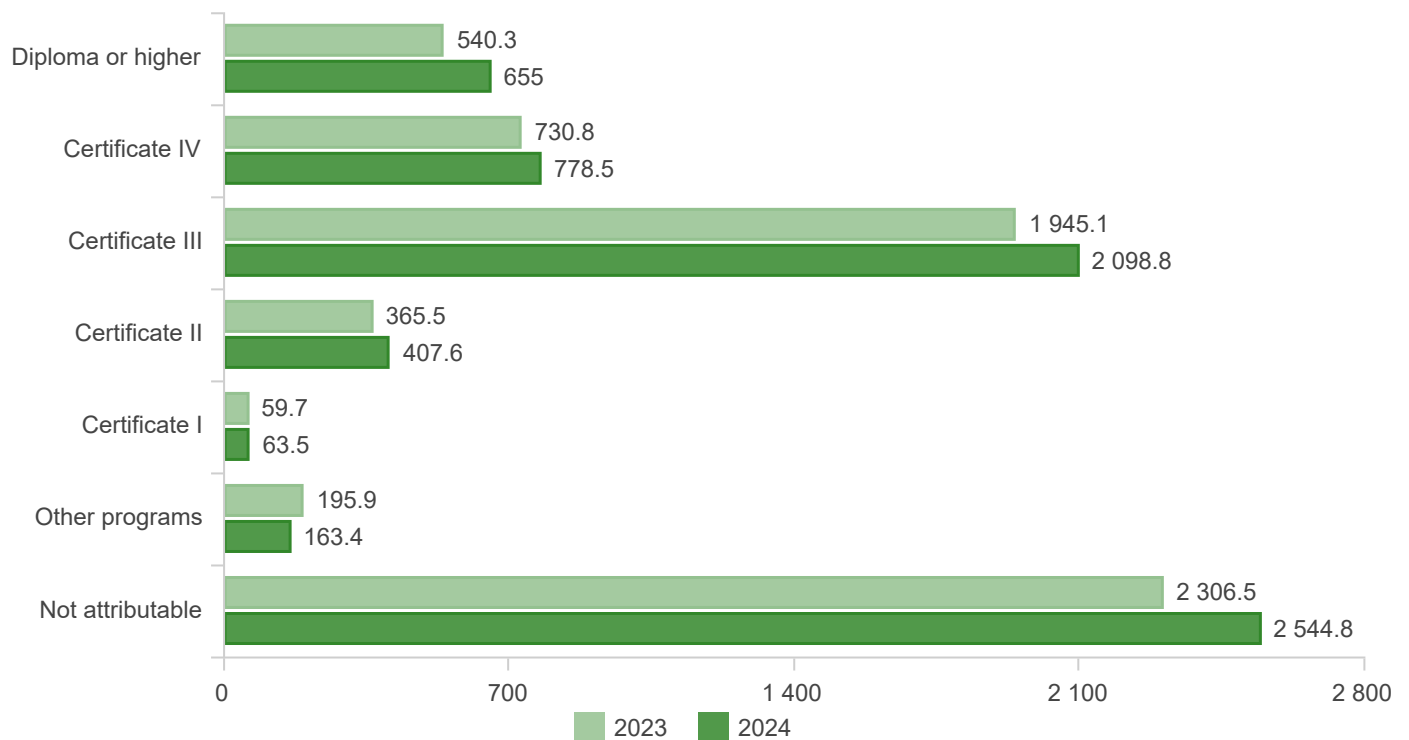
In 2024, expenditure by VET delivery totalled \$6.7 billion, an increase of \$567.8 million (9.2%) from 2023.

Expenditure by level of education

In 2024, compared with 2023, government expenditure on:

- diploma or higher level programs increased by \$114.7 million (21.2%) to \$655.0 million
- certificate IV programs increased by \$47.7 million (6.5%) to \$778.5 million
- certificate III programs increased by \$153.7 million (7.9%) to \$2.1 billion
- certificate I,II and other programs increased overall by \$13.3 million (2.1%) to \$634.5 million.

Figure 5 VET delivery expenditure by level of education (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



