

Issued 2009

# POCKET GUIDE

## Highlights

- There were 1.7 million students enrolled in the public VET system in 2008.
- Around one in nine people aged 15 to 64 years participated in the publicly funded VET system in Australia in 2008.
- The number of apprentices and trainees in-training as at 31 December 2008 was 415 500.
- In May 2008, 89.1% of graduates were employed or in further study approximately six months after their training.
- Total operating expenditures in Australia's public VET system was \$6354.4 million in 2008.

Australian  
vocational education  
& training statistics



NCVER



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations

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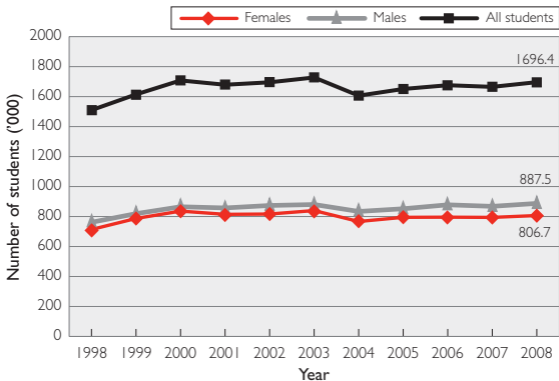
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This pocket guide presents statistics about:

- the public vocational education and training (VET) system, which includes activity undertaken at technical and further education (TAFE) institutes, other government providers and community education providers and publicly funded delivery by private providers
- apprentices and trainees, who are undertaking vocational training through a contract of training
- expenditures and revenues of Australia's public VET system
- outcomes of training
- employers' use and views of Australia's public VET system.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Number of students by sex, 1998–2008<sup>1,2,3</sup>



For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 1998–2008.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Student characteristics, 2007–08

Student characteristics	2007	2008		2007–08
	('000)	('000)	% of total students	% change
Male	868.0	887.5	52.3	2.3
Female	794.2	806.7	47.6	1.6
15–24 years	708.9	722.8	42.6	2.0
45 years & over	336.9	346.3	20.4	2.8
Students with a disability	102.1	99.3	5.9	-2.7
Indigenous	70.9	73.7	4.3	4.0
Non-English speaking background	228.5	245.0	14.4	7.2
Studying full-time <sup>3,4</sup>	198.2	212.5	12.5	7.2
Apprentices & trainees undertaking off-the-job training	333.7	355.7	21.0	6.6
Employed	901.0	954.4	56.3	5.9

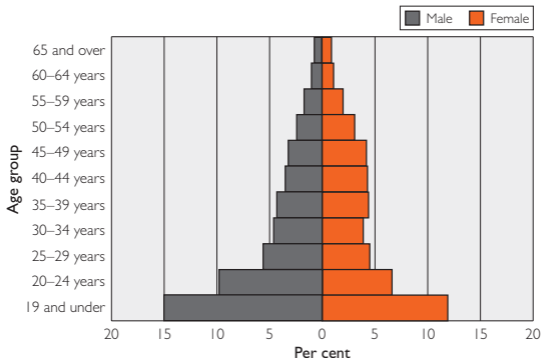
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2007–08.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Proportion of all students by age group and sex, 2008



For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2008.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

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## Participation rate<sup>4</sup> of persons aged 15 years and older, 2004–08 (%)

Age	2004	2005	2006 <sup>2</sup>	2007	2008
15–19 years	26.5	27.3	30.2	29.9	30.2
20–24 years	19.0	19.0	18.8	18.3	18.2
25–44 years	10.2	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.7
45–64 years	6.1	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.9
65 years & older	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>15 to 64 years</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>

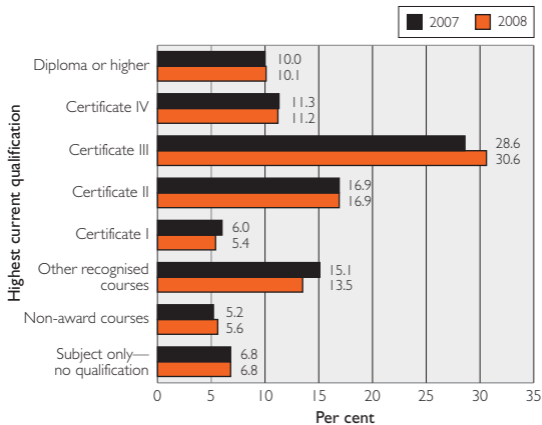
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2004–08; Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Population by age and sex, Australian states and territories, June 2008*, table 9, cat.no.3201.0.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Proportion of students by highest current qualification, 2007–08

