







Three years on from the implementation of the *Skills First* reforms, the new training market settings are still showing positive impacts on training quality, with improved outcomes for key industries and student cohorts, particularly throughout the TAFE Network, and increases in participation across the government-funded training system. This report provides detailed information on the student and provider profiles of the government-funded training market in Victoria over the 2019 calendar year.

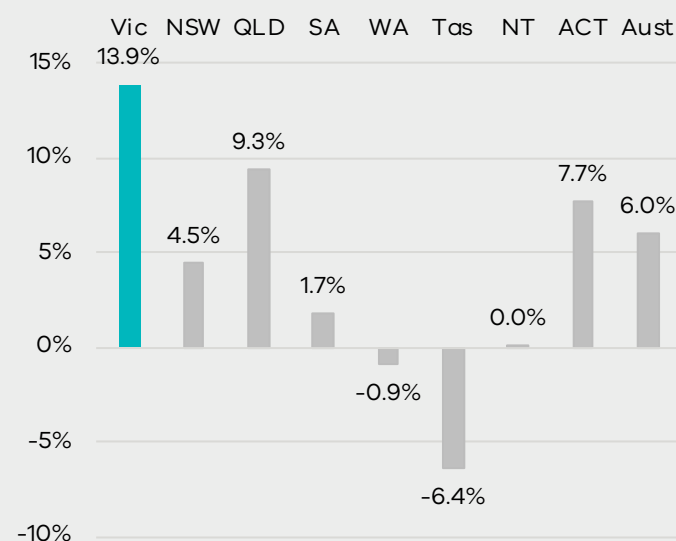
<p>There were 39,734 commencements in Free TAFE courses in 2019, an 87.6 per cent increase compared to commencements in the same courses in 2018.</p>	<p>Free TAFE for Priority Courses</p> 	<p>The introduction of the Free TAFE for Priority Courses Initiative saw an increase in the number of Victorians accessing training to learn the skills they need to secure rewarding jobs.</p>									
<p>The number of students at TAFE and other government providers in Victoria grew by 14 per cent, higher than the national average growth of 6 per cent.</p>	<p>National comparisons</p> 	<p>The <i>Skills First</i> reforms have matured to delivering high-quality training, with overall growth in government-funded VET in Victoria between 2018 and 2019.</p>									
<p>TAFE Network providers have increased their training delivery to Indigenous students, unemployed and students with a disability.</p>	<p>Learner cohorts</p> 	<p>The training system continues to support all Victorians to have access to high quality training that supports their learning needs and leads to strong job outcomes.</p>									
<p>Share of enrolments in Government priority areas</p> <p>37.5% 2018 → 39.0% 2019</p> 	<p>Jobs and Skills</p> 	<p>Training is growing Victoria's pool of skilled workers, particularly in government priority areas. Government-funded enrolments increased in courses related to the NDIS, Family Violence Prevention and Infrastructure workforces.</p>									
<p>TAFE Network share of students</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>43.1%</td> <td>56.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>46.9%</td> <td>53.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>50.5%</td> <td>49.5%</td> </tr> </table> <p>■ TAFE Network ■ Other</p>	2017	43.1%	56.9%	2018	46.9%	53.1%	2019	50.5%	49.5%	<p>TAFE Network</p> 	<p><i>Skills First</i> has rebuilt TAFEs and increased TAFE market share, placing the TAFE Network at the centre of the Victorian training sector.</p>
2017	43.1%	56.9%									
2018	46.9%	53.1%									
2019	50.5%	49.5%									



National comparisons

- In 2019, 297,875 students were enrolled in government-funded vocational education and training (VET) in Victoria, an increase of 7 per cent compared to 2018. This increase exceeded the national trend, with student numbers across Australia increasing by 3 per cent over the same period.¹
- The TAFE Network shows an increase in the number of government-funded students, reflecting Victoria's Free TAFE initiative and its commitment under Skills First to restore confidence in the TAFE and training system. The number of students at TAFE and other government providers in Victoria grew by 14 per cent, higher than the national average growth rate of 6 per cent.
- Skills First continues to strengthen the performance of the TAFE system, with students at TAFE providers (and Dual-Sector Universities) accounting for 50.5 per cent of all Victorian government-funded students in 2019.
- In 2019, 6.6 per cent of working age Victorians participated in government-funded VET, which is slightly lower than the national participation rate of 6.9 per cent.
- The number of students at TAFE and other government providers in Victoria increased for the third consecutive year, with these providers now training over half of all government-funded students in Victoria.
- In 2019, 57.4 per cent of government-funded students in Regional Victoria were training at TAFE Network providers, compared to 53.4 per cent across Metropolitan Melbourne.