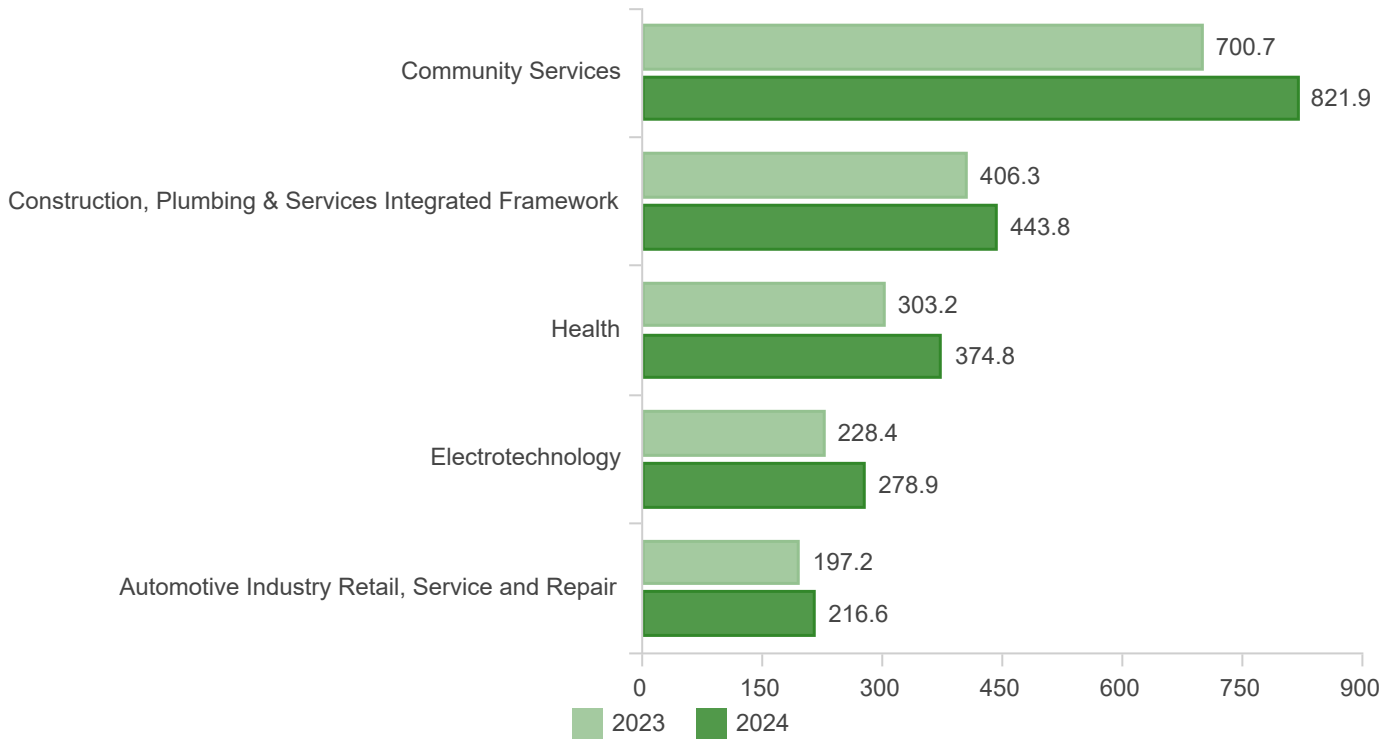
Notes:
 Other programs include non-award programs, skill sets, bridging or enabling courses not identifiable by level and training not elsewhere classified. Expenditure not attributable by level of education includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.
 Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by level of education due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.
 For timeseries and detailed reporting by level of education, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by training package

In 2024, compared with 2023, VET delivery expenditure by training package was highest for:

- Community Services at \$821.9 million, an increase of \$121.2 million (17.3%)
- Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework at \$443.8 million, an increase of \$37.5 million (9.2%)
- Health at \$374.8 million, an increase of \$71.5 million (23.6%).

Figure 6 VET delivery expenditure for top 5 training packages by expenditure (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



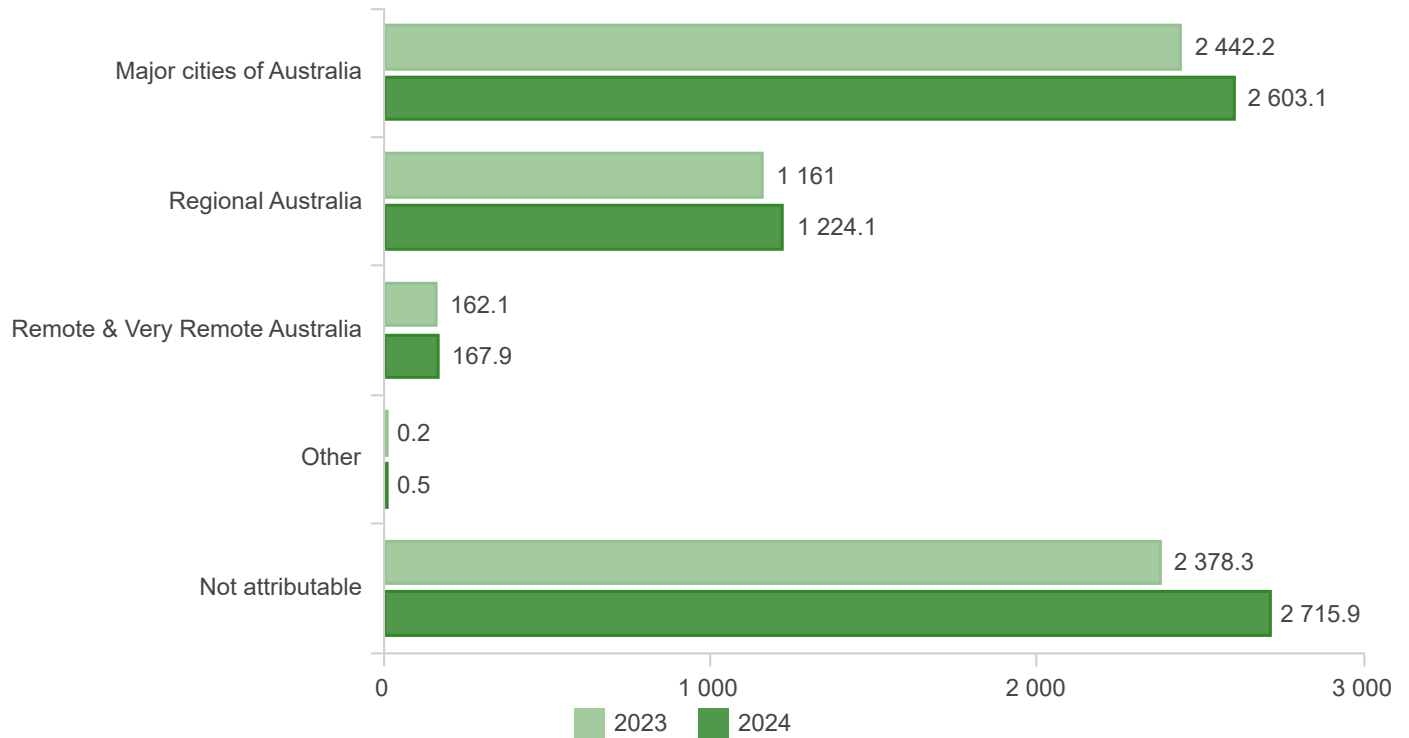
Notes:
 Training packages are listed on the National Training Register (training.gov.au).
 Expenditure not attributable by training package includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.
 Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by training package due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.
 For timeseries and detailed reporting on training packages, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by student remoteness

In 2024, compared with 2023, government expenditure for students living in:

- major cities of Australia increased by \$160.9 million (6.6%) to \$2.6 billion
- regional areas of Australia increased by \$63.1 million (5.4%) to \$1.2 billion
- remote areas of Australia increased by \$5.9 million (3.6%) to \$167.9 million.

