



Government-funded students and courses 2024: explanatory notes

National Centre for Vocational Education Research
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This document was produced as an added resource for the *Government-funded students and courses - January to September 2024* publication sourced from the National VET Provider Collection. The publication is available on NCVET's Portal: <https://www.ncver.edu.au>.

14 As a consequence of how the data are reported and the *provider reporting type* derivation (see Reporting Derivations), some training providers in South Australia (up to 2016)

Data quality and comparability issues

- 20 The COVID-19 pandemic, and states and territories' economic responses, may have impacted training data, particularly from March 2020 onwards. Any comparison with previous years should be made with caution.
- 21 Training products may be added to the national VET register that take effect from a previous year. Once these products are added to NCVER's classification and reference management system they will be rebased within NCVER's data as nationally recognised training products. This can impact how many subject enrolments, program enrolments, and students are considered in scope.
- 22 As from 2023 the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3 classification is based on the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. This classification has also been applied retrospectively to data from 2021 onwards so figures may differ from those published previously by statistical area, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), and/or Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). Earlier editions of the ASGS have been applied to data prior to 2021.
- 23 Occupations are classified using the 2022 release of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).
- 24 NCVER improved the method used to calculate program completions as of the 2020 publication, resulting in a slight increase in program completions compared with previously published data.
- 25 Some training providers do not report data for the first three quarters to training authorities, which affects the completeness of data provided to NCVER.

New South Wales

- 26 The increase in training activity for New South Wales in 2020 is due to the introduction of fee-free online short courses by TAFE NSW to people wanting to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of these fee-free short courses are locally developed skill sets.
- 27 NSW Private Providers reported locally developed skill sets for the first time in 2020. This training activity was previously reported as subject only enrolments.
- 28 Some training activity submitted by TAFE NSW between 2020 to 2023 may have been reported with an outcome of '70 - Continuing activity' instead of activity not started. Following changes to TAFE NSW processes, the number of subject enrolments with an outcome of '70 - Continuing activity' for NSW TAFE has been revised as reflected in *Government-funded students and courses January to March 2024*. Users of this information should be aware of this issue while conducting comparisons between years. Data on reporting hours and FYTEs are unaffected.

Victoria

- 29 The number of program completions over the years 2015 to 2022 was previously overstated and has now been rectified. As such, figures for Victoria may differ from those published previously.

Australian Capital Territory

- 30 ACT Private Providers have improved their collection and reporting of client demographics from 'not known' to known values. Observed data shifts range between 20 - 30 percentage points.

Not known' information observed.

f information was not collected

f a student has not responded to a question on the enrolment form

f invalid information was supplied.

32 Caution should be taken when using data which allow a 'not known' response.

33 For demonstrative purposes, the extent of 'not known' data, as submitted and before NCVER's counting student methodology has been applied, for selected student variables is illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Government -funded clients with 'not known' data, January to September 2020 to 2024 (%)

	Jan-Sept 2020	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2023	Jan-Sept 2024
Disability status	4.3	4.5	3.9	4.3	4.1
Gender	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Indigenous status	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.2
Labour force status	8.5	9.3	9.2	9.6	9.2
Previous highest education level	4.5	5.0	4.6	4.9	4.5
Prior education	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.0
School status	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8

34 NCVER's counting student methodology can impact the rates of 'not known' responses either positively or negatively. For comparison, the extent of 'not known' data once the counting student

38 *Credit transfer* identifies that a student has received training credit for a subject they have completed previously.

Table 3 Government -funded subject enrolments by credit transfer and state/territory, January to September 2020 to 2024 ('000)

Credit transfer subjects	Jan-Sept 2020	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2023	Jan-Sept 2024
New South Wales	188.6	118.5	184.5	197.4	178.5
Victoria	205.7	195.8	255.9	277.1	268.8
Queensland	266.7	314.6	322.3	364.9	309.1
South Australia	55.3	63.5	69.5	82.0	65.4
Western Australia	92.7	110.0	122.1	189.6	144.1
Tasmania	14.1	18.6	25.8	21.6	16.6
Northern Territory	12.3	13.5	11.1	12.8	12.9
Australian Capital Territory	13.4	15.7	35.5	21.5	15.6

39 *Superseded subject* identifies that training activity started in a subject but was not completed before the student was transferred to a superseding subject against which the end outcome will be recorded.

Table 4 Government -funded subject enrolments by superseded subject and state/territory, January to September 2020 to 2024 ('000)

Superseded subjects	Jan-Sept 2020	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2023	Jan-Sept 2024
New South Wales	0.1	0.0	12.9	5.5	1.1
Victoria	-	-	-	2.5	2.0
Queensland	0.0	0.5	6.9	1.9	2.5
South Australia	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Western Australia	0.0	0.4	3.5	1.7	0.7
Tasmania	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.5	0.4
Northern Territory	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

Note: A dash (-) represents a true zero.

40 *Not yet started* indicates that a student has been enrolled into a subject, but training activity or assessment has yet to commence. It is not mandatory to report subjects with this outcome to NCVET.

Table 5 Government -funded subject enrolments by 'not yet o-

Miscellaneous

41 In tables containing student remoteness, 'offshore' refers to the overseas postal addresses of students studying in Australia.