

Australian vocational education and training statistics

The likelihood of completing a government-funded VET program

2010-14

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



Highlights

This publication uses statistical techniques to estimate completion rates for government-funded vocational education and training (VET) programs (broadly defined as all programs delivered by government providers, and government-funded programs delivered by community and other registered providers).

For government-funded programs commencing in 2014:

- The national estimated completion rate for government-funded VET programs at certificate I and above was 38.0%, up from 34.5% for programs commenced in 2013.
- By program level, government-funded VET programs at certificate III (42.9%), certificate IV (41.6%), and diploma and above (41.0%) had the highest national estimated completion rates.
- By field of education, government-funded VET programs in society and culture (49.5%), management and commerce (47.2%), and natural and physical sciences (44.9%) had the highest national estimated completion rates.
- For students in full-time study aged 25 years and under with no prior postschool program completion, the national estimated completion rate for government-funded VET programs at certificate I and above was 51.6%, up from 41.6% for programs commenced in 2013.

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Introduction

The Australian vocational education and training (VET) system provides training across a wide range of subject areas and is delivered through a variety of training institutions and enterprises (including to apprentices and trainees). The system provides training for students of all ages and backgrounds. Students may study individual subjects or full programs that lead to formal program completions.

This publication estimates the completion rates of government-funded VET programs in Australia (broadly defined as all programs delivered by government providers and government-funded programs delivered by community and other registered providers), in order to fill a gap in performance measures for the VET sector. Program completion rates are contrasted with subject load pass rates, which express the weighted percentage of successfully completed subjects, in each table of this publication.

Completion rates in this publication are derived using the most recent data available from the National VET Provider Collection and are an update on the previous release, *Australian vocational education and training statistics: the likelihood of completing a government-funded VET program 2009—13*. Additional program completions reported to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) since the previous release mean that figures for 2010—13 may vary slightly from those previously published.

About this publication

This publication is prepared in accordance with scope definitions outlined in the explanatory notes section on page 9. These definitions will be modified, commencing with the reporting of the 2016 National VET Provider Collection, with the future exclusion of fee-for-service activity to be reported in *Total VET students and courses 2016* (to be released in 2017).

This publication presents completion rates for Australia's government-funded VET system, which includes both:

- Commonwealth and state government-funded training activity delivered by technical and further education (TAFE) institutes, other government providers (such as universities), community education providers and other registered training organisations
- fee-for-service training activity delivered by TAFE institutes and other government providers.

It does not include fee-for-service training activity delivered by community education providers or other registered providers.

More information

For more information on the methodology used to derive completion rates for government-funded VET programs, please see explanatory notes on page 9. For the underlying sample sizes of estimated completion rates, please see the supporting Excel document available at http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2878.html.

For additional information on completion rates in the wider VET sector, including completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees, please refer to http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2467.html.

Tables

Table 1 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by state and territory for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14

| State or territory | Estim | ated prog | ram comp | letion rate | (%) | | Subject le | oad pass | rate (%) | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------|------|------|------------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| New South Wales | 38.6 | 38.8 | 38.0 | 34.2 | 38.6 | 80.2 | 80.4 | 79.5 | 78.8 | 80.1 |
| Victoria | 31.7 | 34.5 | 37.3 | 33.9 | 35.9 | 78.0 | 82.5 | 83.4 | 83.3 | 81.2 |
| Queensland | 33.3 | 35.9 | 31.9 | 33.3 | 43.9 | 87.7 | 89.5 | 88.8 | 89.2 | 91.7 |
| South Australia | 32.3 | 35.3 | 38.4 | 38.5 | 32.8 | 87.2 | 84.1 | 86.8 | 87.3 | 86.5 |
| Western Australia | 35.1 | 36.2 | 34.6 | 36.8 | 37.6 | 80.5 | 81.2 | 81.2 | 82.3 | 83.1 |
| Tasmania | 20.1 | 23.5 | 25.3 | 25.8 | 35.8 | 80.3 | 81.6 | 82.2 | 80.5 | 80.7 |
| Northern Territory | 22.6 | 27.3 | 30.9 | 34.8 | 35.3 | 76.7 | 75.4 | 77.7 | 79.4 | 73.9 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 44.8 | 40.5 | 32.1 | 41.2 | 39.4 | 81.8 | 82.6 | 81.1 | 84.7 | 85.1 |
| Australia | 33.8 | 35.7 | 36.1 | 34.5 | 38.0 | 81.2 | 83.0 | 83.1 | 83.1 | 83.0 |