Figure 7 VET delivery expenditure by student remoteness (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:

Remoteness is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure. For further details, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — remoteness structure*.

Reporting is based on a student's permanent address postcode.

Other includes migratory-offshore-shipping and no usual address categories.

Expenditure not attributable by student remoteness includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.

Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by student remoteness as not all jurisdictions report by student remoteness, and due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.

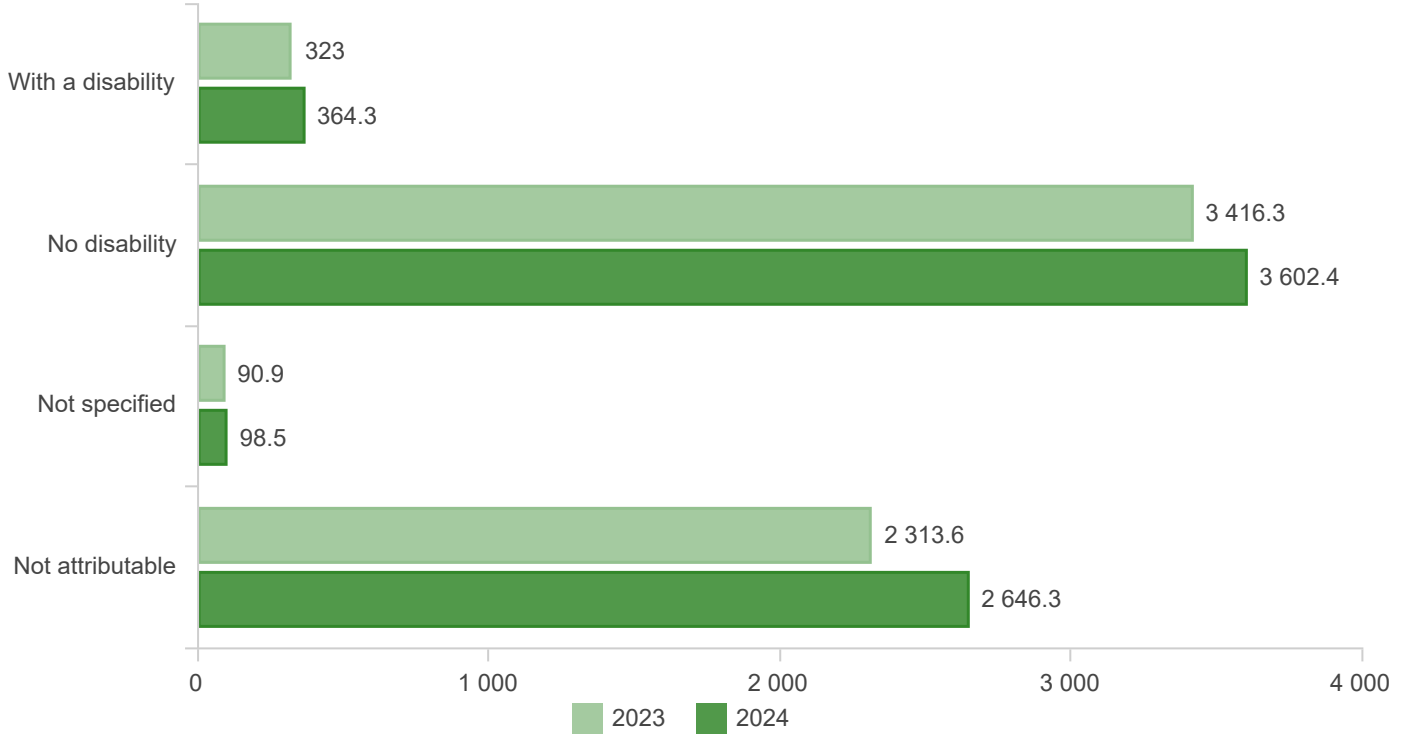
For timeseries and detailed reporting on student remoteness, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by student disability status

In 2024, compared with 2023, government expenditure for:

- students with a disability increased by \$41.2 million (12.8%) to \$364.3 million
- students without a disability increased by \$186.1 million (5.4%) to \$3.6 billion.

Figure 8 VET delivery expenditure by student disability status (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:

Reporting captures funding for students that have self-identified as having a disability.

Expenditure not attributable by disability status includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.

Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by student disability due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.

