



TAFE Works

VET SYSTEM STILL GROWING.

There were 1.76 million students enrolled in VET in 2001, including 1.3 million in TAFE. The latest data from NCVER shows an increased proportion of VET students are aged 15 - 24. There has been a massive increase in participation since 1997 but growth slowed in the last year as a result of the one-off impact of the Olympics in 2000. Private providers continue to expand, as does the proportion of fee for service activities.

Participation in 2001

In the year 2001, 13.1% of all working age Australians (15 - 64 year olds) participated in VET.

Overall growth in participation since 2000 was an apparent 0.4%, or 7,400 students. Within this, the number of TAFE students actually fell by 26,200, or 2%. However this is due to the impact of one-off training undertaken in TAFE NSW for the Sydney Olympics, which involved an additional 83,000 enrolments. Total module/unit enrolments in TAFE nonetheless increased by 5.4%, suggesting some increase in average enrolments per student.

Since 1997, the number of VET students has increased by 298,200, or 20.4%. Within that, TAFE students have increased by 153,700, or 13.5%.

Hours of delivery

Annual hours of VET delivery increased by 45 million hours, or 13.5%, in the year to 2001. Within that, TAFE annual hours increased by 26.9 million hours, or 9.6%.

Annual hours of VET delivery have increased by 75.4 million hours since 1997, or 25%.

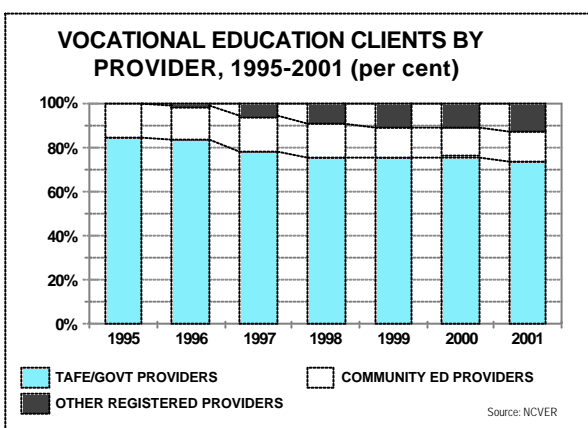
However, notwithstanding this increase in delivery hours and enrolments, between 1997 and 2000 employee costs fell from \$2456.9m to \$2397.7m, or from 66% to 64.2% of total expenditure (less depreciation). Small wonder that teachers are reporting that their workload and stress levels have increased.

Growth in other providers

'Other' RTOs, including private providers, have been expanding their market share at the expense of both TAFE and community providers. This category includes schools registered as RTOs in most states and reflects the growth of VET in schools.

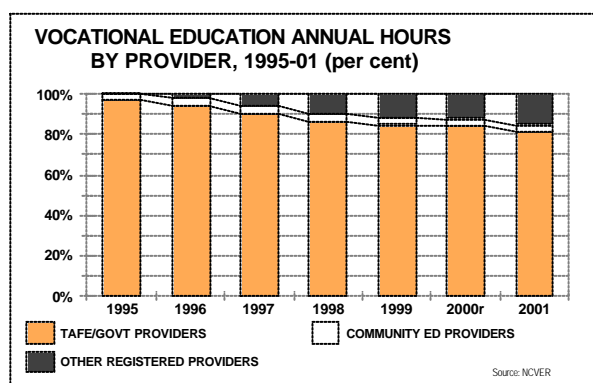
In the year to 2001, the proportion of total students enrolled in TAFE fell from 75.5% to 73.7%. The proportion of students enrolled in Other RTOs increased from 11.5% to 13.2%.

Since 1997, the proportion of students enrolled in Other RTOs has increased from 6.3% to 13.2%, while Community education providers have fallen from 15.4% to 13.1%. Despite the expansion of TAFE enrolments from 1.14 million to 1.32 million, TAFE's share of total students has fallen from 78.2% to 73.7%.



In 2001, there were 4432 private providers across Australia.

In 2001, TAFE continued to provide 81.1% of total delivery hours: 3.4% were provided by community education providers and 15.5% by Other RTOs.



