

National Partnership
Agreement on
Youth Attainment and
Transitions

Participation – 2010
Performance Report

*Steering Committee
for the Review of
Government
Service Provision*

August 2011

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**Steering Committee for the
Review of Government
Service Provision**

Mr Paul McClintock AO
Chairman
COAG Reform Council
Level 24, 6 O'Connell Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr McClintock

In accordance with the request from the COAG Reform Council, I am pleased to submit to you the Steering Committee's report for the participation target of the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in the COAG Reform Council's Matrix of performance information: National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions, June 2011.

This report was produced with the assistance of Australian, State and Territory Government education departments. The Steering Committee would like to record its appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the development of this report..

Yours sincerely



Gary Banks AO
Chairman

31 August 2011

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This Report

The Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision was requested by the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to collate information relevant to the performance benchmarks associated with reward payments in the *National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions*.

The CRC requested the Steering Committee to provide information in accordance with the CRC's *Matrix of performance information: National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions*, June 2011.

To facilitate the CRC's work, this report contains the following information:

- background and roles and responsibilities of various parties in National Partnership Agreement performance reporting
- performance reporting requirements for the *National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions*
- indicator specification and summaries of data quality
- performance data.

The original data quality statements submitted by the data providers are also included in this report.

Steering Committee

This Report was produced under the direction of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP). The Steering Committee comprises the following current members:

Mr Gary Banks AO	Chairman	Productivity Commission
Mr Ron Perry	Aust. Govt.	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
Mr Peter Robinson	Aust. Govt.	Department of the Treasury
Mr David de Carvalho	Aust. Govt.	Department of Finance and Deregulation
Dr Meg Montgomery	NSW	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Kevin Cosgriff	NSW	Department of Treasury
Mr Simon Kent	Vic	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Tony Bates	Vic	Department of Treasury and Finance
Ms Amanda Scanlon	Qld	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Ms Janelle Thurlby	Qld	Department of Treasury
Mr Warren Hill	WA	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr David Christmas	WA	Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Chris McGowan	SA	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr David Reynolds	SA	Department of Treasury and Finance
Ms Rebekah Burton	Tas	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Ms Pam Davoren	ACT	Chief Minister's Department
Ms Jenny Coccetti	NT	Department of the Chief Minister
Mr Tony Stubbin	NT	NT Treasury
Mr Trevor Sutton		Australian Bureau of Statistics
Mr David Kalisch		Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

People who also served on the Steering Committee during the production of this Report include:

Dr Liz Develin	NSW	Department of Premier and Cabinet
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National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions: 2010 participation target

About this report

Background to National Partnership reporting

In November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed a new Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA) (COAG 2009a). The Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations (MCFFR) has general oversight of the operations of the IGA (COAG 2009b, para. A4(a)).

The IGA established a new form of payment — National Partnership (NP) payments — to fund specific projects and to facilitate and/or reward state and territories that deliver on nationally significant reforms.

The IGA specifies that the Commonwealth can provide the following NP payments:

- project payments to the States and Territories to deliver specific projects where they support national objectives
- facilitation payments in advance of the implementation of reform, in recognition of the costs of undertaking the reform
- incentives payments to provide a reward to jurisdictions that deliver agreed reform progress or continuous improvement (COAG 2009b, para. E19(a)–(c)).

The agreements underpinning each NP incentive payment set out the milestones and performance benchmarks that must be achieved for each jurisdiction to be eligible for an incentive payment (COAG 2009b, para. C20).

The IGA also included six National Agreements (NAs), which contain the objectives and outcomes for each sector, and clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in the delivery of services. Five of the NAs are associated with a national Specific Purpose

Payment (SPP) that can provide funding to the states and territories for the sector covered by the NA.

National Partnership reporting roles and responsibilities

Role of the COAG Reform Council

The IGA (COAG 2009b) states that:

The [CRC] will be the independent assessor of whether pre-determined milestones and performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally significant reforms or service delivery improvements under a National Partnership reward payment is made. [para. C19]

In order to assist the CRC discharge this function, the IGA provides that ‘the CRC may draw on existing subject experts or commission technical experts when an assessment of performance is required’. [para. C21]

The IGA also provides for a one month period of consultation with parties to the NP before the CRC makes its assessment on the incentive payments. [para. C22]

Role of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has three areas of potential involvement with NP reporting:

- as part of its NA role, providing information on NPs to the CRC to the extent that they support the objectives in NAs (COAG 2009b, para C5(c))
- as a result of direct reference to the Steering Committee in a NP or federal financial relations documents
- to support the CRC in its role assessing and reporting on NPs with reward funding (COAG 2009b, para C19).