Chart 1 – Change in government-funded students at TAFE and other government providers (2018 to 2019)



Source: NCVER VOCSTATS, Government-funded students and courses, 2019

Table 1 – Estimated participation rate of people aged 15-64 in VET, by state and territory

	2017	2018	2019	PP change 2018-19
Victoria	7.1%	6.3%	6.6%	0.3%
New South Wales	7.6%	7.7%	7.7%	0.0%
Queensland	6.6%	6.5%	6.9%	0.4%
South Australia	6.0%	6.0%	6.1%	0.2%
Western Australia	6.2%	6.0%	6.0%	0.0%
Tasmania	8.0%	7.8%	7.5%	-0.3%
Northern Territory	11.5%	10.2%	9.5%	-0.7%
Australian Capital Territory	5.9%	6.2%	6.4%	0.3%
Australia	7.0%	6.8%	6.9%	0.1%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2019, tables 51-59, cat. no. 3101.0. PP = Percentage point

NCVER VOCSTATS, Government-funded students and courses, VET Students.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>

¹ The figures presented in the National Comparisons section are compiled by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). They differ slightly from the Victorian data because of the application of a number of different statistical treatments to ensure consistency across jurisdictions and the inclusion of training activity funded by other Ministerial portfolios or the Commonwealth.

Table 2 – Students in government-funded training by state or territory and provider type, 2019

	TAFE institutes & other government providers		Community education providers		Private training providers		Other training providers		Total	
	2019	% change 2018-19	2019	% change 2018-19	2019	% change 2018-19	2019	% change 2018-19	2019	% change 2018-19
Victoria	162,535	14%	42,560	3%	78,000	0%	14,780	-15%	297,875	7%
New South Wales	274,425	4%	20,120	-7%	77,670	4%	55,035	-18%	427,250	0%
Queensland	75,745	9%	4,800	-6%	144,125	6%	9,875	20%	234,545	7%
South Australia	45,050	2%	3,710	5%	15,315	12%	6,445	-11%	70,520	2%
Western Australia	75,170	-1%	515	-42%	28,225	5%	2,650	9%	106,560	0%
Tasmania	14,085	-6%			6,260	-1%	5,220	2%	25,565	-3%
Northern Territory	10,665	0%			3,110	-30%	3,265	-5%	17,040	-8%
ACT	12,935	8%			4,730	1%	1,255	-6%	18,920	5%
Australia	670,610	6%	71,705	-1%	357,435	4%	98,520	-13%	1,198,270	3%

Source: NCVET 2019, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Government-funded students and courses 2019 (Data Builder).



Higher quality VET system

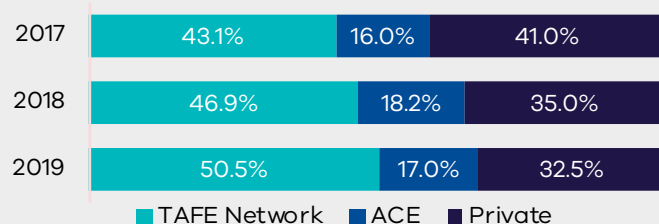
- *Skills First* aims to ensure that every Victorian has access to high-quality training that students and employers can trust. In 2019, Free TAFE for Priority Courses (Free TAFE) reduced the financial barrier for students wanting to train in courses that lead to jobs in demand from Victorian employers.
- In 2019, there were 222,164 new government-funded course enrolments (i.e. commencements) and 106,078 continuing enrolments (i.e. students continuing their course from previous years).
- TAFE Network government-funded enrolments saw a resurgence in 2019 and led the training market's revival. As a result, TAFE Network market share continues to strengthen, growing to 50.5 per cent of students in 2019 (up 3.6 percentage points from 2018).
- One of the highlights of Free TAFE was the growth of working age women accessing training. The strong participation by Victorian women has been a successful outcome. The benefits of Free TAFE are realised in regional Victoria, as well as across the state, with increased access to training across the regions. More information on Free TAFE can be found on page 6.
- Results from the Department's Student and Employer Satisfaction Surveys point to general stability in the training quality of the government-funded training system. Almost three-quarters of students (73.1 per cent) reported that they had achieved their main reason for training, and 77.8 per cent reported that they were satisfied with the training provided by their registered training organisation (RTO).