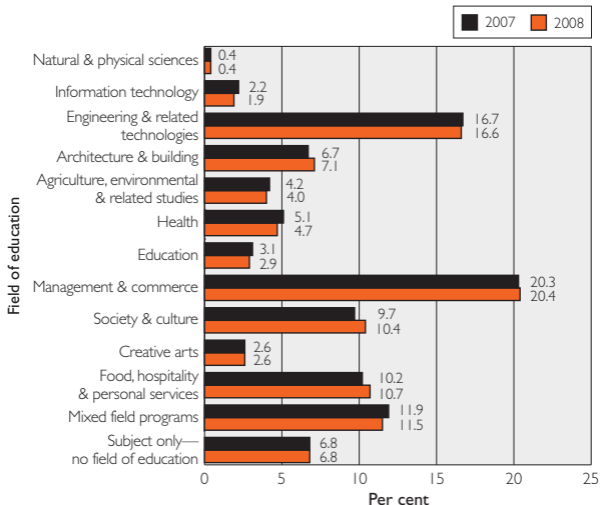


For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2007–08.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Proportion of students by field of education\*, 2007–08



\* Field of education of the highest qualification enrolled in during the year:

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2007–08.



# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Students by industry skills councils<sup>5</sup>, 2007–08

Industry skills council <sup>5</sup>	2007 ('000)	2008 ('000)	2007–08 % change
Agri-Food	82.4	77.7	-5.7
Community Services & Health	111.3	137.6	23.6
Construction & Property Services	72.2	84.1	16.5
Electrocomms & Energy Utilities	37.8	41.5	9.8
ForestWorks	4.1	5.0	22.0
Government	11.4	11.6	1.8
Innovation & Business	292.6	296.1	1.2
Manufacturing	77.7	80.7	3.9
Services	208.6	228.7	9.6
SkillsDMC	14.1	16.4	16.3
Transport & Logistics	33.5	35.9	7.2
<b>Training packages assigned to industry skills councils<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>945.7</b>	<b>1015.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Training packages not assigned to industry skills councils</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Total training packages<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>985.7</b>	<b>1055.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Total non-training packages</b>	<b>679.3</b>	<b>640.6</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
<b>Total students</b>	<b>1665.0</b>	<b>1696.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>

For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2007–08.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

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## Number of qualification completions,<sup>7,8</sup> 2006–07

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	2006 (’000)	2007 (’000)	2006–07 % change
<b>AQF qualifications<sup>9</sup></b>			
Diploma or higher	43.9	49.0	11.4
Certificate IV	51.0	59.2	16.2
Certificate III	112.1	121.3	8.2
Certificate II	64.9	78.3	20.7
Certificate I	21.5	27.2	26.5
<b>Total qualifications completed<sup>7,8</sup></b>	<b>293.4</b>	<b>335.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>
<b>Type of accreditation</b>			
Training package qualifications <sup>6</sup>	237.0	277.8	17.2
Nationally & locally accredited courses	56.4	57.2	1.5
<b>Total qualifications completed<sup>7,8</sup></b>	<b>293.4</b>	<b>335.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>

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For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2006–07.

# AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC VET SYSTEM

## Number of VET in Schools students and 15 to 19-year-old VET students, 2006–07

	2006		2007		2006–07
	('000)	%	('000)	%	% change
<b>VET in Schools</b>					
School-based apprentices & trainees <sup>10</sup>	12.9	7.5	15.0	8.6	15.8
Other VET In Schools Program students	158.7	92.5	159.8	91.4	0.7
<b>Total VET in Schools</b>	<b>171.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>174.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>VET<sup>11</sup> students aged 15 to 19 years</b>					
Apprentices & trainees undertaking off-the-job training	135.6	31.7	139.8	32.3	3.1
Not apprentices & trainees	292.2	68.3	293.4	67.7	0.9
<b>Total VET<sup>11</sup> students aged 15 to 19 years</b>	<b>427.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>433.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>

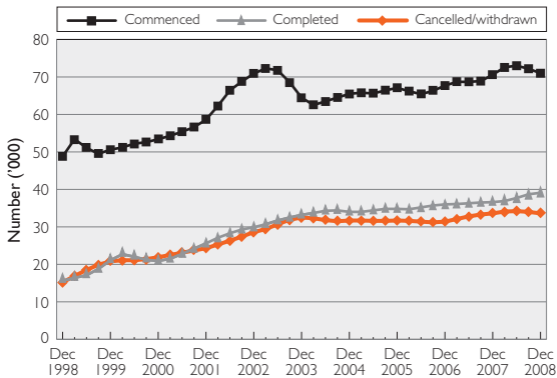
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2176.html>>; <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2164.html>>

Source: NCVER, MCEETYA VET in Schools Collection, 2006–07; NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2006–07.

## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

### Number of apprentices and trainees, seasonally adjusted<sup>12</sup>, 1998–2008



For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates.

## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

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### In-training by trade<sup>13</sup> occupations, as at 31 December, 2007–08

Occupation (ANZSCO) <sup>14</sup> group	2007 ('000)	2008 ('000)	2007–08 % change
Engineering, ICT & science technicians	3.9	4.7	20.2
Automotive & engineering	55.0	54.7	-0.7
Construction trades workers	52.7	53.3	1.1
Electro-technology & telecommunications trades workers	32.9	33.8	2.5
Food trades workers	19.3	19.4	0.4
Skilled animal & horticultural workers	6.7	7.4	10.7
Hairdressers	13.2	12.5	-5.0
Printing trades workers	1.7	1.6	-4.2
Textile clothing & footwear trades workers	0.4	0.3	-25.1
Wood trades workers	5.0	4.8	-4.6
<b>Total in-training<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>196.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>

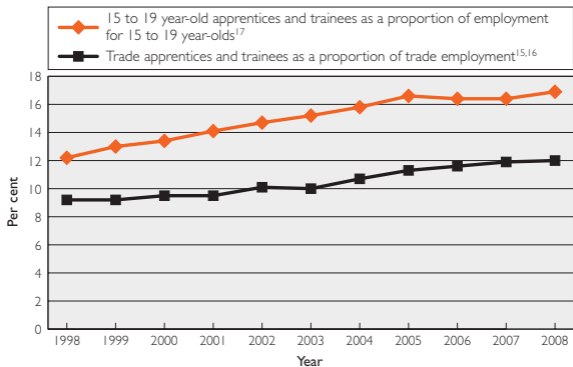
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates.

## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

### Proportion of trade apprentices and trainees by selected characteristics, 1998–2008 (%)



For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates; for employed persons: ABS, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, electronic delivery, March 2009, cat.no.6291.0.55.001; and ABS, *Labour force, Australia, detailed, quarterly*, February 2009, cat.no.6291.0.55.003.

## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

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### Apprentice and trainee contract completion rates<sup>18</sup> by occupation, 2002–03 commencing cohorts

Occupation (ANZSCO) <sup>14</sup> group	2002 commencing cohort		2003 commencing cohort	
	Contract completion rates (%)	Number of contracts ('000)	Contract completion rates (%)	Number of contracts ('000)
Managers	44.5	2.5	45.7	2.4
Professionals	53.6	1.6	55.7	1.3
Technicians & trades workers	45.6	72.5	44.2	78.4
Community & personal service workers	50.0	39.0	52.7	40.7
Clerical & administrative workers	54.0	50.4	55.5	59.4
Sales workers	41.2	52.6	41.1	50.9
Machinery operators & drivers	55.7	33.6	54.2	31.9
Labourers	48.3	32.7	46.3	34.8
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>284.7</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>299.8</b>