In April 2010, the CRC requested the Steering Committee to collate the performance information for the *National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions* (COAG 2009c).

The National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions

The objectives of the *National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions* (NP YAT) are to:

- work towards achieving improvements in high level outcomes for schooling agreed by COAG in the National Education Agreement and in the 2008 National Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians
- work towards increasing the qualifications and skill level of the Australian population as agreed by COAG in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development
- achieve improvement in the numbers of young Australians making successful transitions from schooling into further education, training or employment
- work collaboratively with the non-government school, training, business and community sectors to improve the support provided to young Australians to increase educational outcomes, attainment and improve transitions to further education, training or employment, with particular focus on 15 to 24 year olds and young people at risk
- develop a highly skilled and work ready Indigenous workforce by increasing the educational attainment and engagement of young Indigenous Australians (COAG 2009c, para 15).

The NP YAT is intended to contribute to the following outcomes:

- increased participation of young people in education and training
- young people make a successful transition from school to further education, training or full time employment
- increased attainment of young people aged 15–24, including Indigenous youth (COAG 2009c, para 16).

Performance reporting

Under the NP YAT, the CRC is required to prepare assessment reports for the following performance benchmarks:

- enrolment of full time equivalent students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher [*participation target*]
- the proportion of young people in the 20–24 year old age group who have attained year 12 or a Certificate II or above [*attainment target*] (COAG 2009c, para 61).

The CRC has prepared a set of documents that establish NP processes and scope.

- A Matrix of Performance Information (performance matrix) is prepared for each NP, setting out the CRC’s overview of the NP, relevant elements of the assessment and reporting framework, and the measures of improvement and performance benchmarks (CRC unpublished (a)).
- The National Partnerships with Reward Funding: Assessment Framework (assessment framework) sets out process and timeframes for all reward NPs (CRC unpublished (b)).

Reporting timetable

The timetable for the NP YAT in the assessment framework (prepared in December 2010) has been superseded by the timetable included in the performance matrix (prepared in June 2011).

The timeframes set out the June 2011 version of the CRC’s performance matrix are outlined in table 1.

Table 1 Reporting timeframe for the NP YAT

<i>Data available</i>	<i>Steering Committee to provide to CRC</i>	<i>CRC to report to COAG</i>
	Participation target: assessment report	
March and July 2011	31 August 2011	30 November 2011
	Attainment target: 1 st progress report	
December 2011	31 January 2012	30 April 2012
	Attainment target: 2 nd progress report	
December 2012	31 January 2013	30 April 2013
	Attainment target: assessment report	
December 2013	31 January 2014	30 April 2014

Source: CRC unpublished (a), *Matrix of performance information: National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions*, June 2011.

Data for this report are in respect of the participation target (for the CRC’s assessment report).

This report also contains comments by the Steering Committee on the quality of reported data, based on data quality statements completed by the data provider. The original data quality statements are also attached.

Performance target — enrolment of full time equivalent students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher

Performance target: Enrolment of full time equivalent students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher

Measure: Enrolment of full time equivalent students in years 11 and 12, and 15-19 year olds without a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II level or above and not enrolled in school who are enrolled full time or part time in a VET course at AQF Certificate II level or above

The measure is defined as the number of enrolments covering:

- (schools) Year 11 and year 12 students, including full time and part time students (*converted to FTE*) **PLUS**
 - (VET) 15 to 19 year olds in VET courses at AQF Certificate II level or higher, excluding those still at school and those who have already completed year 12 or a AQF Certificate II level or higher qualification (includes full time and part time students, *though not converted to FTE*)
- and is expressed as a *number*

Schools: excludes ungraded students

VET: excludes those persons that were enrolled in VET and studying year 11 or year 12

VET: only includes those who stated that they were not in school and that they did not hold a year 12 or Certificate II level or above (ie, the 'not stated' group were excluded from the counts)

The hierarchy of qualification applied to the VET data is:

- Bachelor degree/Higher degree level
 - Advanced diploma/Associate degree
 - Diploma
 - Certificate IV
 - Certificate III
 - Certificate II
 - Year 12
- (qualifications above are deemed to be year 12/AQF Cert II level or above)
- Year 11
 - Year 10
 - Certificate I
 - Miscellaneous education
 - Year 9
 - Year 8
 - Did not go to school