Table 3 – Numbers of students, enrolments, commencements and providers by provider type for the Victorian training system

	Provider Type	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-19
Students	TAFE	95,808	93,211	104,061	11.6%
	Dual Sector	30,099	31,518	37,034	17.5%
	ACE	46,624	48,283	47,605	-1.4%
	Private	119,739	92,962	90,660	-2.5%
	All	292,270	265,974	279,360	5.0%
Total Enrolments	TAFE	109,005	104,533	114,617	9.6%
	Dual Sector	32,637	34,644	40,211	16.1%
	ACE	70,544	74,310	75,231	1.2%
	Private	134,217	101,343	98,183	-3.1%
	All	346,403	314,830	328,242	4.3%
New Commencements	TAFE	67,991	62,373	73,662	18.1%
	Dual Sector	21,522	22,818	27,683	21.3%
	ACE	64,675	66,828	68,408	2.4%
	Private	67,396	50,315	52,411	4.2%
	All	221,584	202,334	222,164	9.8%
Providers	TAFE	12	12	12	0.0%
	Dual Sector	4	4	4	0.0%
	ACE	259	258	251	-2.7%
	Private	322	268	233	-13.1%
	All	597	542	500	-7.7%

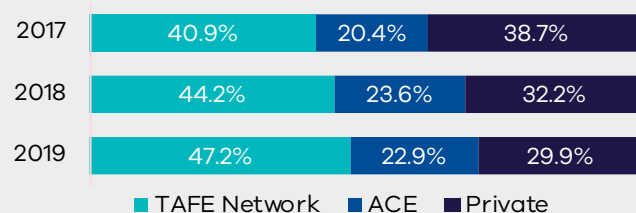
Source: DET training market data.

Chart 2 – Proportion of government-funded students by provider type



Source: DET training market

Chart 3 – Market share of course enrolments by provider type



Source: DET training market

Table 4 – Selected results from the Department’s Student Satisfaction Survey and Employer Satisfaction Survey

	2017	2018	2019	PP change 2018-19
Proportion of VET students who achieved their main reason for training	73.2%	73.5%	73.1%	-0.4%
Proportion of VET students with an improved employment status after training*	50.8%	50.3%	48.5%	-1.8%
Proportion of VET students who were satisfied with training provided by their RTO	77.0%	77.5%	77.8%	0.3%
Proportion of employers of apprentices and trainees who were satisfied with training provided by their RTO	77.6%	78.5%	79.1%	0.6%

Source: DET student and employer survey. Year represents the year students left training (eg. 2019 students were surveyed in 2020). PP = percentage point change, the mathematical difference between 2019 and 2018 results. *Historical results for 2017 and 2018 have been revised to align with the new methodology for this measure implemented in 2020. The 2020 survey of 2019 students are likely to have been impacted by Covid-19 as the survey was undertaken in Mar-May 2020.

Training for real jobs

- The Victorian TAFE and training system aims to develop skills that lead to real jobs.
- It prioritises funding to courses that align to industry needs and workforce demands, have strong job outcomes and are linked to government priorities that are of the greatest value to the Victorian economy.
- These include the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Family Violence and Infrastructure workforces, and Apprenticeships and High Value Traineeships.
- Overall government-funded enrolments in priority areas are growing, particularly in courses related to Family Violence Prevention and NDIS.
- Table 5 shows that TAFE Network providers expanded their delivery across each of these key priority areas between 2018 and 2019.
- Growth in the five industries with the largest volumes of apprenticeship enrolments has decreased compared to the surge in 2018 shown in Table 6, broadly reflecting a national trend in declining apprenticeships.
- The TAFE Network continues to lead in traineeships growth. Overall traineeship enrolments have increased, reversing last year’s trend of a decline in traineeship enrolments.
- The five industries with the largest volumes of government-funded enrolments make up more than half (51 per cent) of total enrolments. Table 8 shows that Health Care and Social Assistance and Construction continue to have the most enrolments.