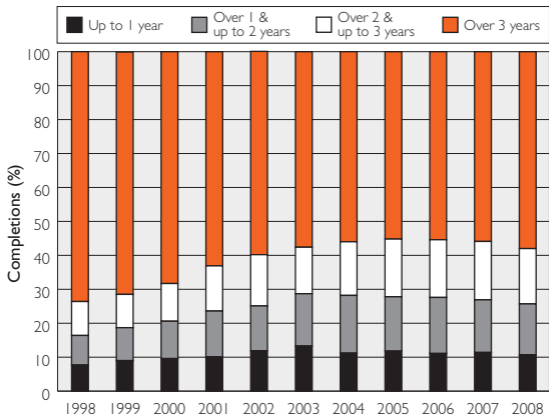
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates.

## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Trade<sup>13</sup> apprentice and trainee completions by duration of training, certificate III and above, 1998–2008



For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

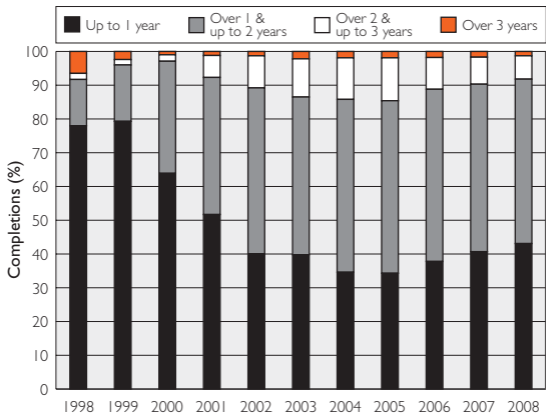
For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates.



## APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

### Non-trade<sup>19</sup> apprentice and trainee completions by duration of training, certificate III and above, 1998–2008



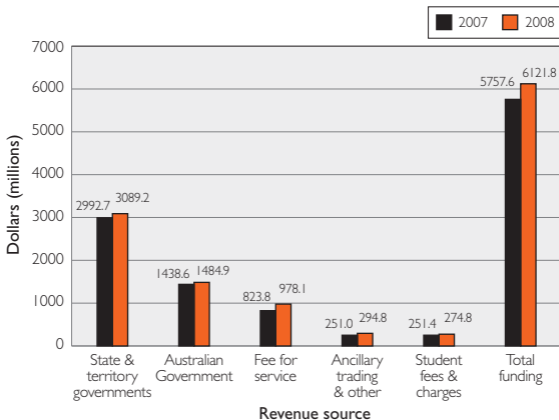
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2009 estimates.

## EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

### Operating revenues<sup>20</sup>, public VET system, 2007–08



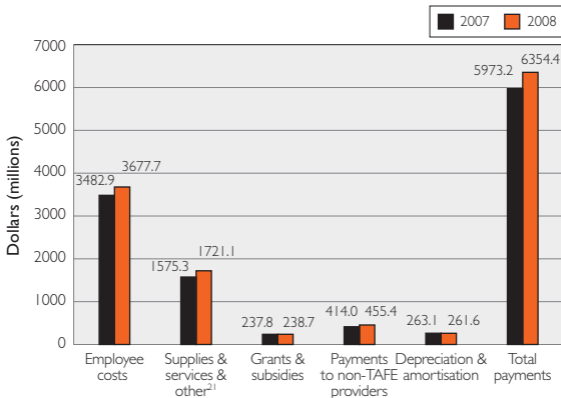
For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2181.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Financial Data Collection, 2007–08.

## EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

### Operating expenditures, public VET system, 2007–08



For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2181.html>>.

Source: NCVER, National VET Financial Data Collection, 2007–08.

# OUTCOMES OF TRAINING

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## Key outcome measures for graduates<sup>22</sup> and module completers<sup>23</sup>, 2008 (%)

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	Graduates	Module completers
<b>Further study outcomes<sup>24</sup></b>		
Enrolled in further study <sup>25</sup>	32.8	4.0
Studying at university	6.9	4.0
Studying at a TAFE institute	17.8	na
Studying at a private provider or other registered provider	7.8	na
<b>Employment outcomes</b>		
Employed	80.7	76.9
Not employed <sup>26</sup>	19.3	23.1
Unemployed	9.2	9.0
Not in the labour force	9.7	13.4
Not employed before commencing the training & employed after	12.5	8.3
<b>Employed or in further study after training<sup>24,25</sup></b>	<b>89.1</b>	<b>79.3</b>

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na = not applicable.