Data sources:	National Schools Statistics Collection (ABS); National VET provider collection (NCVER)
Data providers:	ABS and NCVER
Baseline	2008
Data reference period:	2010
Cross tabulations:	State and Territory (2010 and 2008 data also provided as revised target and baseline)

Table 2 Results for performance target: Number of enrolments of full time students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate or equivalent and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher, 2010 (number)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
School enrolments ^a	139 969	117 514	103 454	51 359	38 887	11 157	9 337	3 824	475 500
VET enrolments	33 484	30 677	18 045	12 956	5 171	4 492	830	1 226	106 881
Total	173 453	148 191	121 499	64 315	44 058	15 649	10 167	5 050	582 381

^a The numbers for school enrolments do not add exactly to the national total. This is due to rounding.

Source: ABS (unpublished) National Schools Statistics Collection; NCVER (unpublished) National VET provider collection; table A.1.

Box 1 Comment on data quality

The DQSs for this indicator have been prepared by ABS and NCVET and are included in their original form in the section in this report titled 'Data Quality Statements'. Key points from the DQSs are summarised below.

- The data provide relevant information on the number of enrolments of full time equivalent students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate (or equivalent or above) not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or above (but not year 12).
- Data were available in the CRC's reporting timeframe.
- Students whose previous highest education level, or current school attendance is unknown or not stated, are not included, in order to match the scope of the targets in the NP (see NCVET DQS for data on proportions of unknown/not stated responses by jurisdiction).

The Steering Committee notes the following issues:

- Two sets of data were provided to the Steering Committee: a count of school enrolments (NSSC data) and a count of VET enrolments (AVETMISS data). These data are aggregated to provide a single count for each State and Territory.
- The target (and baseline) in the NP were set using preliminary 2008 AVETMISS data. As specified in the NP, the target (and baseline) has been revised to reflect final 2008 AVETMISS data (see 'Advice on the 2010 participation target' and table A.2).
- Some school enrolments (NSSC) data for 2008 have also been revised since the NP was signed by COAG. (Minor revisions may occur from year to year where providers resupply data post ABS publication of NSSC data.) The NP does not provide scope to revise the target (or baseline) for these revisions, but the Steering Committee has included a table setting out the difference between the original and revised 2008 schools data (see table A.3).
- Data for students completing year 11 or year 12 in a VET setting are excluded in order to match the scope of data endorsed by COAG in the NP. The NP explicitly states that performance data are to be sourced from the NSSC and AVETMISS collections. In 2010, the AVETMISS collection included data on students completing year 11 or year 12 in a VET setting only for NSW and Queensland (52 students and 60 students respectively).

Advice on the 2010 participation target

The CRC requested the Steering Committee to advise on the participation target against which the performance data should be assessed, as there was some ambiguity in the wording of the NP.

The *targets* for the measure are set out in table 8 in the NP YAT. A note to this table states that “The 2008 data will be adjusted for all jurisdictions once final 2008 [AVETMISS] data is available”.

This footnote is unclear. It could refer to:

- adjusting the 2008 baseline (even though the baseline data do not appear in the table)
- adjusting the 2010 target (as 2008 data impliedly form part of the calculation of the target described in para 85 of the NP: “The 2010 total student targets have been derived by ...(ii) incorporating VET enrolments (which are assumed to remain at 2007 levels)...”).

The Steering Committee recommends amending the 2010 target (in addition to the 2008 baseline) as the preponderance of evidence from the associated implementation plans for this NP suggests that the original intent of the NP was to revise both the baseline and target.

Discussion with NCVET identified an error in the final 2008 AVETMISS data which was used to recalculate the baseline and targets. The error related to the classification of previously completed qualifications. The size of this error means that some jurisdictions are pursuing targets set on baselines that are significantly different to the actual baselines.

The Steering Committee considers that in order to achieve the intent of the NP YAT, the baseline and targets should be recalculated based on the final corrected 2008 AVETMISS data. These data were recalculated by DEEWR, at the request of the Steering Committee, and are provided at table A.2.

Table A.1 **Number of enrolments of students in years 11 and 12, and 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher, 2010 (number)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Number of 15 to 19 year olds enrolled in VET courses at AQF Certificate II level or higher (a), (b), (c), (d)	33 484	30 677	18 045	12 956	5 171	4 492	830	1 226	106 881
Full-time equivalent (FTE) students enrolled in year 11 and year 12 (e), (f), (g)	139 969	117 514	103 454	51 359	38 887	11 157	9 337	3 824	475 500
Total	173 453	148 191	121 499	64 315	44 058	15 649	10 167	5 050	582 381

(a) Includes students enrolled full time and part time (totals though, not FTE).