Table 5 – Enrolments in Government priority areas by provider type

	Provider type	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-19
NDIS	TAFE	8,491	9,179	14,431	57.2%
	Dual Sector	2,693	3,053	4,222	38.3%
	ACE	3,941	5,004	6,044	20.8%
	Private	13,682	13,368	14,101	5.5%
	All	28,807	30,604	38,798	26.8%
Family Violence	TAFE	5,673	6,676	8,492	27.2%
	Dual Sector	1,968	2,296	3,355	46.1%
	ACE	1,801	2,343	2,597	10.8%
	Private	5,382	5,741	6,006	4.6%
	All	14,824	17,056	20,450	19.9%
Infrastructure	TAFE	24,254	24,374	25,662	5.3%
	Dual Sector	8,646	9,181	10,224	11.4%
	ACE	249	165	48	-70.9%
	Private	20,844	17,267	18,122	5.0%
	All	53,993	50,987	54,056	6.0%
High-Value Traineeships	TAFE	2,713	2,806	3,051	8.7%
	Dual Sector	111	158	254	60.8%
	ACE	902	960	946	-1.5%
	Private	6,906	6,500	6,351	-2.3%
	All	10,632	10,424	10,602	1.7%
Apprentices	TAFE	26,767	28,903	29,593	2.4%
	Dual Sector	6,955	7,485	7,768	3.8%
	ACE	98	158	155	-1.9%
	Private	12,382	11,660	11,303	-3.1%
	All	46,202	48,206	48,819	1.3%
At least one priority area	TAFE	50,525	52,475	58,330	11.2%
	Dual Sector	14,299	15,215	17,608	15.7%
	ACE	5,602	7,212	8,007	11.0%
	Private	48,017	43,290	44,190	2.1%
	All	118,443	118,192	128,135	8.4%

Source: DET training market data. The priority areas are not mutually exclusive. NDIS, Family Violence and High-Value Traineeship courses are defined in the 2019 Funded Courses List, and Infrastructure courses in the Jobs and Training Needs Reports. Equivalent superseded courses are also included.

Table 6 – Top 5 industries for apprentice enrolments

	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-19
Construction	27,222	29,562	30,851	4.4%
Other Services*	8,011	8,048	7,898	-1.9%
Manufacturing	4,252	4,289	4,225	-1.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	2,918	2,652	2,369	-10.7%
Retail Trade	1,960	1,900	1,796	-5.4%

Source: DET training market data.

Table 7 – Traineeship enrolments by provider type

Provider type	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-19
TAFE	5,366	5,663	5,815	2.7%
Dual Sector	424	462	702	51.9%
ACE	1,276	1,279	1,269	-0.8%
Private	12,843	11,496	11,427	-0.6%
All	19,909	18,900	19,213	1.7%

Source: DET training market data.

Table 8 – Enrolments by broad industry area – Top 5

	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-19
Health Care and Social Assistance	68,016	62,565	67,900	8.5%
Construction	52,738	50,760	53,714	5.8%
Education and Training	10,954	11,711	15,919	35.9%
Other Services*	17,524	15,523	14,824	-4.5%
Manufacturing	15,982	12,669	12,641	-0.2%

Source: DET training market data. Training data excludes qualifications that are not aligned to industry.

*The Other Services industry includes a broad range of personal services; religious, civic, professional and other interest group services; selected repair and maintenance activities; and private households employing staff. The top apprenticeship courses in Other Services are Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology, Certificate III in Hairdressing and Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology. The top enrolments in Other Services are Certificate III in Hairdressing, Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology and Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology.

Equitable access

- *Skills First* aims to create an inclusive training system that ensures all Victorians have access to high quality training that leads to strong job outcomes, regardless of age, background, circumstance or postcode.
- Representation of key cohorts are growing in most areas and the TAFE Network is leading in the delivery of training to many key student cohorts. The Victorian TAFE and training system is delivering on its promise to offer equitable access. Table 9 shows that half of government-funded enrolments in Victoria are by students without a prior Certificate III or above, and 25.2 per cent of enrolments are by those who are unemployed.
- The TAFE Network plays an important part in helping our most disadvantaged and/or disengaged students to access and stay connected with training. Table 9 also shows that the TAFE Network accounted for the majority of enrolments (69.4 per cent) of Early School Leavers and half of Indigenous students accessing training in 2019.
- The Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector provides training to learners facing barriers to engagement in education, training and employment. ACE providers primarily deliver pre-accredited and foundation training across Victoria to support students to transition back into learning, develop basic skills for work and improve their language, literacy and numeracy.
- One of the great successes in 2019 was the growth in female enrolments in training. This is especially pronounced among the TAFE Network. Table 11 shows that TAFE Network enrolments of working-age females have increased 18.7 per cent from 2018.

Table 9 – Key cohorts

Cohort	All providers		TAFE Network % of total cohort
	Enrolments	% of total enrolments	
People with a disability	40,756	12.4%	33.5%
Indigenous people	6,287	1.9%	50.3%
People with no prior Certificate III (20 to 64)	164,706	50.2%	44.3%
Early School Leavers (15 to 19)	22,005	6.7%	69.4%
Unemployed people	82,866	25.2%	32.6%
At least one cohort	231,235	70.4%	45.5%

Source: 2019 DET training market data. The cohorts are not mutually exclusive. Students may be represented in more than one key cohort (for example, students may have no prior Certificate III and have a disability).

Table 10 – Foundation enrolments by provider type

Provider type	2017	2018	2019
TAFE	10,768	9,646	8,914
Dual Sector	3,015	3,352	3,282
ACE	11,733	10,147	8,943
Private	4,877	3,078	2,714
All	30,393	26,223	23,853

Source: DET training market data.

Table 11 – Enrolments by gender and age group (working age people)

Gender	Age group	All providers				TAFE Network providers			
		2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-2019	2017	2018	2019	% change 2018-2019
Female	15-19	26,048	23,348	23,415	0.30%	13,289	12,941	13,662	5.6%
	20-24	29,345	26,388	27,906	5.80%	13,572	13,757	15,558	13.1%
	25-44	69,008	65,028	72,884	12.10%	20,497	21,037	26,700	26.9%
	45-64	42,604	40,095	42,349	5.60%	8,787	8,963	11,397	27.2%
	Working age total	167,005	154,859	166,554	7.60%	56,145	56,698	67,317	18.7%
Male	15-19	37,105	35,258	35,301	0.10%	23,811	23,868	24,561	2.9%
	20-24	44,459	41,435	42,156	1.70%	27,606	27,429	28,474	3.8%
	25-44	59,733	50,631	51,994	2.70%	25,699	23,802	26,334	10.6%
	45-64	27,394	22,384	22,069	-1.40%	7,440	6,426	6,938	8.0%
	Working age total	168,691	149,708	151,520	1.20%	84,556	81,525	86,307	5.9%
All	15-19	63,217	58,726	58,858	0.20%	37,143	36,875	38,301	3.9%
	20-24	73,891	67,938	70,203	3.30%	41,230	41,252	44,120	7.0%
	25-44	129,118	116,014	125,354	8.10%	46,279	44,923	53,202	18.4%
	45-64	70,285	62,758	64,730	3.10%	16,245	15,417	18,383	19.2%
	Working age total	336,511	305,436	319,145	4.50%	140,897	138,467	154,006	11.2%

Source: DET training market data.



Free TAFE for priority courses

- Free TAFE for priority courses began on 1 January 2019. By the end of 2019 there were 39,734 commencements in Free TAFE courses across the TAFE network.
- Free TAFE aims to lift quality and improve access for students to study at TAFE, giving Victorians skills they need to secure rewarding jobs.
- Across regional Victoria, Free TAFE has boosted enrolments. Increases are especially pronounced in courses on the Free TAFE list in Loddon Mallee (109.1 per cent increase), Grampians (99.6 per cent increase) and in Metropolitan Melbourne (92.3 per cent increase) in 2019 compared with 2018 (see Table 12).
- Free TAFE has seen an increase of participation among women, with women making up 56.4 per cent of all commencements in Free TAFE courses in 2019. Participation by women was especially pronounced in Gippsland, where they accounted for 75.6 per cent of all enrolments in Free TAFE, and in Loddon Mallee, where they accounted for 64.5 per cent.
- Table 13 shows the top five most popular Free TAFE courses in each region in Victoria. Free TAFE has been instrumental in supporting the health and community sector fill critical job vacancies and in equipping students with skills to improve the lives of Victorians.