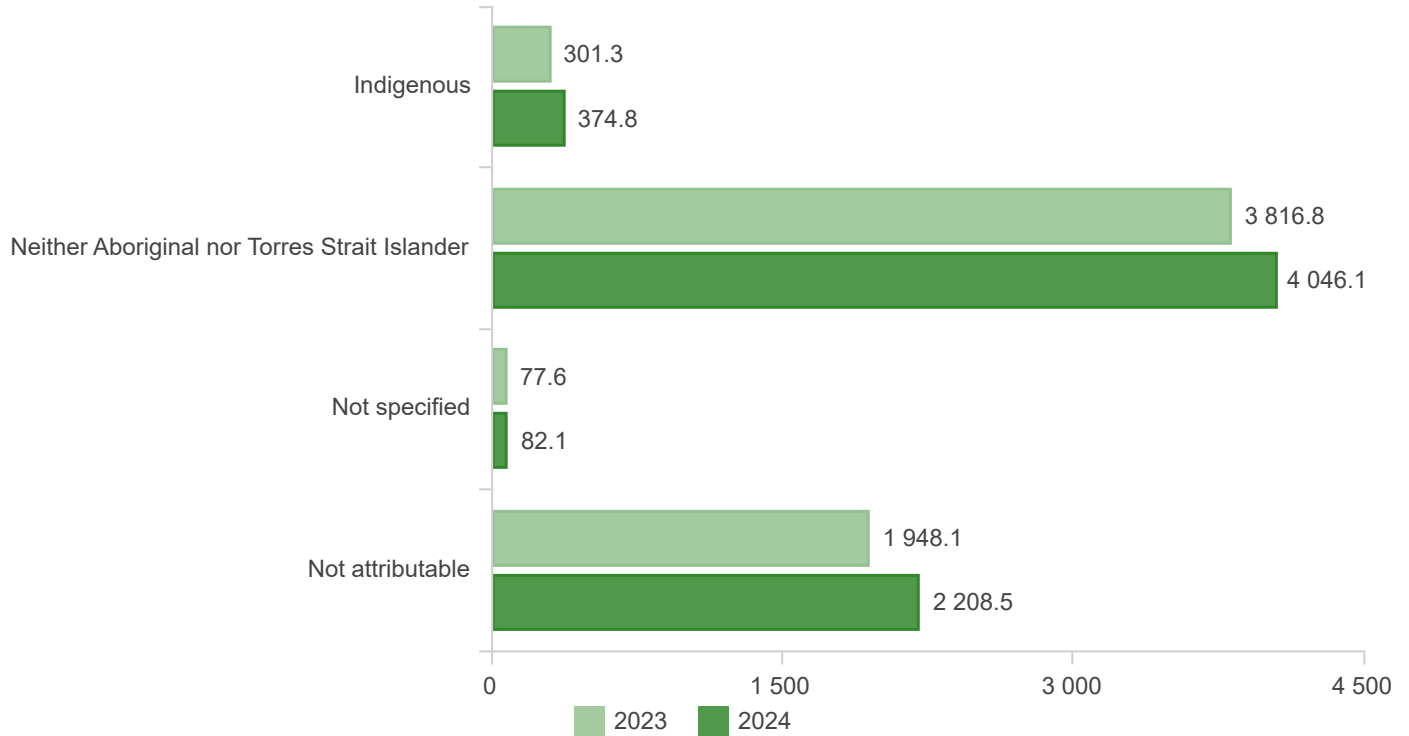
For timeseries and detailed reporting on student disability status, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by student Indigenous status

In 2024, compared with 2023, government expenditure for:

- Indigenous students increased by \$73.5 million (24.4%) to \$374.8 million
- non-Indigenous students increased by \$229.3 million (6.0%) to \$4.0 billion.

Figure 9 VET delivery expenditure by student Indigenous status (\$ million), 2023 and 2024 - National



Notes:

Reporting captures funding for students that have self-identified as being of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and program funding specifically for Indigenous persons.

Expenditure not attributable by Indigenous status includes costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.

Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by Indigenous status due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes*.

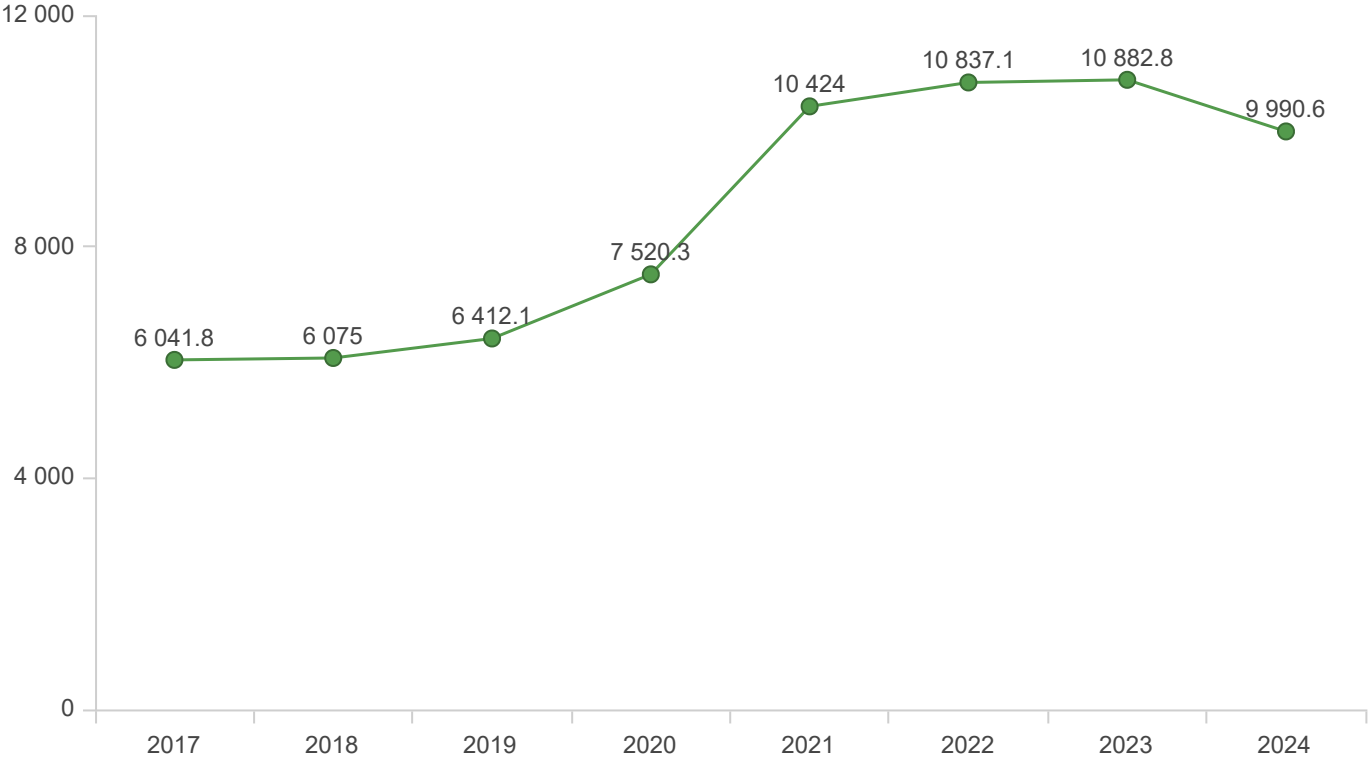
For timeseries and detailed reporting on student Indigenous status, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure time series

Total expenditure on VET

Between 2019 and 2024, Government expenditure on VET increased by \$3.6 billion (55.8%) to \$10.0 billion.