(b) Excludes those persons still at school and those who have already completed year 12 or a AQF Certificate II level or higher qualification.

(c) Excludes those persons that were enrolled in VET and studying year 11 or year 12.

(d) Only includes those persons who stated that they were not in school and that they did not hold a year 12 or Certificate II level or above (ie, the 'not stated' group were excluded from the counts).

(e) The numbers for school enrolments do not add exactly to the national total. This is due to rounding.

(f) Includes FTE for students enrolled full time and part time.

(g) Excludes ungraded students.

Source: NCVER (unpublished) National VET Provider Collection 2010; ABS (unpublished) National Schools Statistics Collection 2010.

Table A.2 Revised baseline and targets incorporating final correct 2008 AVETMISS data (a)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
2008									
VET enrolments	31 308	26 905	17 615	12 762	5 991	3 870	1 066	1 150	100 667
School enrolments	133 549	113 858	96 348	47 599	36 146	10 198	9 081	3 956	450 734
Total (baseline)	164 857	140 763	113 963	60 361	42 137	14 068	10 147	5 106	551 401
2010									
VET enrolments	31 992	27 493	18 000	13 041	6 122	3 955	1 089	1 175	102 865
School enrolments	141 719	121 637	103 680	51 798	38 003	10 737	9 274	4 184	481 032
Total (target)	173 711	149 130	121 680	64 838	44 124	14 692	10 363	5 359	583 897

(a) The methodology for calculating these targets is unchanged from what was originally agreed by jurisdictions under the National Partnership. The updated targets take into account only the revised 2008 AVETMISS data. Importantly, the same inclusions and exclusions of young people apply to the recalculated targets in line with what was previously agreed as outlined in the indicator specification.

Source: DEEWR derived from NCVET (unpublished) National VET Provider Collection 2010 and ABS (unpublished) National Schools Statistics Collection 2010.

Table A.3 **Number of enrolments of students in years 11 and 12, original and revised, 2008 (number) (a)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Original 2008 data in NP (b)	133 549	113 858	96 348	47 599	36 146	10 198	9 081	3 956	450 734
Revised 2008 data (c)	133 710	113 810	96 324	47 758	36 155	10 302	9 081	3 925	451 064
Change from original to revised	161	-48	-24	159	9	104	-	-32	330

(a) Includes FTE for students enrolled part time.

(b) 2008 NSSC data incorporated in baselines and targets included in NP in December 2009.

(c) 2008 data extracted from the NSSC in August 2011.

Source: ABS (unpublished) National Schools Statistics Collection.

Data Quality Statements

This section includes the DQSs for the NP YAT performance benchmark as provided by the data providers. The Steering Committee has not made any amendments to the content of these DQSs.

Table 3 Data quality statements

<i>Performance benchmark</i>	<i>Page no. in this report</i>
ABS data quality statement (school enrolments)	13
NCVER data quality statement (VET enrolments)	15

Data quality statement — NSSC data (ABS)

Performance benchmark	Enrolment of full-time equivalent students in years 11 and 12.
Measure (computation)	<p>The full-time equivalent (FTE) value of students enrolled and active in schools. FTE values are calculated by the enrolling systems and provided to the ABS using decimal notation rounded to one decimal place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The FTE value of a full-time student is 1.0.• The FTE value of a part-time student is expressed as a proportion of the workload usually undertaken by a full-time student in that Grade.
Data source/s	<p>The National School Statistics Collection collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and disseminated through <i>Schools, Australia, 2010</i>, 'NSSC Table 43a: Full-time equivalent students 1996-2010' data cube: Excel spreadsheet, cat. no. 4221.0, viewed 29 July 2011, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4221.02010?OpenDocument>.</p>
Institutional environment	<p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS which cover this collection, please see ABS Institutional Environment <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/10ca14cb967e5b83ca2573ae00197b65!OpenDocument>.</p>
Relevance	<p>The data supplied matches the scope and definitions specified through the Notes, Instructions and Tabulations (NIT) document available on request from the ABS. Comparable statistics are provided for each of the states and territories and nationally.</p> <p>NSSC student data includes students undertaking alternative pathways where this is in conjunction with NSSC in-scope schooling. The alternative pathways are included as part of the student's workload and this includes students undertaking Vocational Education and Training in Schools.</p>
Timeliness	<p>The NSSC is an annual collection as at the first Friday in August of each year and provided to the ABS during November of the same year. Student FTE data is made available between January and March the following year.</p>
Accuracy	<p>The NSSC is an administrative by-product data collection from data collected from enrolment forms. 2010 data forwarded to the ABS represents student counts. The ability to manage multiple records of enrolment may vary among systems administering enrolment data which may result in over-reporting of students by some systems. Where administration duplicates can be identified they should be removed by the administering systems during data validation processes conducted prior to providing the NSSC data to the ABS (or the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for non-government schools who then provides this data to the ABS for the non-government contribution). Although the extent of potential over-reporting can not be quantified, the understanding of the extent that students might be legitimately enrolled in more than one school would suggest that the figure is going to be small.</p> <p>Some revisions may occur year to year where providers resupply data post publication.</p> <p>The FTE values for students reported for this bench mark have a high degree of</p>