For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2083.html>>.

Source: NCVER Student Outcomes Survey, 2008.

## OUTCOMES OF TRAINING

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### Satisfaction measures for graduates<sup>22</sup> and module completers<sup>23</sup>, 2008 (%)

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Satisfaction	Graduates	Module completers
Students who were satisfied with the overall quality of their training	89.0	85.5
Students who achieved their main reason for doing the training	87.9	82.0
Of those employed after training, students who reported that their training was highly or somewhat relevant to their current job	75.5	61.6

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For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2083.html>>.

Source: NCVER Student Outcomes Survey, 2008.

## OUTCOMES OF TRAINING

### Employment outcomes of apprentices and trainees, 2008 (%)

After apprenticeship/ traineeship (at 26 September 2008)	Occupation of apprenticeship or traineeship					
	Completers			Non-completers		
	<i>In a trade occupation</i>	<i>In a non-trade occupation</i>	<i>All completers</i>	<i>In a trade occupation</i>	<i>In a non-trade occupation</i>	<i>All non- completers</i>
Employed	92.9	91.7	92.0	76.0	76.6	76.5
Full-time	85.7	62.9	68.4	60.4	49.4	53.3
Part-time	7.3	28.8	23.6	15.7	27.3	23.2
Not employed <sup>26</sup>	7.1	8.3	8.0	24.0	23.4	23.5
Unemployed	4.0	4.3	4.2	16.0	12.8	14.0
Not in labour force	3.0*	4.0	3.7	8.0	10.5	9.6
Employed in same occupation as apprenticeship or traineeship <sup>27</sup>	77.4	70.3	72.0	24.6	28.3	27.0
Employed with same employer as apprenticeship or traineeship	49.0	66.5	62.3	6.6	13.6	11.0

\* The estimate has a relative standard error greater than 25% and therefore should be used with caution.

For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2138.html>>.

Source: NCVER, Apprentice and Trainee Destinations, 2008

## EMPLOYERS' USE AND VIEWS

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### Employers' engagement and satisfaction with aspects of the VET system, 2005 and 2007 (%)

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	2005	2007
<b>Employers engaged with the VET system<sup>28</sup></b>		
Employers with apprentices/trainees	28.2	29.1
Employers providing nationally recognised training <sup>29</sup>	24.1	22.1
Employers with vocational qualifications as a job requirement	35.0	33.3
<b>Employers who are satisfied<sup>30</sup> with training as a way of meeting skill needs</b>		
Employers with apprentices/trainees	79.1	83.3
Employers providing nationally recognised training <sup>29</sup>	80.3	80.5
Employers with vocational qualifications as a job requirement	76.8	80.8

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For Notes on tables, see pages 24–7.

For further information, see <<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1944.html>>.

Source: NCVER Survey of Employer Use and Views of the VET System, 2005 and 2007.

## NOTES ON TABLES

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- 1 In 2004 there was a large decrease in VET activity in the New South Wales adult and community (ACE) sector due to problems with software compatibility associated with the introduction of new systems by many of their providers. There were significant improvements in the NSW ACE reporting system in 2005.
- 2 In 2006 New South Wales reported activity for workplace learning and the NSW Adult Migrant English Service (AMES) Skillmax Program for the first time.
- 3 Full-time and part-time study mode is based on hours of delivery, excluding hours associated with continuing enrolments.
- 4 Participation rates are derived by calculating student numbers in the age group as a percentage of the estimated residential population in the corresponding age groups. Population figures for all years are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Population by age and sex, Australian states and territories, June 2008*, cat.no.3201.0.
- 5 Industry skills councils represent particular industries and groups of training packages. For more information on how training packages are grouped by industry skills councils, go to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2166.html>.
- 6 These figures refer to students undertaking training packages. The coverage of training packages is constantly changing, as new training packages are developed and existing training packages reviewed, to meet emerging requirements across industries.
- 7 Data for qualifications completed in 2008 are based on preliminary data submissions. Consequently they are not presented in detail in this publication. Preliminary estimates indicate that there was a total of 314 300 qualifications completed in 2008 (compared with a preliminary



