

FACT SHEET SNAPSHOT



Technical & Further Education (TAFE) in Victoria

The Australian Vocational and Education Training (VET) system operates as a joint partnership between the Commonwealth and States and Territories. Under this arrangement, the States and Territories retain responsibility for their training systems. Key providers of VET nationally are colleges and institutes of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) operating under different governance arrangements according to each state authority. Governance arrangements for Victorian TAFE Institutes are described in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. Victoria's publicly funded TAFE institutes are governed by Boards. TAFE institutes/colleges provide education and skills training for students of all ages and backgrounds, for small and large enterprises and across all industries (www.vta.vic.edu.au/members).

The Victorian State Training System provides education and skills training across all occupational groups and includes, among other organisations, 14 TAFE institutes and 4 TAFE divisions within universities. TAFE institutes provide skills training in operative/clerical, trades and professional/paraprofessional areas. Training delivery includes apprenticeships and traineeships, training for members of Koorie communities and training related to Government policies that address national, state-wide and regional skills shortages and community needs. In Victoria there are designated specialist centres in such areas as manufacturing, hospitality, tourism, primary industries, biotechnology, heritage trades, textiles, e-business, environmental sustainability and services to small and medium enterprises.

Victoria's TAFE institutes play an important role in reviewing training packages, updating and reviewing curriculum and providing advice to industry sectors. TAFE institutes provide education and training through the following programs:

- Employment skills programs which equip learners with essential skills required to effectively participate in the workforce including entry, apprenticeship, paraprofessional, advanced technical and advanced post-initial training
- The VCE and VCAL for adults and young people as pathways to continuing education, training and employment
- Basic literacy and numeracy (incorporating English as a Second Language programs)

- Vocational education programs for learners re-entering the workforce
- Enrichment programs which meet personal development and special interests.
- Partnerships and consortia such as VET-in-Schools, Skills Stores, Higher Education pathways and industry specific.

TAFE institutes in Victoria offer a high degree of flexibility in the delivery of programs including skills recognition (RPL), part time award courses, stand-alone modules and short non-award courses. Programs can be undertaken on-campus, in workplace settings, in partnership with secondary schools, industry and universities, and through distance education arrangements including using online technologies. Victorian TAFE institutes are actively engaged in VET at the state level as well as nationally and internationally. Victorian TAFE providers currently deliver education in all states and training in countries including India, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal and Mauritius. In 2008 alone 11,874 international students enrolled in TAFE programs in Victoria.

Funding is from a combination of sources: the Australian Government, the Victorian State Government, industry bodies, employers and individuals. Currently, Victorian TAFE providers have total operating revenue in excess of \$1.3 billion per annum and employ more than 10,700 effective full time staff. They deliver approximately 67 million publicly funded student contact hours per annum. While Victorian TAFE institutes continue to be government owned and regulated they generate approximately 28% of their earnings from commercial activities. Remaining funding is received from the Victorian State Government and Commonwealth Government (61%), Student Fees and Charges (5%), Ancillary Trading and other sources (6%).

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(See Overleaf for FACTSHEET...)

Sources: NCVER Australian VET Statistics – Financial Information 2007; NCVER Australian VET Statistics – Students & Courses 2007 & 2008; Victoria's VET Statistics A Pocket Guide 2009 Skills Victoria.

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Victorian TAFE
Association Inc



Reg. No. A37584B

FEATURES OF VICTORIAN TAFE

Did you know...?

- There are 14 TAFE Institutes and 4 Universities with TAFE divisions
- In 2008 394,549 individuals enrolled in TAFE programs in Victoria of which 11,874 were international students on-shore
- 81% of 2007 TAFE graduates were employed by May 2008
- In 2008 fee for service activity made up 38% of total activity
- In 2008 TAFE institutes delivered in excess of 67 million government funded student contact hours
- 41 million student contact hours for fee for service were delivered in 2008 by TAFE institutes
- 8 TAFE Institutes offer degrees in Associate Degree and Bachelor programs. Increasing numbers of TAFE institutes are receiving approval to offer vocational degree qualifications
- In 2008 TAFE institutes and ACE provided Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning programs to 2,597 young people
- In 2008 TAFE institutes and ACE provided VCE programs to approximately 2,500 young people aged 15 – 19 years
- Commonwealth and State government funding to Victorian TAFE institutes for training in 2008 amounted to approximately \$797 million
- TAFE employs around 10,700 effective full time staff
- TAFE delivers education and training internationally with many close links in the Asia-Pacific region

FEATURES OF AUSTRALIAN TAFE

- There are 57 TAFE institutes including Universities with TAFE Divisions
- TAFE and other government providers delivered 344 million hours of training in 2008
- 30% of all young people in Australia undertake some form of VET
- TAFE enrolled approximately 1.32 million Australians in 2008
- 87.5% of VET students are enrolled on a part-time basis
- In 2008 around 7% of VET students are over 45 years of age
- In 2008 48.4% of VET student are under 24 years of age
- More than 78% of students who undertake training in a publicly funded training provider enrol in a TAFE or other government provider
- In 2008 1,696,400 students enrolled in TAFE and other government providers
- Around one in nine people aged 15-64 years participated in the TAFE system in Australia in 2007
- Typical student is more likely to be an adult, already employed and upgrading their job skills rather than a school leaver
- More than 21% of students enrolled in public VET were an apprentice or trainee undertaking off-the-job training

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Sources: NCVER Australian VET Statistics – Students and Courses 2008; NCVER Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics – Student Outcomes 2008; www.vcaa.vic.edu.au; Victoria's VET Statistics A Pocket Guide 2009 Skills Victoria.