	accuracy.
Coherence	Each state government reports on school students, the Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) reports on school students and the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing includes information on children attending school. ABS NSSC data is sourced for national reporting mechanisms including the National Education Agreement, Report on Government Services and the National Report on Schooling in Australia.
Accessibility	Results from the NSSC are presented on the ABS website in through data cubes (Excel spreadsheets including pivot tables). These tables offer a versatile source of data, enabling clients to tailor data to suit their information requirements.
Interpretability	Explanatory Notes and a Glossary accompany the data available on the ABS website, and include caveats and advice as appropriate.

Data quality statement — AVETMISS data (NCVER)

Performance benchmark	Number of 15–19 year olds without a year 12 certificate and not enrolled in school who are enrolled in a VET course at Certificate II level or higher
Measure (computation)	<p>The measure is based on the following data items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 15–19 (based on date of birth in reference to 30 June 2010) • Major qualification category* at Certificate II and above • Previous highest education level** (based on a hierarchical derivation using highest school level completed and prior education completed) • At school flag = N <p>* <i>The highest qualification attempted by a student in a reporting year.</i></p> <p>** <i>Includes year 11 but excludes year 12, Certificate II and above.</i></p>
Data source/s	National VET Provider Collection 2010, unpublished.
Institutional environment	<p>The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is a not-for-profit company owned by the federal, state and territory ministers responsible for training.</p> <p>NCVER is a professional and independent body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing, evaluating and communicating research and statistics about vocational education and training (VET) nationally. It is Australia's principal provider of VET research and statistics. For further information on the NCVER, see http://www.ncver.edu.au/aboutncver/who.html</p>
Relevance	<p>The National VET Provider Collection collects information relating to students, courses, qualifications, training providers and funding in Australia's publicly funded vocational education and training (VET) system.</p> <p>The system provides training for students of all ages and backgrounds. Students have many options for training and may study individual subjects or full courses that lead to formal qualifications. Training takes place in classrooms, in the workplace, online and through other flexible delivery methods.</p> <p>Providers of vocational education and training in Australia include not only technical and further education (TAFE) institutes, but also universities, secondary schools, industry organisations, private enterprises, agricultural colleges, community education providers and other government providers.</p> <p>This collection does not report on the following types of training activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreation, leisure and personal enrichment • fee-for-service VET by private providers • delivery undertaken at overseas campuses of Australian VET institutions • credit transfer • VET delivered in schools, where the delivery has been undertaken by schools.
Timeliness	The National VET Provider Collection is an annual collection of data. Data are submitted to NCVER (via state training authorities) by 31 March in the year following activity. A summary of 2010 data was released in early July 2011 in Students and Courses .
Accuracy	The National VET Provider Collection is a collection of all publicly funded

training activity in Australia in a particular year. It is an administrative collection.

Publicly funded registered training organisations submit unit record data directly to state/territory training authorities, who in turn submit the data to NCVER. Prior to submissions to NCVER, data must first pass a validation process to ensure that data conforms to the Australian vocational education and training management information statistical standard (AVETMISS) (Refer to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/avetmiss/21055.html>).

Once data submissions are received by NCVER they are subjected to a comprehensive data quality checking program to ensure accurate reporting against agreed Key Performance Measures (KPMs). Some of the KPMs include:

- Percentage of unknown data
- The number of training organisation identifiers that do not match the National Training Information Service (NTIS) listing
- Inappropriate training organisation delivery locations
- The number of qualifications/courses that do not match the NTIS listing
- The number of modules/units of competency that do not match the NTIS listing
- Duplicate client identification
- Duplicate qualifications completed
- Reporting scopes
- Funding sources
- Outcome identifiers

Data reported in the National VET Provider Collection as 'not known' are reported for the following reasons:

- Information was not collected.
- A student has not responded to a question on the enrolment form.
- Invalid information was supplied.

