



TAFE Works

GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION INTENSIFIES RESOURCE PRESSURE

There were 1.75 million students enrolled in VET in 2000, including more than 1.3 million in TAFE. The latest data from NCVER shows the massive increase in participation that has occurred since 1997. While this is very positive news, in the face of federal under-resourcing it is also one factor in the resource pressures on TAFE.

Increased participation in 2000

In the year 2000, 13.2% of all working age Australians (15 - 64 year olds) participated in VET.

Recently released NCVER data confirms that there were 102,000 additional students enrolled in VET in 2000. Total enrolments were 1.75 million, up 6.2% on 1999.

Within this total, TAFE enrolments increased by a bigger margin. There were 88,400 more TAFE students in 2000 than the year before, up 7.2% to 1.32 million.

Enrolments in community education providers fell by 7,900, or 3.1%, to 0.23 million. Enrolments in 'Other RTOs' (including private providers) increased by 21,700, or 12.1%.

The proportion of total VET students who are enrolled in TAFE increased in 2000 to 75.5%, up from 74.8% in 1999. This is due to the decline in the community providers' enrolment share, from 14.3% to 13%. Other RTOs increased from 10.9% to 11.5% of enrolments in 2000.

Increased annual hours in 2000

Total annual hours increased by 15 million hours, or 4.5%, over 1999. Within this total, TAFE annual hours increased by 11.1 million, or 4%, while Other RTOs increased by 3.1 million, or 7.9%. Community education providers increased their annual hours by 0.9 million hours, or 7.7%.

The proportion of total annual hours offered by TAFE decreased slightly, from 84.6% to 84.1% in 2000. Community providers increased from 3.5% to 3.6% while other RTOs increased from 11.9% to 12.3% of total annual hours in 2000.

Growth during the federal funding freeze

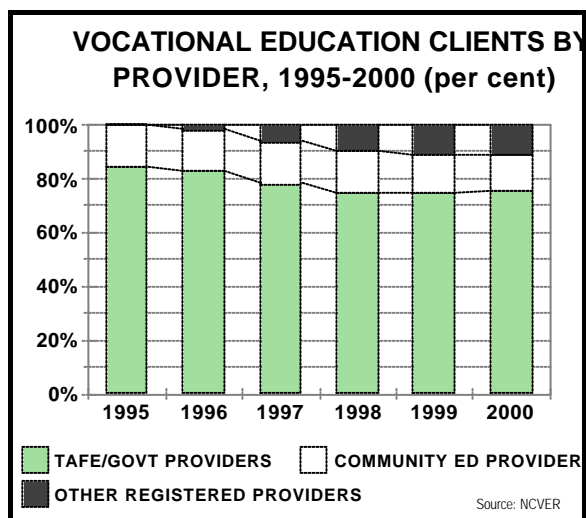
Under the 1998 ANTA Agreement federal funds were frozen, with no provision for enrolment growth. Instead, the states and territories were expected to achieve 'growth through efficiencies'. This has been one of the major pressures on TAFE over this period.

Since 1997, the total number of VET students has increased by 290,800, or 19.9%.

Within that total, TAFE students increased by 179,900, or 15.8%.

While enrolments in community education providers increased by 1.2%, Other RTOs have increased enrolments by 116.8%, or 108,200 students, since 1997.

By 1999, non-TAFE providers received 6.4% of total operating expenses, or \$251.6 million. This too has increased resource pressures on straitened TAFE systems.



Students by qualification, 2000

The biggest growth in 2000 was in non-award courses with an additional 84,000 students enrolled. Certificate II showed the highest growth of AQF levels.

While Certificate III remains the most popular AQF qualification, there were an additional 24,400 Certificate III students in 2000 (7.6%) but 42,300 additional Certificate II students, an increase of 16.2%. The number of Certificate I students fell by 6,300.

Students by qualification			
	1999 (’000)	2000 (’000)	Change (%)
AQF Diploma or higher	200.8	199.6	-0.6
AQF Cert IV or equiv.	167.0	173.5	3.9
AQF Cert III or equiv.	323.3	347.7	7.6
AQF Cert II	261.8	304.1	16.2
AQF Cert I	90.6	84.3	7.5
AQF level unknown	57.5	32.0	-44.3
AQF Senior Sec’y	3.7	2.7	-27.0
Other recognised courses	135.4	121.1	-10.6
Module only	93.3	86.7	-7.1
Non-award courses	313.6	397.6	26.8

Students by field of study

The biggest increases in student numbers by field of study were in Services, Hospitality, Transportation (77,800); Science (26,600); and Business, Administration, Economics (19,200). Engineering, Surveying fell by 20,000 students and Health, Community Services by 5500 students.

Students by discipline group

The big growth areas in 2000 were: Health Sciences (73,300); Hospitality, Tourism and Personal Services (73,100); Administration, Business, Economics, Law (39,300); and Mathematics, Computing (28,400).

Humanities fell by 67,700 students; Sciences fell by 9400; Agriculture, Renewable Resources fell by 6500; Visual/Performing Arts fell by 6000; and Engineering, Processing fell by 700.

Students by age

While the vast majority of students in all age groups are enrolled in TAFE and other government providers, a higher proportion of younger people than older people are enrolled in Other RTOs. 19.3% of 15-19 year olds are enrolled in Other RTOs, compared to 12.3% of 20-24 year olds, 9.6% of 25-39 year olds and 7.7% of 40-64 year olds.

Unmet demand

In 1999, there were 92,300 Australians unable to gain a place in post-school education and training. Of these, 58,999 wanted to do vocational education and training, which is equivalent to 3.6% of total VET enrolments in 1999.

Unmet demand for TAFE increased by 30%, from 35,200 in 1998 to 45,800 in 1999. Unmet demand in other vocational education and training increased by 1.6%, from 12,900 to 13,100.

The latest figures (ABS 6227.0, May 2001) suggest that unmet demand for TAFE fell in 2000 to 40,500. This is still higher than the 1998 level.

The 2001-2003 ANTA Agreement

Estimates of future growth vary from between 2.8% and 5.7% per year. The national TAFE system does not have the resources to meet this demand.

For the first time in four years, the Commonwealth will provide growth funding of \$50m in 2001, \$76m in 2002 and \$104m in 2003, a cumulative total of up to \$230m over the three years. There are conditions.

(See TAFE Funding Campaign Fact Sheet No. 6)

State Ministers of Training had argued for an additional \$150m per annum to fund enrolment growth. The new ANTA Agreement provides about one third of what they said was required in 2001. The total value of their claim for growth funding was just over \$900m extra over three years, compared to the \$230m provided.

The AEU has estimated that there is a need for an additional minimum \$310m per annum to address growth, quality and innovation needs.

Main sources:

NCVER 2001, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 2000 in detail*

NCVER 2001, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 2000 at a glance*