

# Victoria's Vocational Education & Training Statistics

A Pocket Guide  
2007 Edition

## Victorian VET System – Highlights

This publication provides a summary of key data relating to students, courses, qualifications, training providers, student outcomes and funding in Victoria's vocational education and training (VET) system.

In 2006:

- 496,979 students undertook
- 636,920 VET course enrolments, which consisted of
- 116,159,828 student contact hours across
- 3,709,223 module enrolments.

Compared with 2005, in 2006:

- The total number of students increased by 3% from 484,077 to 496,979
- The number of students aged 15 to 19 years increased by 4%
- Enrolments in national training packages increased by 6%
- Enrolments in AQF Certificate III qualifications increased by 4%
- Reported AQF course completions increased by 4%
- Total module enrolments increased by 4%
- Total hours of VET delivery increased by 4%
- The average number of hours studied by each student rose from 230 to 234.

Based on ABS population figures, about one in eight people in Victoria participated in the VET system, with participation rates as high as one in six in some regional areas.

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Students in the VET system comprised:

- 40% aged 24 or under, and 53% aged 25 to 64 years
- 53% male
- 1% indigenous
- 6% reporting a disability
- 16% speaking a language other than English at home.

About seven out of ten enrolments were in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications and nearly half of all VET enrolments were in AQF Certificate III qualifications or higher. From 2005 to 2006, the number of enrolments in AQF qualifications increased by 4% compared with a decline of 2% in enrolments for non-AQF qualifications.

Business Services was the most popular area of VET delivery, followed by Community Services and Health and Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) programs.

About three in four VET graduates surveyed by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) cited employment related reasons for undertaking training. Close to two-thirds of VET module completers also indicated employment related reasons as their main reason for undertaking training; about one-third also access VET for personal development.



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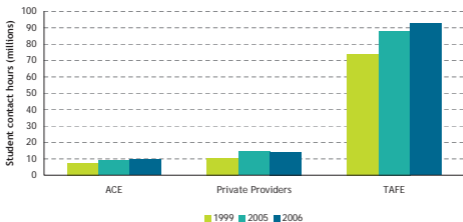
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There are over 1200 providers registered to deliver VET in Victoria. They are a mix of universities (dual sector), TAFE institutions, Adult Community Education (ACE) and private for-profit organisations. They derive their funding from both government and private sources.

In 2006, some 600 providers reported vocational education and training activity. These comprised 4 University TAFE divisions (generally included with TAFE institutions for analyses), 14 TAFE institutions, 362 ACE providers and 229 private providers.

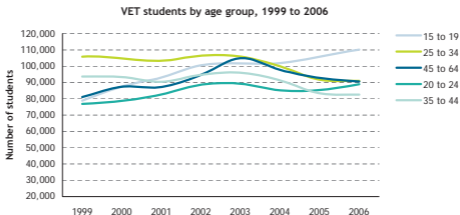
Reported VET delivery by Victoria's registered training providers,  
1999, 2005 and 2006



## VET Students

There has been a 3% increase in the overall number of VET students in Victoria between 2005 and 2006. This is partly due to increased training activity undertaken for the 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne in March 2006, as well as growth in the number of international students.

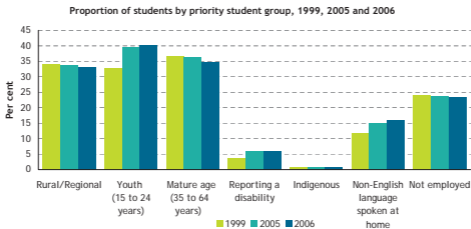
Since 1999, there has been a 28% increase in the number of young students (aged 15 to 24 years).



## Priority groups

Since 1999, the number of VET students from government priority groups increased in absolute terms.