Caution should be taken when using data with a large number of 'not known' responses. The following tables illustrates the proportion of students with 'not known' data in 2010 and 2008:

Australia	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 11.8 2008 = 16.3	2010 = 8.3 2008 = 10.5	2010 = 6.7 2008 = 7.6
At school flag	2010 = 9.6 2008 = 12.2	2010 = 5.3 2008 = 6.8	2010 = 4.7 2008 = 5.4

New South Wales	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 7.2 2008 = 15.5	2010 = 5.0 2008 = 9.3	2010 = 4.1 2008 = 5.9
At school flag	2010 = 8.7 2008 = 14.1	2010 = 3.6 2008 = 7.2	2010 = 2.7 2008 = 4.4

<i>Victoria</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 8.0 2008 = 16.1	2010 = 4.5 2008 = 9.0	2010 = 2.7 2008 = 6.9
At school flag	2010 = 2.2 2008 = 4.6	2010 = 1.6 2008 = 2.6	2010 = 1.5 2008 = 2.2
<i>Queensland</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 15.6 2008 = 14.6	2010 = 8.6 2008 = 8.3	2010 = 6.8 2008 = 6.5
At school flag	2010 = 18.8 2008 = 18.2	2010 = 10.6 2008 = 10.4	2010 = 8.7 2008 = 8.3
<i>Western Australia</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 19.9 2008 = 25.0	2010 = 10.8 2008 = 21.3	2010 = 10.1 2008 = 16.9
At school flag	2010 = 18.8 2008 = 19.9	2010 = 8.8 2008 = 9.5	2010 = 9.0 2008 = 9.1
<i>South Australia</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 28.0 2008 = 18.6	2010 = 36.0 2008 = 10.6	2010 = 35.0 2008 = 7.4
At school flag	2010 = 8.2 2008 = 13.6	2010 = 6.0 2008 = 6.7	2010 = 5.6 2008 = 7.8
<i>Tasmania</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 12.3 2008 = 10.4	2010 = 7.5 2008 = 9.4	2010 = 7.4 2008 = 9.3
At school flag	2010 = 2.6 2008 = 1.5	2010 = 2.0 2008 = 1.0	2010 = 2.1 2008 = 1.1
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
Previous highest education level	2010 = 15.5 2008 = 11.8	2010 = 16.0 2008 = 9.1	2010 = 14.9 2008 = 6.6
At school flag	2010 = 32.1 2008 = 21.4	2010 = 40.6 2008 = 20.7	2010 = 45.4 2008 = 23.6

	<i>Northern Territory</i>	All VET students (%)	15-19 year olds (%)	15-19 year olds studying a Cert II or above (%)
	Previous highest education level	2010 = 11.2 2008 = 8.6	2010 = 15.6 2008 = 12.7	2010 = 11.7 2008 = 10.4
	At school flag	2010 = 4.1 2008 = 2.9	2010 = 2.4 2008 = 1.7	2010 = 2.2 2008 = 1.0
Coherence	AVETMISS provides the foundation for nationally comparable data and includes a range of data items relevant to the VET system. From 2007, data comply with release 6.0 of AVETMISS, whereas previous collections complied with earlier releases. For details, see http://www.ncver.edu.au/avetmiss/21055.html .			
Interpretability	To aid interpretation, information on the National VET Provider Collection, AVETMISS, and Students and Courses is available on the NCVET website. Among other standards detailed in AVETMISS, the collection uses the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Classification of Education (ASCED) (ABS cat. no. 1272.0) to classify the level and field of education • Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO, previously ASCO) (ABS cat. no. 1220.0) to classify occupation • Access/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) to classify remoteness. It was developed by the National Centre for Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) and is the standard ABS endorsed measure of remoteness. 			
Accessibility	Summary information is available free of charge in Students and Courses on NCVET's website at: http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/publications/21053.html . Requests for more detailed statistical information can be made to: NCVET on (08) 8230 8400 or vet_req@ncver.edu.au A charge will be generally made by the NCVET for more complex requests for information. See NCVET's fees and charges policy at http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21075.html			

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Aust	Australia
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CRC	COAG Reform Council
DQS	Data quality statement
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations
MCFFR	Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations
NA	National Agreement
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education and Research
NP	National Partnership Agreement
NP YAT	National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SPP	Specific Purpose Payment
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia