

State of Education in NSW

Vocational education and training (VET)

This fact sheet focuses on key items of context and reported outcomes for the VET sector, reported in the inaugural edition of the biennial State of Education in NSW.

Context of VET

Students

Total student enrolments 2012	Government-funded	466,815
	Total	598,482

Source: NCVET VET Provider Collection, 2008-2012, reported in Australian Government (forthcoming) Annual National Report of the Australian VET System 2012, Canberra, Table NSW A.1

Proportion of NSW population living in remote and very remote areas who are enrolled in VET 2012	21.4%
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Source: SCRGSP 2013, National Agreement Performance Information 2012 – National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, Table 11

Proportion of VET students by age-group 2012	15-19 years	27.8%
	20-24 years	15.7%
	25-39 years	28.3%
	40-64 years	28.2%

Source: NCVET VET Provider Collection, 2008-2012, reported in Australian Government (forthcoming) Annual National Report of the Australian VET System 2012, Canberra, Table NSW A.2

Proportion of students from each SES (SEIFA) quintile 2012	Lowest quintile	27.8%
	Second quintile	26.1%
	Third quintile	16.4%
	Fourth quintile	12.9%
	Highest quintile	13.8%

Source: NCVET VET Provider Collection, 2008-2012, reported in Australian Government (forthcoming) Annual National Report of the Australian VET System 2012, Canberra, Table NSW B1

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students 2012	Number of students	32,700
	Proportion of all students	5.5%
Students with a disability 2012	Number of students	42,200
	Proportion of all students	7.1%
Students with language background other than English 2012	Number of students	105,700
	Proportion of all students	17.7%

Source: NCVET VET Provider Collection, 2008-2012, reported in Australian Government (forthcoming) Annual National Report of the Australian VET System 2012, Canberra, Table NSW B1

Providers		
Registered training providers 2012 <i>Note:</i> Includes TAFE NSW Institutes and the Open Training Education Network (OTEN), agricultural colleges; adult community education (ACE) providers; secondary schools and colleges, as well as universities; industry and community bodies with a registered training organisation (RTO) arm; and businesses, organisations and government agencies that have RTO status to train their own staff.	Government-funded	628
	Operating locations (Government-funded)	3,923
	Total training providers	2,780

Source: SCRGSP National Agreement Performance Information 2012, June 2013, Table SWD.C.3

Courses			
Number of students in five most popular fields of education 2012	Females	Management and commerce	31,900
		Society and culture	27,600
		Mixed field programs	16,800
		Food, hospitality and personal services	8,700
		Health	7,500
	Males	Engineering and related	28,000
		Management and commerce	14,500
		Architecture and building	12,700
		Mixed field programs	9,500
		Information technology	7,500
	All students	Management and commerce	46,400
		Society and culture	34,100
		Engineering and related	30,200
		Mixed field programs	26,300
		Architecture and building	13,700

Source: NCVET 2013, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Students and courses 2012, Table 4

Proportion of total reported VET students by course level 2012	Non-AQF course	22,300
	Certificate I or II or lower	22,300
	Certificate III or IV	42,300
	Diploma and above	13,100

Source: NCVER VET Provider Collection, 2008-2012, reported in Australian Government (forthcoming) Annual National Report of the Australian VET System 2012, Canberra, Table NSW A.2

Workforce		
Estimated VET workforce in Australia 2010 <i>Note:</i> Robust current estimates of the overall VET workforce in Australia or NSW – which includes trainers and assessors, other VET professionals and general staff – are not available.	TAFE	73,000
	Non-TAFE including private RTOs	150,000

Source: Productivity Commission 2011, Vocational Education and Training Workforce, Research Report, Canberra

Funding		
Allocation of total government real recurrent funds for VET in NSW 2012	NSW Government	\$1.165 billion
	Commonwealth recurrent funding	\$450.1 million
	Commonwealth administered programs	\$94.3 million
	Total government funds	\$1.709 billion

Source: SCRGSP 2014, Report on Government Services 2014, vol. B Childcare, education and training, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Table 5A.8

Hours per student of government-funded VET 2012		290.0
Total government real recurrent expenditure per annual student hour (2012 dollars)	2003	\$16.31
	2012	\$12.65

Source: SCRGSP 2014, Report on Government Services 2014, vol. B Childcare, education and training, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Table 5A.19

Snapshot of performance

What is going well	Needs improvement
Increase qualification levels	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher level AQF Diploma and Advanced Diploma completions increased from 15,841 in 2009 to 25,561 in 2011. For AQF Diploma and above, there were 25,683 completions in 2011, well ahead of projections towards the 2020 target of 32,044. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 41.9% in 2013, unlikely to meet the COAG target proportion of 22.7% of 20-64 year olds without at least AQF Certificate III qualifications by 2020. The corresponding NSW 2021 target of 83.7% with such qualifications is also unlikely to be met, with 58.1% in 2013.
Foundation skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian 16-65 year olds are the fifth most literate in PIAAC assessment, well above OECD mean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian 16-65 year olds are the 13th most numerate in PIAAC assessment, below OECD mean.
Improved outcomes for equity groups	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 32,673 completions by students in regional and remote areas at AQF Certificate III and above in 2011, on track for the 2020 target of a 20% increase (to 37,927) to be met. This is in contrast to national trend (for most growth in cities). Proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in higher level courses (both AQF Certificates III and IV as well as AQF Diploma level) have been increasing since 2008. Course completion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in NSW increased 2008-11 by 37.6% compared to 14.0% for all students. Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 20-64 years holding or working towards AQF Certificate III increased 2006-11 from 30.2% to 35.6%, narrowing gap on this measure. In 2011, the number of qualifications completed by Aboriginal students at AQF Certificate III level and above was 3,255, well above the 2020 target of 2,760 (20% increase since 2009). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People from lower SES areas are over-represented in VET courses with 28% of VET students coming from the most disadvantaged areas (20% of the population). Students from lower SES areas are more likely to undertake lower level courses and less likely to undertake higher level courses. Young people living in non-metropolitan areas are over-represented in VET – over 21% enrolled in VET, compared to over 6% of the population in major NSW cities. A higher proportion (53%) of remote and very remote VET students undertake AQF Certificate I or II and 'other' (non-AQF) courses than students in major cities (40.8%). Proportion of rural and remote students undertaking courses at AQF Diploma level and above (11.1%), less than in major cities (15.2%). 6.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are undertaking the higher level VET courses compared to 13.1% of all students.
Improved outcomes for equity groups	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship and traineeship completions rose to 60,969 in 2013, ahead of the 2016 target of 55,152 (10% increase from 2010). For students in regional and remote areas, apprenticeship and traineeship completions increased to 23,384 in 2013, ahead of projections towards the 2016 target of 21,507. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of young people (15-19 years) participating in post-school education, training and/or employment six months after school was 73.4% in 2013, with NSW unlikely to meet its target of 90% by 2020. For 17-24 year olds the participation rate was 73.8%. Apprenticeship and traineeship commencements declined by over 25% (to 73,444) in the 12 months to September 2013. Between September 2012 and September 2013, apprentices and trainees in training fell by 15% to 127,000. Completion rates are low at 44.0% for trade occupations and 53.2% for non-trade occupations.

For more information

The report is available on the CESE website at www.cese.nsw.gov.au

Further information about the report may be obtained through CESE at cese@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone on T 02 9561 1211