

Request for answers from the Victorian TAFE Association (VTA) to questions raised at the Joint Standing Committee on Migration - Australia's skilled migration program - Wednesday, 21 March 2021. Answers are provided below.

1. Question: What % of people that undertake VET in Victoria do your members educate?

Answer: The information provided below comes from the NCVER report located here: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/government-funded-students-and-courses-january-to-september-2020#h2heading0>

Government-funded students by provider reporting type and state/territory, January to September 2020 (Victoria)

Total students for all providers is 240,900.

Students in TAFE and dual sector is 141,500 (104,500 and 42,600 respectively)

For period Jan to Sept 2020 TAFE and dual sector accounted for 58.7% of Government funded VET training.

Based on the information available it is reasonable to suggest this would be relatively close to Full Year.

2. Question: What % of students would be in the Business Management and IT areas in terms of industry sectors that TAFE does major training in?

Answer: In the same report above, page 13 - Government-funded program enrolments by field of education and state/territory, January to September 2020 ('000) Victoria. 23,100 in Business/Commerce, 6,400 in Information Technology. So total in Business/Info Tech is 29,500 which is 11.3% of government funded programs.

3. Question: Retention rates – what sort of % complete from commencement to graduation by way of example in a couple of disciplines?

Answer: The VTA has obtained data from NCVER from 2018.

The data shows that completion rates can vary significantly across qualification level and area of study.

In 2018 the national completion rate across all levels and areas of study was 52%. However, looking at the qualification level, for Diploma and higher the completion rate is 63.5%, and for the lowest level, Certificate I, the rate is 38.4%. This can be explained because in the lower levels the focus is on foundation skills (LLN and digital skills) and not all people enrolled in these qualifications need to do all of the units. In relation to areas of study Natural and physical sciences, and health have the highest completion rates at 66% and 61% respectively while the two lowest are Architecture and building (41.2%) and Agriculture, environmental and related studies (43.7%).

The Total completion rate for TAFE across Australia was 46.3% compared to the university sector at 46.9%.

By contrast, it is also important to look at the unit completion rates, as many students may choose to update or learn new skills in only certain units of competency within a qualification or for various reasons, they only choose to complete certain units or could not successfully complete all units.

This measure is referred to as the “Subject load pass rate”. The average pass rate in VET across the country was 82.7%. At Diploma or higher it was 80.7% and at Certificate I level it was 71.5%. The highest rate was 84.8 at Certificate III. The pass rate for apprentices and trainees undertaking off-the-job training was 89.2 %, however the total completion rate, i.e., those actually completing the apprenticeship after commencing was 58.3% in 2018.