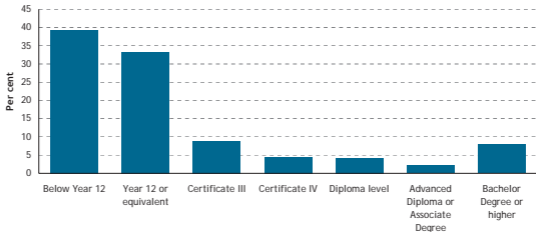
The number of students reporting a disability has grown by 73%, and students identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander have increased by 26% (although this is from a small base). Students speaking a language other than English at home have gone up by 42%.



## Prior attainment

Students in vocational education and training in Victoria have a wide range of education backgrounds. At one end of the spectrum, of those students declaring their prior educational attainment, some 40% come to VET with a level of education lower than Year 12. Conversely, about 15% already hold qualifications at Diploma level or above.

Proportion of VET students by highest level of prior education, 2006



## Participation

In 2006, the participation rate for people aged 15 to 64 years in the Victorian VET sector was about 12%. This participation rate varies across the metropolitan/regional divide, and across age groups.

About 3 in 10 Victorians aged 15 to 19 participate in VET, up from 23% in 1999. In regional Victoria, the VET participation rate is about 17% compared with 11% in metropolitan Melbourne. The participation rate progressively diminishes with age to be 7% among those aged 45 to 64 years. Between 2005 and 2006, participation rates decreased marginally across all age groups.

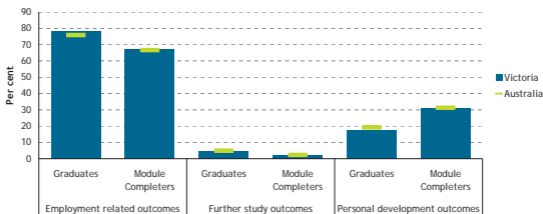
### Victorian VET participation rates by age group, 1999 to 2006

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Age Group	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
15 to 19	23	25	26	28	29	29	30	29
20 to 24	22	22	23	24	23	22	21	21
25 to 34	14	13	13	13	13	13	12	12
35 to 44	12	12	11	12	12	11	10	10
45 to 64	7	8	7	8	8	8	7	7
<b>Total (15 to 64 years)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>

## Reason for undertaking training

Students largely access vocational education and training for employment related reasons. The 2006 NCVER student outcomes survey found that about 80% of VET graduates undertook VET for employment related reasons. This was true for about two-thirds of VET module completers, while close to one-third undertook VET for personal development reasons.

Reasons for undertaking training, VET graduates and module completers, Victoria vs Australia, 2006



Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey 2006.  
Published by NCVER

# Apprentices and Trainees

NCVER estimates indicate that Victoria had 107,000 apprentices and trainees in training and 44,000 completions at 31 December 2006. This represents more than a quarter of apprentices and trainees in training and about a third of completions across Australia.

In-training estimates as at 31 December 2006,  
Victoria vs Australia

	Victoria	Australia
	%	%
<b>Age (at December 2006)</b>		
19 years and under	28.1	31.4
20 to 24 years	29.8	28.0
25 to 44 years	29.4	28.6
45 years and over	12.6	12.0
<b>Sex</b>		
Males	65.5	66.7
Females	34.5	33.3
<b>Occupation (ASCO) group</b>		
Managers, administrators and professionals	0.9	1.8
Associate professionals	5.9	7.5
Trades and related workers	43.4	45.6
Advanced clerical and service workers	1.9	1.8
Intermed. clerical, sales and service workers	27.9	22.4
Intermed. production and transport workers	12.7	9.7
Element. clerical, sales and service workers	2.4	5.0
Labourers and related workers	4.9	6.1
<b>Qualification level</b>		
AQF level I or II	7.3	10.5
AQF level III	82.6	77.7
AQF level IV	9.2	11.4
AQF Diploma/Advanced Diploma	0.8	0.4
<b>Traditional apprenticeships</b>		
"Traditional apprenticeships" proxy	38.5	40.1
Other	61.5	59.9
<b>Expected duration of training</b>		
Two years and less	27.9	39.6
More than two years	72.1	60.4
<b>Full-time status</b>		
Full-time	73.1	79.6
Part-time	26.9	20.4
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total number ('000)</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>397.4</b>

Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Apprentices and trainees - December quarter 2006, Summary.  
Published by NCVER

## International Students in VET

Over 23,600 international students from 126 countries studied VET in Victoria in 2006. One-third were enrolled in TAFE institutions and two-thirds in private colleges.