Figure 10 Total government expenditure on VET (\$ million), 2017 to 2024 - National



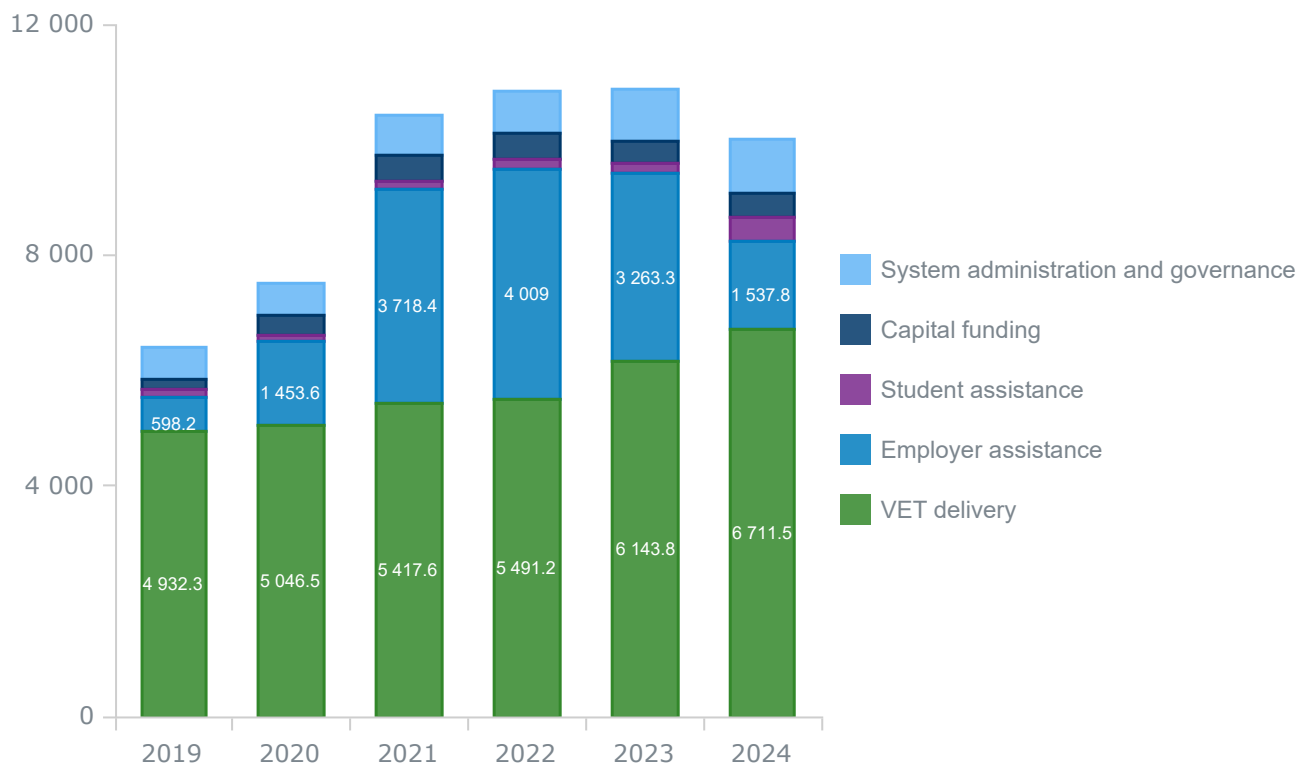
Notes:
Total government expenditure includes the VET activities of VET delivery, employer assistance, student assistance, capital and systems administration and governance.
For detail, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Expenditure by VET activity

Between 2019 and 2024, expenditure on VET delivery increased by \$1.8 billion (36.1%) to \$6.7 billion.

Employer assistance expenditure increased by \$939.6 million (157.1%) to \$1.5 billion, peaking in 2022 at \$4.0 billion, then decreased 18.6% between 2022 and 2023 and 52.9% between 2023 and 2024 to \$1.5 billion.

Figure 11 Total government expenditure by VET activities (\$ million), 2019 to 2024 - National



Notes:

Government VET delivery expenditures include subsidies for training, block funding, VET in Schools funding, other – other VET portfolio, other – other agency, fee assistance funding, learner needs funding, community service payments and operational base funding.

Employer assistance expenditures include incentive payments to employers for employing an apprentice or reskilling their workforce.

Student assistance expenditures include equipment, travel and other costs, completion incentives and general support services.

Capital expenditure may be a result of expenditure for equipment acquisition, or large projects such as construction of industry-based and school-based skills centres. For more information, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: terms and definitions*.