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Table 2 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by state and territory for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14, full-time, aged 25 years and under, with no prior post-school program completion

| State or territory | Estima | | Subject le | oad pass | rate (%) | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|------|------------|----------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| , | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| New South Wales | 49.8 | 52.0 | 51.7 | 47.6 | 55.2 | 75.3 | 75.7 | 76.2 | 76.9 | 78.7 |
| Victoria | 40.6 | 39.7 | 44.0 | 35.9 | 48.1 | 75.4 | 79.1 | 80.6 | 81.6 | 79.9 |
| Queensland | 53.6 | 51.0 | 52.0 | 52.7 | 62.0 | 85.3 | 87.8 | 87.3 | 86.6 | 90.1 |
| South Australia | 44.7 | 43.5 | 44.9 | 45.5 | 42.5 | 83.9 | 84.5 | 87.4 | 88.4 | 86.9 |
| Western Australia | 47.5 | 48.3 | 49.8 | 49.3 | 51.3 | 79.7 | 79.4 | 79.7 | 79.6 | 81.1 |
| Tasmania | 49.0 | 65.5 | 65.0 | 66.2 | 55.5 | 87.0 | 84.4 | 93.3 | 84.9 | 80.8 |
| Northern Territory | 55.4 | 52.2 | 56.7 | 64.4 | 63.2 | 85.0 | 81.5 | 84.3 | 90.3 | 74.0 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 72.1 | 91.3 | 86.1 | 79.7 | 57.1 | 80.1 | 87.1 | 71.1 | 70.6 | 77.3 |
| Australia | 45.9 | 44.6 | 46.9 | 41.6 | 51.6 | 77.4 | 79.4 | 80.4 | 81.1 | 80.8 |

Shaded cells indicate that completion rates are based on small sample sizes and should be interpreted with caution.

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Table 3 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by program level for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14

| Program level | Estima | ated prog | ram comp | letion rate | (%) | | Subject I | oad pass | rate (%) | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|------|------|-----------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Diploma and above | 42.8 | 43.8 | 44.7 | 43.0 | 41.0 | 82.3 | 83.2 | 83.0 | 82.5 | 82.0 |
| Certificate IV | 41.3 | 41.8 | 44.4 | 41.3 | 41.6 | 80.2 | 82.9 | 82.3 | 81.8 | 82.8 |
| Certificate III | 39.2 | 41.2 | 40.3 | 38.5 | 42.9 | 83.8 | 85.5 | 86.1 | 86.5 | 86.4 |
| Certificate II | 24.6 | 26.8 | 25.9 | 26.3 | 30.3 | 77.6 | 79.3 | 79.2 | 80.1 | 79.2 |
| Certificate I | 17.6 | 18.2 | 20.1 | 20.5 | 21.5 | 65.1 | 66.1 | 68.2 | 68.4 | 62.5 |
| Total | 33.8 | 35.7 | 36.1 | 34.5 | 38.0 | 81.2 | 83.0 | 83.1 | 83.1 | 83.0 |

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Table 4 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by program level for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14, full-time, aged 25 years and under, with no prior post-school program completion

| Program level | Estima | ated prog | ram comp | letion rate | | Subject le | oad pass | rate (%) | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|------|------------|----------|----------|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Diploma and above | 44.3 | 41.9 | 47.6 | 44.1 | 46.2 | 78.1 | 78.8 | 79.7 | 79.6 | 78.1 |
| Certificate IV | 43.7 | 45.0 | 48.8 | 39.8 | 46.1 | 75.2 | 79.3 | 78.3 | 78.1 | 78.6 |
| Certificate III | 55.1 | 56.6 | 58.7 | 51.2 | 59.7 | 80.1 | 82.8 | 84.9 | 85.8 | 85.2 |
| Certificate II | 40.5 | 38.3 | 41.0 | 37.3 | 47.8 | 73.5 | 74.5 | 76.0 | 77.0 | 77.5 |
| Certificate I | 27.9 | 21.3 | 19.0 | 23.3 | 30.4 | 63.1 | 61.5 | 54.9 | 59.6 | 64.2 |
| Total | 45.9 | 44.6 | 46.9 | 41.6 | 51.6 | 77.4 | 79.4 | 80.4 | 81.1 | 80.8 |