Table 12 – Free TAFE course commencements by region and Female representation

Region	2018	2019	% change 2018-2019	Female representation
Melbourne	15,529	29,858	92.3%	53.4%
Barwon South West	1,654	2,507	51.6%	59.4%
Gippsland	1,061	1,901	79.2%	75.6%
Grampians	473	944	99.6%	56.1%
Hume	1,384	2,272	64.2%	67.0%
Loddon Mallee	1,091	2,281	109.1%	64.5%
Victoria	21,175	39,734	87.6%	56.4%

Source: DET training market data.

Table 13 – Free TAFE course commencements by top 5 courses in region

	Metropolitan Melbourne	Barwon South West	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee
1	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Cert. III in Individual Support	Cert. III in Individual Support	Dip. of Nursing	Dip. of Nursing	Dip. of Community Services
2	Dip. of Nursing	Dip. of Nursing	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Dip. of Nursing
3	Dip. of Community Services	Dip. of Community Services	Dip. of Nursing	Cert. III in Horticulture	Cert. IV in Education Support	Cert. IV in Community Services
4	Cert. IV in Cyber Security	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping	Dip. of Community Services	Cert. III in Individual Support	Cert. IV in Community Services	Cert. III in Individual Support
5	Cert. IV in Education Support	Cert. III in Hospitality	Cert. III in Education Support	Dip. of Community Services	Cert. III in Individual Support	Cert. IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping

Source: DET training market data.

Notes on the data

Data source

The main source of VET data in this report is DET's training activity database referred to as the Skills Victoria Training System (SVTS). This administrative data is reported to DET by government funded training providers.

SVTS data included in this report may differ to previous publications as classifications are updated from time to time to improve data quality and consistency across years. In addition, changes to reporting and data standards may lead to minor revisions to data previously reported.

SVTS data presented in this report is not comparable to other publicly available data such as:

- National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) data – the information reported by NCVER is sourced from data submitted by all states and territories. While the NCVER data for Victoria is sourced from data submitted by the Victorian Department of Education and Training, there will be marginal differences between Departmental data and published NCVER data due to national statistical and counting rules that seek to ensure consistency and comparability between jurisdictions.
- Budget Paper No. 3 data (Chapter 2 - Department performance statements) because of differences in counting rules and definitions.

The main measures used in this report are students, course enrolments and course commencements. New course commencements show the number of new course enrolments in a given year, as courses often take more than one year to complete. Total course enrolments include both new commencements and continuing enrolments. A student may be enrolled in more than one course at a training provider during a given reporting period.

The report also draws on publicly available data on the VET system from NCVER (which allows for inter-jurisdictional comparisons) and from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Data scope

This report covers government-funded training activity only. Training activity for the 2019 full year is compared with the same period in 2017 and 2018 to provide a picture of changes and trends over time.

Learn Local and Adult and Community Education (ACE)

The Training Market Report generally classifies providers as TAFE, Dual Sector, Adult and Community Education (ACE) or private. However, some data sources use a slightly different definition – Learn Local – rather than ACE. Only Learn Local organisations report activity through to the Adult, Community and Further Education Board, while ACE organisations are self-identified and are not required to do so. Some Learn Local organisations self identify as private RTOs and are therefore not included in the ACE definition.

Industry classifications

All industry titles and classifications included in this Report are defined as per the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classifications (ANZSIC). For more information, see: www.abs.gov.au/ANZSIC.

Where a qualification is considered relevant across several industries, enrolments have been proportionally allocated across relevant ANZSIC industries using employment data as a guide.

Foundation courses

Foundation courses are identified as set out in the *Guidelines about Determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence* for the relevant reporting period. The 2019 Guidelines are available at: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/training/providers/rto/2019_FINAL_Eligibility_v1.pdf

Regional analysis

Data on regional training is reported by the region in which the training was delivered (as distinct from the region where the student lives). Note a course can be delivered to a student across multiple regions. In these cases, the course enrolment will be counted in each region in which it was delivered. Consequently, for tables that present data by delivery region, totals may not match the sum of their components.