For detail, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

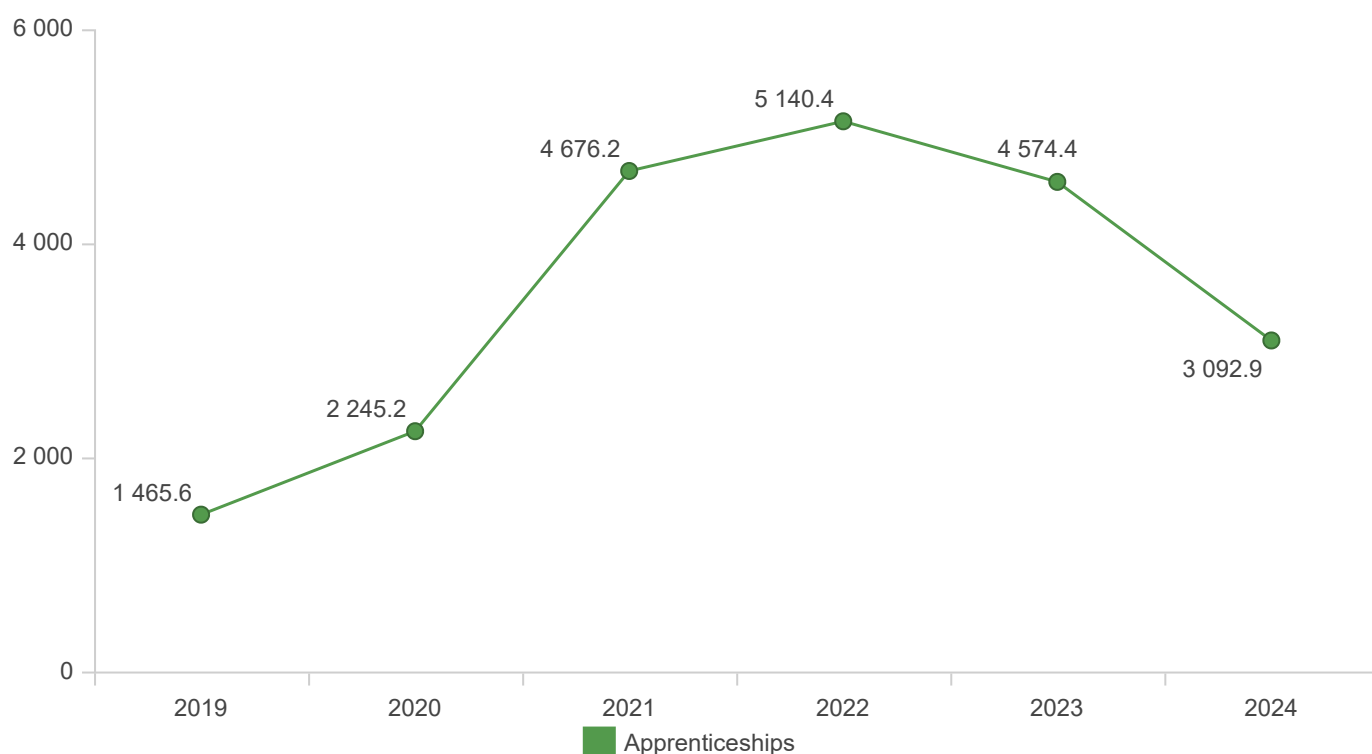
Expenditure by apprenticeship status

Apprenticeship programs are reported under the VET activities of VET delivery, employer assistance and student assistance.

Between 2019 and 2024, government expenditure on these three VET activities increased by \$3.0 billion (52.1%) from \$5.7 billion to \$8.6 billion.

Expenditure by apprenticeship status increased from \$1.5 billion in 2019 to \$3.1 billion in 2024 (111.0%), peaking in 2022 at \$5.1 billion, reflecting the temporary COVID-19 pandemic support programs (2020 to 2022), followed by a gradual phase-out of these programs, with expenditure decreasing 11% between 2022 and 2023 and 32.4% between 2023 and 2024.

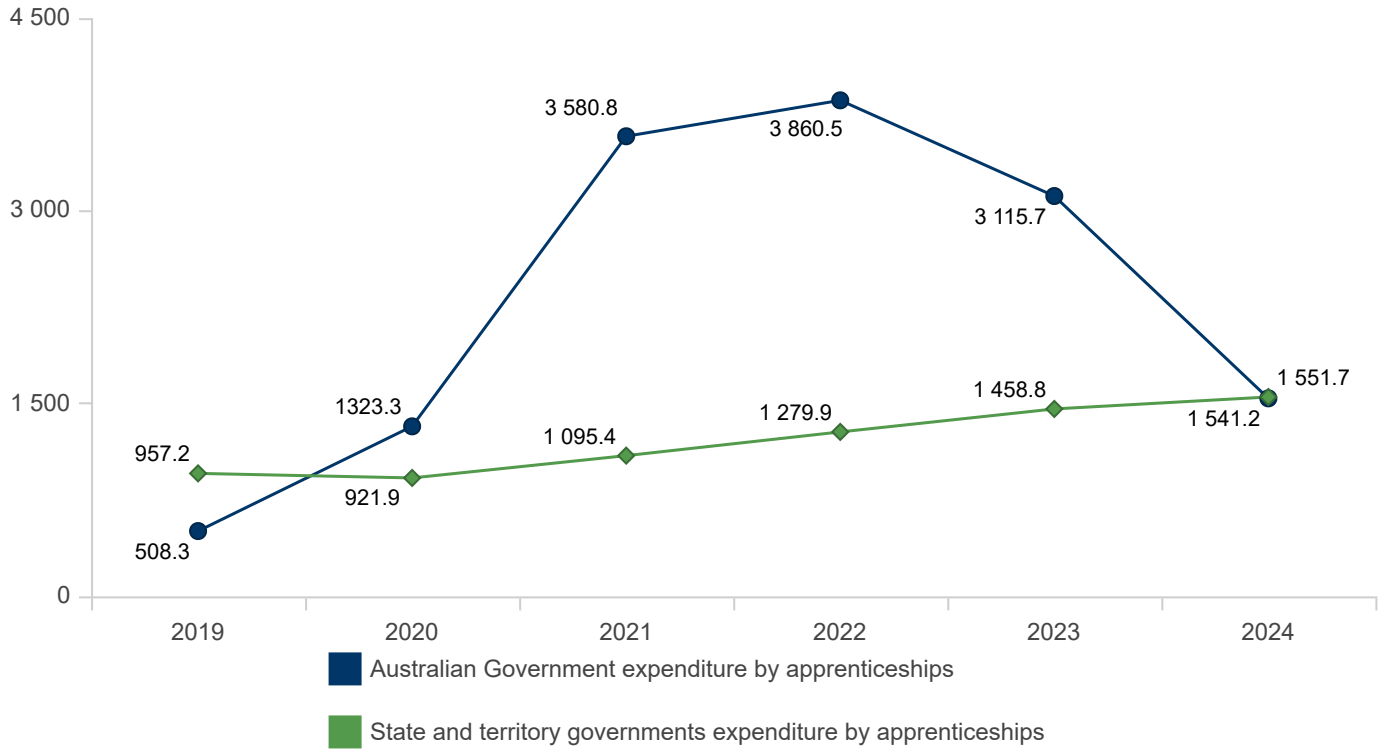
Figure 12 Government expenditure on apprenticeships (\$ million), 2019 to 2024 - National