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Table 5 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by field of education for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14

| Field of education | Estima | ated prog | ram comp | letion rate | (%) | | Subject le | oad pass | rate (%) | |
|--|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|------|------|------------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Natural and physical sciences | 43.2 | 44.2 | 53.0 | 48.5 | 44.9 | 79.7 | 81.1 | 84.0 | 85.3 | 88.2 |
| Information technology | 32.7 | 31.5 | 29.6 | 29.9 | 31.0 | 71.7 | 72.5 | 71.5 | 71.1 | 69.3 |
| Engineering and related technologies | 31.4 | 35.4 | 32.6 | 33.1 | 37.3 | 84.7 | 87.0 | 88.1 | 89.7 | 89.5 |
| Architecture and building | 23.3 | 22.7 | 26.2 | 29.3 | 28.8 | 83.4 | 84.7 | 85.3 | 86.5 | 86.3 |
| Agriculture, environmental and related studies | 24.2 | 24.4 | 29.1 | 27.7 | 28.0 | 83.2 | 86.3 | 88.6 | 86.7 | 87.0 |
| Health | 30.4 | 35.2 | 36.6 | 36.3 | 36.9 | 82.3 | 82.6 | 82.8 | 81.4 | 82.4 |
| Education | 55.0 | 59.1 | 62.6 | 57.7 | 42.4 | 86.2 | 88.3 | 88.5 | 89.6 | 82.9 |
| Management and commerce | 40.4 | 42.5 | 46.1 | 44.5 | 47.2 | 82.9 | 84.7 | 84.2 | 84.1 | 84.0 |
| Society and culture | 45.9 | 48.7 | 47.2 | 44.0 | 49.5 | 83.0 | 84.4 | 83.2 | 81.9 | 83.1 |
| Creative arts | 31.8 | 33.9 | 34.6 | 37.7 | 39.2 | 77.8 | 78.0 | 79.0 | 79.4 | 79.7 |
| Food, hospitality and personal services | 24.8 | 25.7 | 27.7 | 27.4 | 29.0 | 83.1 | 84.2 | 86.5 | 87.8 | 87.9 |
| Mixed field programs | 24.0 | 18.6 | 19.2 | 19.2 | 25.2 | 61.9 | 63.2 | 65.8 | 67.2 | 64.2 |
| Total | 33.8 | 35.7 | 36.1 | 34.5 | 38.0 | 81.2 | 83.0 | 83.1 | 83.1 | 83.0 |

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Table 6 Estimated completion rates and load pass rates by field of education for government-funded programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2010–14, full-time, aged 25 years and under, with no prior post-school program completion