VET is becoming increasingly popular for overseas students, with enrolments nearly doubling in the last five years. There was a notable increase in international enrolments in VET in 2006, especially in private colleges.

### International enrolments in VET Victoria, 2002 to 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005 to 2006
Provider Type	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% growth</i>
TAFE	6,969	6,351	5,988	6,868	8,195	19
Private colleges	5,983	6,587	7,398	9,705	15,449	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,952</b>	<b>12,938</b>	<b>13,386</b>	<b>16,573</b>	<b>23,644</b>	<b>43</b>

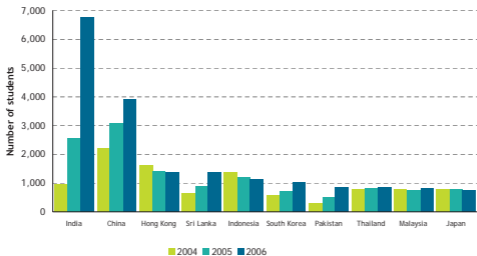
Over half of overseas students were enrolled in Diploma programs, 28% were pursuing Advanced Diplomas, and 13% undertook Certificate programs.

### International enrolments in VET Victoria by qualification level, 2006

Level of Study	number	%
Advanced diploma	6,626	28
Diploma	13,854	59
Graduate certificate	27	0
Certificate level I-IV	3,137	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,644</b>	<b>100</b>

Students from 126 countries studied VET in 2006. Nearly three in ten students came from India while 17% were from China. Many of the recent enrolments are from the countries of South Asia such as India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

**International students in VET, Victoria, main nationalities, 2004 to 2006,**



Source: Australian Education International, Statistics December 2006  
Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

In addition, Victorian institutions are active in the delivery of VET programs offshore. In 2005, Victorian institutions provided VET programs to 18,450 students in their home countries, mainly in China. Offshore delivery increased by 43% between 2004 and 2005, reflecting the increased demand for VET programs in countries of origin.

Source: Delivery of VET offshore by public providers, 2005  
Published by the Department of Education, Science and Training

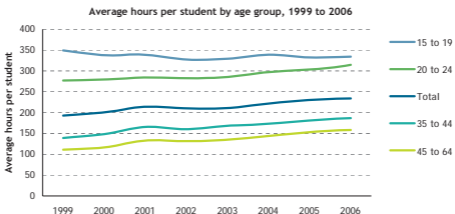
## Training Activity

In 2006:

- 496,979 students undertook
- 636,920 VET course enrolments which consisted of
- 116,159,828 student contact hours across
- 3,709,223 module enrolments.

About one-third of VET students enrol in one module only, with more than half enrolling in fewer than four modules. About 10% of students are enrolled in more than 14 modules.

The overall study duration undertaken by students has increased from an average of 193 hours in 1999 to 234 in 2006.



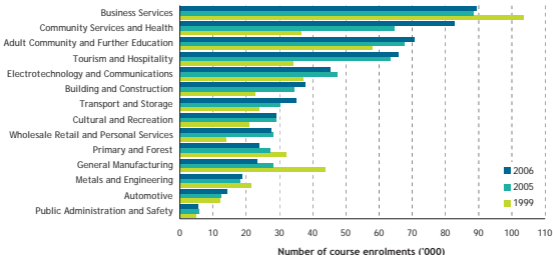
# Courses and Qualifications

## Industry

Business Services, Community Services and Health are the industries attracting most VET students. In combination with ACFE programs, they account for nearly 40% of course enrolments.