## NOTES ON TABLES

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- estimate of 281 200 qualifications completed in 2007). The 2008 data will be revised upwards in the 2009 National VET Provider Collection to accommodate further notification of qualifications completed.
- 8 Queensland has advised that there was an under-reporting of qualifications completions over the 2004–07 period. Figures in this publication have not been changed to reflect this. Queensland will provide NCVER with updated unit record data during 2009. They estimate the total number of qualifications completed were under-reported by 11 400 (2004), 15 600 (2005), 14 800 (2006) and 20 700 (2007). When these data are received, the details of qualifications completed will be updated in the National VET Provider Collection and future versions of this publication.
  - 9 For consistency of reporting, senior secondary education has been excluded from Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications.
  - 10 'School-based apprentices and trainees' include students who undertook at least one module/unit of competency in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship during the reporting period.
  - 11 'Public VET students aged 15–19 years' comprises all 15 to 19-year-old students enrolled at TAFE institutes (includes VET in Schools students undertaking their vocational component at TAFE), other government providers and community providers, as well as students enrolled in publicly funded VET delivered by private providers; that is, publicly funded VET students aged 15 to 19 years, as reported in the students and courses publication.
  - 12 The data presented in this figure have been seasonally adjusted using X-11-ARIMA methodology and then are 7-point Henderson smoothed.

## NOTES ON TABLES

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- 13 Trade occupations are defined as all major occupation group 3 – Technicians and trade workers (ANZSCO 1st edition). In previous publications, the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) was reported; therefore data in this publication will vary from data published previously.
- 14 ANZSCO is the ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (1st edition).
- 15 Trade employment refers to those persons aged 15 years or over employed in a 'Technicians and trades workers' occupation (ANZSCO 1st edition) group.
- 16 Training rates derived by calculating the number of trade apprentices (aged 15 years and over) in-training as at 31 December (NCVER data) as a percentage of employed persons (aged 15 years and over) as at November (ABS data). ABS does not produce monthly estimates of employment by occupation, with data available on a quarterly basis only (i.e. February, May, August and November).
- 17 The number of apprentices and trainees in-training are those aged 15 years and over.
- 18 Completion rates are derived for contracts of training for apprentices and trainees. If an individual commenced two or more contracts in the same year, each are counted separately. Completion rates do not take into account expired contracts.
- 19 Non-trade occupations are defined as all ANZSCO (1st edition) occupations with the exception of Technicians and trades workers; that is, major groups 1–2 and 4–8. In previous publications, the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) was reported; therefore, data in this publication will vary from data published previously.

## NOTES ON TABLES

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- 20 All figures use actual prices for the year.
- 21 Includes impairment losses, losses on sales of property, plant and equipment, borrowing costs and other operating expenses.
- 22 The term 'graduate' refers to students who are reported as having completed all requirements of a qualification and students who identify as having completed all requirements.
- 23 Module completers are students who have successfully completed part of a course (at least one module) without gaining a qualification.
- 24 These questions are not asked of students from community education providers. Therefore, the percentage reported represents the proportion of graduates, or module completers, respectively, excluding those from community education providers.
- 25 For module completers, the only further study included is university study since, by definition, module completers have left the VET system.
- 26 'Not employed' is defined as unemployed (looking for full-time or part-time work), not in the labour force, or not employed (no further information).
- 27 Matching between the occupation of the apprenticeship or traineeship and the occupation after training occurs at the ANZSCO sub-major group level.
- 28 Employers were asked about their use of VET and other forms of training in the 12 months preceding their interview.
- 29 Nationally recognised training is defined as training other than as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship. For the purposes of this survey, apprenticeships and traineeships are reported separately.
- 30 Satisfied as a way of meeting skills need; 'satisfied' was rated as either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'.

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ISBN: 978 1 921413 37 7 print version

978 1 921413 36 0 web version

TD/TNC: 97.06

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcomed and should be forwarded to NCVER.

Published by NCVER  
ABN 87 007 967 311

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