| Field of education | Estima | ated prog | ram comp | letion rate | : (%) | | Subject le | oad pass | rate (%) | |
|--|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------|------|------------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Natural and physical sciences | 49.8 | 45.5 | 57.2 | 53.3 | 57.4 | 76.1 | 74.6 | 77.0 | 80.9 | 83.9 |
| Information technology | 37.3 | 36.6 | 38.9 | 39.3 | 37.6 | 66.3 | 70.2 | 69.5 | 68.2 | 64.3 |
| Engineering and related technologies | 44.6 | 46.0 | 46.5 | 45.3 | 56.4 | 78.6 | 81.6 | 83.6 | 85.9 | 85.9 |
| Architecture and building | 37.2 | 35.7 | 40.6 | 43.4 | 42.1 | 76.7 | 77.6 | 81.0 | 81.1 | 82.6 |
| Agriculture, environmental and related studies | 50.3 | 46.5 | 50.9 | 50.8 | 53.1 | 79.6 | 84.3 | 86.5 | 85.0 | 84.1 |
| Health | 45.0 | 45.8 | 47.9 | 43.5 | 51.3 | 76.0 | 79.4 | 79.1 | 77.4 | 80.3 |
| Education | 42.0 | 59.0 | 51.9 | 14.8 | 48.6 | 73.6 | 80.8 | 80.6 | 96.1 | 80.3 |
| Management and commerce | 48.7 | 47.6 | 60.7 | 50.9 | 62.5 | 79.5 | 80.8 | 84.3 | 84.7 | 83.4 |
| Society and culture | 57.8 | 64.7 | 63.8 | 56.7 | 62.7 | 81.3 | 85.0 | 80.8 | 78.0 | 80.0 |
| Creative arts | 41.9 | 40.3 | 41.8 | 43.4 | 46.2 | 78.5 | 77.1 | 78.3 | 78.7 | 78.4 |
| Food, hospitality and personal services | 43.5 | 40.5 | 56.7 | 54.8 | 42.9 | 78.2 | 80.1 | 86.2 | 88.5 | 86.9 |
| Mixed field programs | 38.2 | 23.1 | 19.6 | 19.5 | 32.7 | 66.9 | 64.3 | 62.1 | 63.6 | 65.5 |
| Total | 45.9 | 44.6 | 46.9 | 41.6 | 51.6 | 77.4 | 79.4 | 80.4 | 81.1 | 80.8 |

Shaded cells indicate that completion rates are based on small sample sizes and should be interpreted with caution.

For explanatory notes see page 9.

Terms

Information included in this publication is, unless stated otherwise, derived from the National VET Provider Collection, which is compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS). For other terms and definitions, refer to the terms and definitions support document at http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2872.html.

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a nationally consistent framework of credentials offered in post-compulsory education and training that covers programs from certificate I through to a doctoral degree. For more details of the AQF, go to http://www.aqf.edu.au.

Estimated completion rate is the percentage of programs that are estimated to be completed, according to statistical modelling developed by NCVER. See http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2272.html for more details.

Field of education is the subject matter of an educational activity. The framework used here is defined in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. See http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1272.02001 for more details.

Full-time students are those students whose program of study constitutes at least 75% of the normal full-time study load. The Australian Government Department of Education and Training regards a full-time study load as 720 contact hours in a year. Therefore, any student undertaking 540 hours or more is regarded as a full-time student.

Program enrolment is the registration of a student at a training organisation for the purpose of undertaking a module, unit of competency or subject, which leads to or is part of a recognised program.

Students are individuals who were enrolled in a subject or completed a program during the reporting period.

Subject load pass rate is the ratio of hours, or full-year training equivalents (FYTEs), attributed to students who gain competencies/passed assessment in an assessable module or unit of competency to all students who were assessed and either passed, failed or withdrew. The calculation is based on the annual hours (or FYTEs) for each assessable module or unit of competency and includes competencies achieved/units passed through recognition of prior learning (RPL).

Vocational education and training (VET) is that education (excluding higher education) which gives people work-related knowledge and skills.

Explanatory notes

Data source

- 1 Information in this publication is derived from the National VET Provider Collection. The activity covered in this publication applies the same scope as used in *Australian vocational education* and training statistics: government-funded students and courses 2015. This includes all VET delivered by:
 - TAFE institutes and other government VET providers
 - universities
 - the government-funded component of VET delivered by community education and other registered providers.

This publication does not cover the following types of training activity:

- · recreation, leisure and personal enrichment
- fee-for-service VET by community education and private providers
- delivery undertaken at overseas campuses of Australian VET institutions
- credit transfer
- VET delivered in schools, where the training activity was undertaken as part of a senior secondary certificate
- any activity where revenue was earned from another registered training organisation in terms of subcontracted, auspicing, partnership or similar arrangements.

Scope matrix

| · | TAFE and other government providers* | Community education providers | Other registered providers |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Commonwealth and state funding | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Domestic fee-for-service | ✓ | * | * |
| International fee-for-service | ✓ | * | * |

^{*} Universities are reported as TAFE and other government providers.

The National VET Provider Collection collects enrolment and completion details of VET students and their programs. While the database is essentially cross-sectional by year, there is enough information to match data over a number of years for individual VET students and the programs they undertake. Obtaining such a longitudinal dataset allows the use of mathematical techniques that rely on conditional probabilities to then calculate completion rates.

