

Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2020

Section 5: Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Data source: 2020 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 4 January 2021 (Published)

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Section 5

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

There were 26,386 enrolments in VCAL certificates in 2020. Students were enrolled with 475 providers. About 61.2% of VCAL certificate enrolments were students enrolled in Government schools.

Table 5.1: Numbers of Schools Providing VCAL and VCAL Certificate Enrolments by Sector, 2020

Home Sector	Schools	VCAL Certificate Enrolments
Government	297	16,139
Catholic	87	4,202
Independent	59	2,874
Adult	31	3,155
Other Providers	1	16
Total	475	26,386

With respect to the level of certificates studied (see Table 5.2) 26.8% of VCAL students were enrolled in Foundation and 44% in Intermediate level certificates. Senior and Senior Extension enrolments comprised 29.2% of enrolments.

Table 5.2: VCAL Enrolments by Certificate, Gender and Level, 2020

Level	Title	Gender			All
		Female	Male	Gender X	
Foundation	VCAL (Foundation)	2,471	4,569	26	7,066
Intermediate	VCAL (Intermediate)	4,314	7,279	25	11,618
Senior	VCAL (Senior)	3,164	4,520	18	7,702
All	Total	9,949	16,368	69	26,386

Gender

About three in five VCAL student enrolments in 2020 were male (62%).

Unit Completions

In 2020 there were a total of 120,370 VCAL unit completions (See table 5.3). VCAL units are not the full range of curriculum that contributed towards the attainment of a VCAL. Students enrolled in any VCAL certificate can also gain credit from VET and VCE studies towards their VCAL qualification. VCAL students enrolled in VET and VCE units are included in the participation and completion reports for those units and certificates.

VCAL Personal Development units (28.1%) and VCAL Work Related Skills units (25.5%) accounted for the majority of enrolments in VCAL units.

Overall 75.9% of VCAL units were satisfactorily completed. The overall completion rates for each major unit were as follows: Literacy Skills (75.3%); Numeracy Skills (73.7%); Personal Development Skills (77.2%) and Work Related Skills (76.4%).

Table 5.3: VCAL Unit Completions by Level, 2020

Description	Unit Enrolments	Unit Completions	
		Completed	% Completed
Advanced Numeracy Skills (S)	121	115	95.0
Literacy Skills (F) Oral Communication	5,430	3,158	58.2
Literacy Skills (F) Reading and Writing	5,539	2,981	53.8
Literacy Skills (I) Oral Communication	9,776	7,648	78.2
Literacy Skills (I) Reading and Writing	10,052	7,749	77.1
Literacy Skills (S) Oral Communication	7,197	6,184	85.9
Literacy Skills (S) Reading and Writing	7,528	6,561	87.2
Numeracy Skills (F)	5,368	2,779	51.8
Numeracy Skills (I) - Unit 1	8,706	6,679	76.7
Numeracy Skills (I) - Unit 2	4,691	3,425	73.0
Numeracy Skills (S) - Unit 1	5,693	4,897	86.0
Numeracy Skills (S) - Unit 2	2,893	2,355	81.4
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (F)	5,729	3,557	62.1
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (I)	10,420	8,379	80.4
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (S)	7,465	6,581	88.2
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (F)	4,814	2,690	55.9
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (I)	9,950	7,781	78.2
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (S)	6,160	5,391	87.5
Portfolio Enhancement and Presentation (SE)	50	49	98.0
Skills for Further Study (S)	620	503	81.1
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (F)	5,425	3,347	61.7
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (I)	9,954	7,894	79.3
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (S)	6,181	5,457	88.3
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (F)	4,508	2,672	59.3
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (I)	8,616	6,610	76.7
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (S)	5,768	4,928	85.4
Total	158,654	120,370	75.9

Note: F=Foundation, I=Intermediate, S=Senior and SE=Senior Extension

Where a student has formally withdrawn from the Unit, these have been excluded from the above table.

Certificate Completions

There were 14,552 VCAL certificate completions out of 20,047 enrolments which were eligible to complete in 2020. This is a completion rate of 72.6% (See Table 5.4). A student is eligible to complete a qualification if they have completed sufficient units or modules, or are enrolled in sufficient units or modules that, if completed satisfactorily, would meet the requirements for satisfactory completion of the qualification. Students may also gain credit towards their VCAL from VCE units and VET units of competence.

Table 5.4: VCAL Certificate Completions by Level, 2020

Level	Eligible Enrolments	Completed	% Completed
Foundation	3,423	1,775	51.9
Intermediate	9,403	6,513	69.3
Senior and Senior Extension	7,221	6,264	86.7
Total	20,047	14,552	72.6

Of those students who completed a VCAL certificate, 61.3% were male and 38.4% were female. This is a reflection of the enrolment pattern.

Table 5.5: Percentage of VCAL Certificate Completions by Gender, 2020

Level	% Gender
Female	
Foundation	33.2
Intermediate	37.1
Senior and Senior Extension	41.3
Total	38.4
Male	
Foundation	66.4
Intermediate	62.7
Senior and Senior Extension	58.5
Total	61.3
Gender X	
Foundation	0.3
Intermediate	0.2
Senior and Senior Extension	0.2
Total	0.2