The Automotive, Public Administration and Safety and Metals and Engineering industries attracted the fewest students, accounting for only 6% of all enrolments

**VET course enrolments by industry group, 1999, 2005 and 2006**



## Course qualification level

There has been a growing trend over the last seven years for students to enrol in qualifications recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework. In 1999, only about 57% of enrolments were in AQF courses, whereas by 2006, this proportion had risen to about 70%.

### VET course enrolments by qualification level, 1999, 2005 and 2006

	1999	2005	2006	2006	1999 to 2006	2005 to 2006
AQF Course Enrolments	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>% change</i>
Diploma or higher	70,999	71,824	72,717	11	2	1
Certificate IV	63,287	64,793	65,300	10	3	1
Certificate III	89,630	153,190	159,815	25	78	4
Certificate II	94,751	101,421	109,369	17	15	8
Certificate I	33,776	41,114	41,782	7	24	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>352,443</b>	<b>432,342</b>	<b>448,983</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Non AQF Course Enrolments</b>						
Senior secondary education	4,312	6,947	7,186	1	58	3
Other education - non-award courses	130,542	108,188	117,047	18	-10	8
Subject only - no qualification	130,637	76,776	63,704	10	-51	-17
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,491</b>	<b>191,911</b>	<b>187,937</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Total course enrolments</b>	<b>617,934</b>	<b>624,253</b>	<b>636,920</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

## Course completions

While the number of course completions has remained stable since the last reporting period, there has been a significant shift from completions in non AQF courses to completions in AQF courses. The increase has been particularly noticeable in some higher level courses, which are a priority area of policy.

### VET course completions by qualification level, 1999, 2005 and 2006

	1999	2005	2006	2006	1999 to 2006	2005 to 2006
<b>AQF course completions</b>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>% change</i>
<b>Diploma or higher</b>	7,000	15,347	16,303	17	133	6
<b>Certificate IV</b>	6,020	17,526	15,130	16	151	-14
<b>Certificate III</b>	9,668	32,243	36,141	37	274	12
<b>Certificate II</b>	13,219	17,232	18,408	19	39	7
<b>Certificate I</b>	3,044	4,212	4,123	4	35	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,951</b>	<b>86,560</b>	<b>90,105</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Non AQF course completions</b>						
<b>Senior secondary education</b>	0	73	40	0	0	-45
<b>Non award courses</b>	5,285	10,010	6,760	7	28	-32
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-33</b>
<b>Total course completions</b>	<b>44,236</b>	<b>96,643</b>	<b>96,905</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>

## VET course completions by industry group, 1999, 2005 and 2006

	1999	2005	2006	1999 to 2006	2005 to 2006
	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>% change</i>
Adult Community and Further Education	3,460	7,046	6,244	80	-11
Automotive	1,216	2,182	2,931	141	34
Building and Construction	1,852	3,895	4,585	148	18
Business Services	11,548	24,476	23,027	99	-6
Community Services and Health	5,824	16,204	16,841	189	4
Cultural and Recreation	1,712	6,028	5,476	220	-9
Electrotechnology and Communications	2,563	7,107	6,465	152	-9
General Manufacturing	4,023	5,191	4,946	23	-5
Metals and Engineering	1,334	2,197	2,611	96	19
Primary and Forest	2,720	3,183	3,251	20	2
Public Administration and Safety	72	628	568	689	-10
Tourism and Hospitality	4,220	8,902	9,061	115	2
Transport and Storage	1,702	2,797	2,906	71	4
Wholesale Retail and Personal Services	1,711	6,768	7,661	348	13
<b>Total course completions</b>	<b>44,236</b>	<b>96,643</b>	<b>96,905</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>

## Student Outcomes: VET graduates and module completers

According to the NCVET's most recent student outcomes survey (2006), close to 90% of Victorian VET graduates and module completers indicated they were satisfied with their training, while more than four in five indicated they had achieved their main reason for training. These outcomes are comparable to national figures.