Methodology

2 The methodology used in this publication is identical to that given in Mark and Karmel (2010, http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2272.html). In summary, the methodology tracks all VET program enrolments within three-year windows, each centred on the year of interest. Then, using an absorbing Markov chain model for a VET program enrolment, it estimates the proportion of VET program enrolments commencing in the year of interest that will eventually be completed. This approach allows an estimate of the completion rate without having to longitudinally track program enrolments over a long period of time.

Estimates are restricted to VET program enrolments in Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) programs — certificate I level and above. Enrolments in non-AQF programs (secondary school-level programs, non-award programs and programs not identifiable by level) are excluded from the analysis, as the concept of completion is problematic.

A longitudinal dataset of VET program enrolments was compiled for each commencing year under consideration, by matching students and the programs they enrolled in over three years

(from one year before the commencing year under consideration to one year after). For the purposes of this project, a unique identifier was created using the combination of a student's date of birth, sex and encrypted identifier (a set of characters derived from the student's name via an encryption algorithm). This unique identifier enables a student to be tracked over the yearly datasets.

After identifying students, all unique programs in which these students enrol through the years are identified using the program record identifier. For each VET program enrolment in the longitudinal dataset, variables are set up to indicate the years in which they are enrolled in the program, the year the program commenced and the year the program is completed (if it is completed). These indicator variables are used to determine the state in the Markov chain a program enrolment occupies each year.

The Markov chain is used to estimate the proportion of commencing VET program enrolments that will eventually be completed. From the National VET Provider Collection, longitudinal data of the pathways that program enrolments take from the commencing year to the following year are created, and are then used to observe the one-step transitional probabilities of the state of program enrolments from one year to the next (with the states at the second period being: continuing study, completed the program enrolled in and dropped-out). Using these probabilities, the techniques of absorbing Markov chain theory are applied to calculate the completion rate of commencing program enrolments in each year.

Definitions and assumptions

3 It is necessary to define the four states of a VET program enrolment in terms of the enrolment and completion data in the longitudinal dataset. The definitions of the states will be for a year n. The states are defined by yearly enrolment and completion information for each student over a two-year period, which is the year of consideration (year n) and the year before (year n-1).

As a technical addition due to the nature of the dataset, there is a state called 'Not in VET system', which is used to exclude observations in the dataset that will not play a role in the analysis for the year n of consideration. For example, a program in the dataset that is not enrolled or completed in year n-1 or n is not of interest in year n, and hence this program enrolment is assigned to this dummy state.

Commencing program in year n-a VET program in the longitudinal dataset is said to have commenced in year n by being enrolled in year n and the commencing flag variable states that this is a commencing year.

Continuing program in year n-a VET program in the longitudinal dataset is said to be a continuing program enrolment in year n by being enrolled in both year n-1 and year n, and is not indicated as being completed in year n-1. It is also a continuing program if it is not enrolled or indicated as completed in year n-1, enrolled in year n, and not indicated as a commencing year in year n.

Dropped out of program in year n – if, in year n, a VET student was enrolled in the previous year n-1, but not enrolled in this year n, and is never indicated as having completed during this two-year window, it is considered that the student has dropped out of the program.

Program completed in year n — the first rule is that any program indicated to be completed in year n-1 will be regarded as a completed program in year n. This reflects the absorbing nature of this state. This rule will also capture the completion of any program that was both enrolled and completed in the previous year.

Secondly, any program not enrolled in year n, and awarded in year n, will also be a completed program in year n. This will cover programs that are enrolled in year n-1 but are not given their completion until the following year n.

Not in VET system — when classifying states of programs in year n, those in the dataset who have not been enrolled or given a completion in either year n-1 or year n are not of interest. To exclude such program enrolments from the analysis in year n, they are assigned a dummy state of 'Not in VET system' for year n.