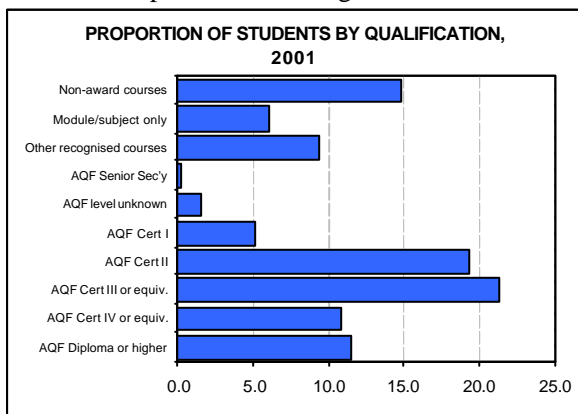
Students by qualification, 2001

The biggest change in 2001 was the drop in non-award courses and the increase in 'other' recognised courses. The strongest growth was in module/subject enrolments, but these only comprise 6% of all enrolments.

While Certificate III remains the most popular AQF qualification, there were an additional 26,900 Certificate III students in 2001 (7.7%) but 36,600 additional Certificate II students, an increase of 12%. The number of Certificate IV students increased by 16,500, or 9.5%.

Students by qualification			
	2000 ('000)	2001 ('000)	CHANGE 00-01 (%)
AQF Diploma or higher	199.6	202.4	1.4
AQF Cert IV or equiv.	173.5	190.0	9.5
AQF Cert III or equiv.	347.7	374.6	7.7
AQF Cert II	304.1	340.7	12.0
AQF Cert I	84.3	90.7	7.6
AQF level unknown	32.0	26.5	-17.2
AQF Senior Sec'y	2.7	2.8	3.7
Other recognised courses	121.1	164.6	35.9
Module/subject only	86.7	105.8	22.0
Non-award courses	397.6	258.6	-35.0
	1749.3	1756.7	0.4

Certificate III enrolments comprise 21.3% of total enrolments, while Certificate II comprise 19.4% and Certificate IV, 10.8%. In total, 11.5% of students are enrolled at Diploma level or higher.



Student profile

Young students (15 -24 year olds and younger) increased by 7% to 691,700 in the year 2001, while the number of older students fell by 3.2% to 996,700.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students has increased by 6300 from 3.0% of all students in 2000 to 3.3% in 2001. The proportion of students known to be unemployed or not in the labour force has increased by 47,400, from 23.2% to 25.8%. The number of students with a disability increased by

7100, from 3.5% to 3.9% of all students. The proportion of students who had a school year level below year 12 as their highest educational qualification increased by 48,700, from 28% to 30.7%.

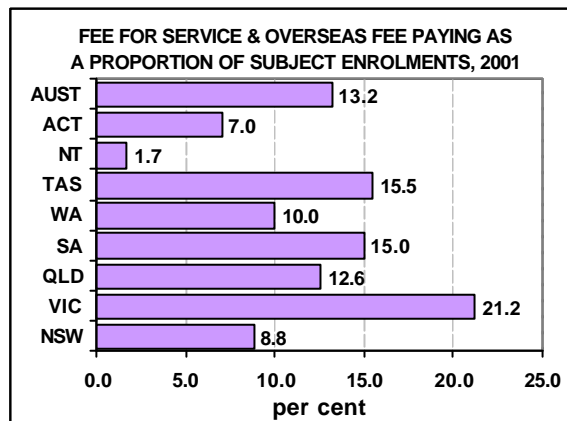
Despite these various changes in numbers, loads and student profiles, between 1997 and 2000 expenditure on student services fell from 4.3% to 2.3% of total expenditure.

Failure and withdrawal rates

The overall rate of fails and withdrawal continues to increase. In 2000, 18% of all subject/module enrolments resulted in either a fail or a withdrawal. In 2001, this had increased to 18.9%. In 1997, the overall rate of failure/withdrawal was 13.7%.

Fee for service courses

Of the 13.5 million subject enrolments in 2001, 1.5 million, or 11.1%, were provided on a fee for service basis, compared to 10.6% in 2000 and 9.5% in 1997. Overseas fee paying subject enrolments accounted for another 2.1% of total subject enrolments in 2000 and 2001. Fee for service delivery by private providers is *not* included in these NCVER figures. The proportion of fee for service enrolments and overseas fee paying students vary across systems.



Mode of delivery

In 2001, 77.3% of subject enrolments were college/campus based; 4.1% were provided online/remote access; 6% were employment based; 6.3% were RPL/CT; and 6.4% were provided in 'other' delivery types.

Main sources:

NCVER 2002, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 2001 in detail* (and earlier years)
 NCVER 2002, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 2001 at a glance* (and earlier years)

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