Notes:
The graph above excludes the reporting categories of non-apprenticeship, unknown, and not attributable reporting.
'Apprenticeships' refers to apprenticeships and traineeships.
Expenditure not attributable by apprenticeship status include costs associated with support programs, administration, operational funding and training funds provided under block funding arrangements.
Caution needs to be taken when analysing data by apprenticeship status due to the large amount of expenditure reported as "not attributable". For further details, refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — VET funding distributions by student and training attributes and jurisdiction notes and caveats*.
For timeseries and detailed reporting by apprenticeship status, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

From 2020, total state and territory expenditure by apprenticeships gradually increased from \$921.9 in 2020 to \$1.6 billion in 2024. While the Australian Government expenditure by apprenticeships peaked in 2022 at \$3.9 billion then subsequently decreased in 2023 to \$3.1 billion and \$1.5 billion in 2024, coinciding with the phasing out of pandemic support programs.

Figure 13 Government expenditure by apprenticeship status by state and territory governments and the Australian Government (\$ million), 2019 to 2024



Notes:
 The graph presents a comparison between state and territory governments and the Australian Government. Totals will not update based on state/territory selection.
 From 2020 to 2024, reporting includes COVID-19 temporary support measures and the phasing out of those programs. For further details refer to *Government funding of VET : explanatory notes — jurisdiction notes and caveats*.
 The graph above excludes the reporting categories of non-apprenticeship, unknown, and not attributable reporting.
 'Apprenticeships' refers to apprenticeships and traineeships.
 For timeseries and detailed reporting by apprenticeship status, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

VET Loans

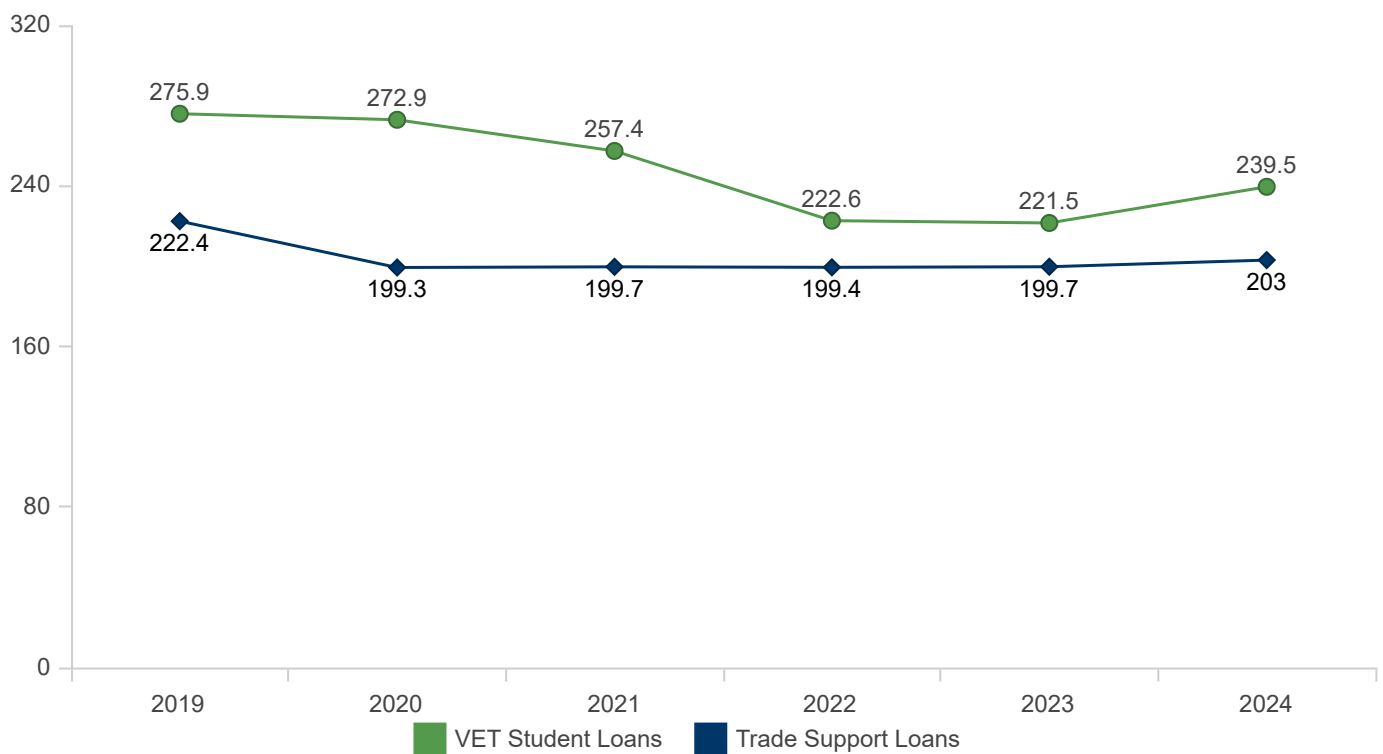
Australian Government provision for VET loans

The Australian Government administers the VET loan programs, including the VET Student Loan program and the Trade Support Loan program.