Using the definitions created, each program enrolment record in the longitudinal dataset for a given year is assigned a state in (i) the year itself and (ii) the next year (for example, each program enrolment record for 2010 is assigned a state in 2010 and 2011). Once the states are assigned, the transitional probabilities of programs moving from one state in a given year to another in the following year are examined. Of interest are the transitional probabilities of commencing and continuing program enrolments to the other states. Using these transitional probabilities, completion rates for programs commencing in a given year can be calculated (see Mark & Karmel [2010], appendix C).

Reporting of program completions and completion rates

4 The numbers of program completions in a particular year are revised annually as additional completions are reported in the National VET Provider Collection for each year (see table 7).

Table 7 Number of program completions at certificate I and above reported by year program completed and year completion reported, 2008–14

| tion | Year program completed | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Collection year | 2008 | 3 | 2009 |) | 2010 |) | 2011 | | 2012 | 2 | 2013 | 3 | 2014 | 4 |
| ŏ | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 2008 | 277 356 | 77.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 71 961 | 20.2 | 333 761 | 84.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2010 | 3 966 | 1.1 | 57 569 | 14.5 | 379 473 | 85.1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 1 342 | 0.4 | 4 316 | 1.1 | 61 270 | 13.7 | 442 131 | 84.8 | | | | | | |
| 2012 | 1 037 | 0.3 | 1 394 | 0.4 | 4 647 | 1.0 | 76 884 | 14.7 | 537 992 | 91.9 | | | | |
| 2013 | 117 | 0.0 | 260 | 0.1 | 485 | 0.1 | 2 104 | 0.4 | 44 514 | 7.6 | 495 418 | 87.5 | | |
| 2014 | 38 | 0.0 | 64 | 0.0 | 227 | 0.1 | 380 | 0.1 | 2 647 | 0.5 | 66 794 | 11.8 | 500 233 | 86.7 |
| 2015 | 5 | 0.0 | 11 | 0.0 | 33 | 0.0 | 147 | 0.0 | 412 | 0.1 | 3 738 | 0.7 | 76 629 | 13.3 |
| Total | 355 822 | 100.0 | 397 375 | 100.0 | 446 135 | 100.0 | 521 646 | 100.0 | 585 565 | 100.0 | 565 950 | 100.0 | 576 862 | 100.0 |

Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collections, 2008–15.

Completion rates previously published for a particular year are revised each year due to the reporting of additional program completions in the National VET Provider Collection. However, the reporting of these additional program completions has minimal impact on the completion rate estimates at a national level. For example, the national estimated completion rate for government-funded VET programs at certificate I and above commenced in 2013 only increased from 34.0% when derived from the 2014 Collection to 34.5% when derived from the 2015 Collection (table 8).

Table 8 Estimated completion rates for programs at certificate I and above, commencing 2008-14 (%)

| Collection year | | | Ye | ar program con | nmenced | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|----------------|---------|------|------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 2011 | 28.8 | 31.7 | | | | | |
| 2012 | 28.9 | 32.1 | 33.7 | 35.5 | | | |
| 2013 | | 32.1 | 33.7 | 35.6 | 35.8 | | |
| 2014 | | 32.1 | 33.8 | 35.7 | 36.0 | 34.0 | |
| 2015 | | | 33.8 | 35.7 | 36.1 | 34.5 | 38.0 |

Source: NCVER, Australian vocational education and training statistics: the likelihood of completing a government-funded VET program 2010–14 and 2009–13; and NCVER, Australian vocational education and training statistics: the likelihood of completing a VET qualification (various years).

Low sample sizes and variability of completion rates

5 Completion rates shaded green are based on sample sizes of less than 1000 and should be interpreted with caution. (The load pass rates are not affected.) The relatively high variability of these rates across years is due to the small sample sizes. The supporting Excel document, available from http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2878.html, provides sample sizes for all the different tabulations in this publication.

State and territory notes

- 6 The decrease in completion rates in New South Wales for programs commenced in 2013 may be partly explained by TAFE NSW not being able to report additional program completions for historical years in the 2014 National VET Provider Collection following changes in data collection. This was resolved for the 2015 collection and TAFE NSW was able to report additional program completions for historical years, resulting in completion rates increasing to 38.6% for programs commenced in 2014.
- 7 Increases in completion rates in Queensland and Tasmania for programs commenced in 2014 are presumed to be linked to state-based policies aimed at increasing program completion numbers.



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