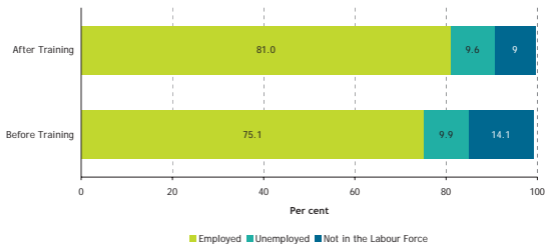
Outcomes for Victorians participating in VET were also good. About 9 out of 10 graduates were either in employment or in further study after training, which is comparable to national figures.

### Student outcomes, graduates and module completers, Victoria vs Australia, 2006

	Graduates		Module Completers	
	Victoria	Australia	Victoria	Australia
	%	%	%	%
Employed after training	81	80	75	75
Employed in first full time job	17	17	15	15
Employed or in further study after training	89	88	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in further study	29	30	N/A	N/A
Achieved main reason for training	86	87	83	82
Satisfied with overall quality of training	88	88	87	85

Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey 2006  
Published by NCVET

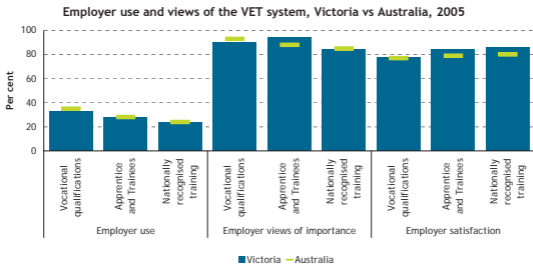
Labour force status of TAFE graduates before and after training, 2006



Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey 2006  
Published by NCVET

Victorian employers are generally satisfied with the way the VET system helps them to meet their skills needs, as reported by an NCVET survey on employer use and views of the VET system.

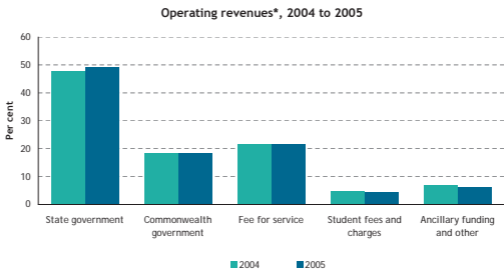
- 96% of Victorian employers surveyed consider the current skill level of their employees as adequate or above. These figures are comparable nationally.
- 78% of employers with jobs requiring vocational qualifications were satisfied.
- 84% of employers with apprentices and trainees were satisfied.
- 86% of employers using other nationally recognised training (not as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship) were satisfied.



Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Employers use and views of the VET system 2005  
Published by NCVET

## Finance

The State government continues to provide about half of the funding for the VET sector in Victoria. The increase in State government funding is for delivery of innovative VET programs such as Specialist Centres across a range of industries and technologies, extension to Youth Pathways Program hours, retraining mature aged workers, and additional building maintenance.



\*Publicly funded Vocational Education and Training

Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: Financial information 2005  
Published by NCVET

Information included in this publication, unless stated otherwise, is derived from the Student Statistical Data Collection, which is compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS).

In addition, the following publications have been used in the preparation of this document:

- Commonwealth of Australia, Australian Education International, Statistics December 2006
- Department of Education, Science and Training, Delivery of VET offshore by public providers, 2005
- National Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Apprentices and trainees – December quarter 2006, Summary
- National Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Employers' use and views of the VET system 2005
- National Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Financial information 2005
- National Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey 2006

This is one of a series of analyses of the student market for VET produced by the Office of Training and Tertiary Education. For further information please contact the Performance Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Office of Training and Tertiary Education on (03) 9637 2715 or [john.spasevski@diird.vic.gov.au](mailto:john.spasevski@diird.vic.gov.au).

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