Payment provisions provided under the VET Student Loan program declined each year from 2019 to 2023 and increased in 2024 by \$18.0 million (8.1%) from 2023, to \$239.5 million.

Payment provisions under the Trade Support Loan program have remained steady from 2020, increasing slightly in 2024 by \$3.3 million (1.7%) from 2023, to \$203.0 million.

Figure 14 Australian Government provision for VET loans (\$ million), 2019 to 2024



Notes:
In 2024, the Trade Support Loans Program was renamed to the Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans Program.
The reported value of VET Student Loans excludes estimated loan expenses and state and territory contributions.
2019 totals include a limited number of VET FEE-HELP loans.
For further details, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — Australian Government provision of VET loans*.
For timeseries and detailed reporting, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

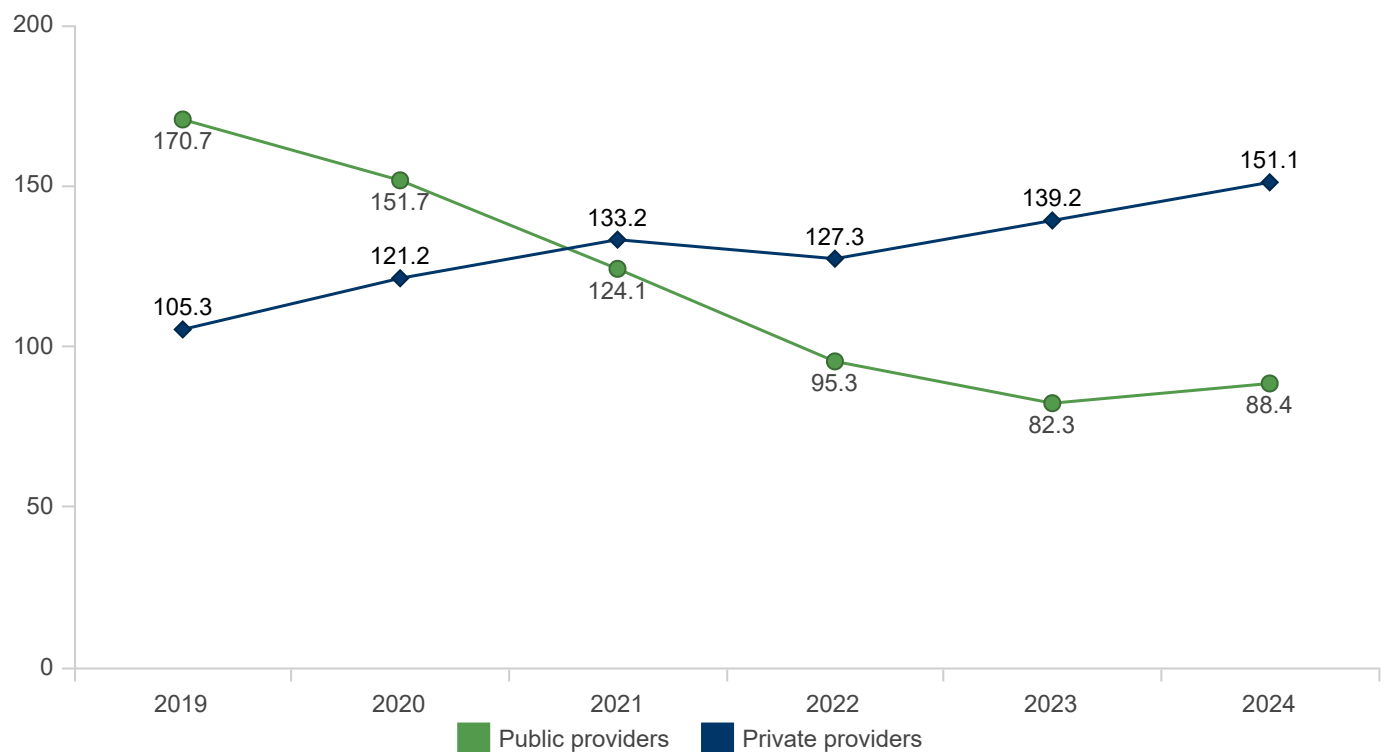
VET Student Loans by provider type

On behalf of the student accessing the VET Student Loan Program the Australian Government pays part or all of the student's training fee directly to the training provider.

VET student loan payments to public providers were \$88.4 million in 2024, a decrease of \$82.2 million (48.2%) between 2019 and 2024.

VET student loan payments to private providers were \$151.1 million in 2024, an increase of \$45.8 million (43.5%) between 2019 and 2024.

Figure 15 Australian Government provision for VET loans (\$ million), 2019 to 2024



Notes:
The reported value of VET Student Loans excludes estimated loan expenses and state and territory contributions.
2019 totals include a limited number of VET FEE-HELP loans.
For further details on reporting by provider type, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes — provider type reporting categories*.
For timeseries and detailed reporting, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder* or *Government funding of VET 2024: Data Tables*.

Transfers for VET Student Loans

States and territories contribute to VET Student Loan expenses, which include the concessional loan discount, and the debt not expected to be repaid (DNER) by state-subsidised students who have accessed the VET Student Loans program or grandfathered VET FEE-HELP scheme.

In 2024, states and territories paid \$12.9 million towards loan debts.

For detailed reporting of VET Student Loan data including by level of education, training package, student remoteness, disability, and Indigenous status, please refer to the *Government funding of VET 2024: DataBuilder*, and the *Government funding of VET 2024: datatables*.

For further details, refer to *Government funding of VET 2024: explanatory notes – transfers for VET student loans*.

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