



# Australia's Vocational & Technical Education System

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## THIS PRESENTATION

- Why has Australia developed a strong vocational and technical education (VTE) system?
- How does the VTE system work?
- Who are its students and whom does it serve?
- The links between secondary education and vocational training



## Why has Australia developed such a strong Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) system?

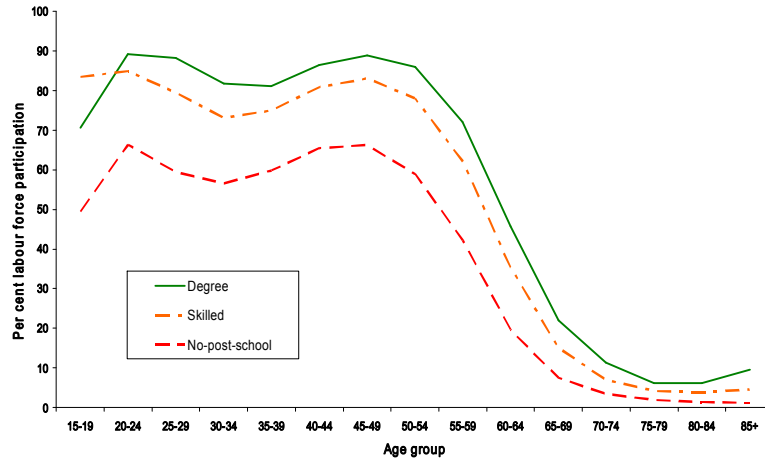


### There are a range of reasons ...

- Provide high skilled labour for a developed economy
- University qualifications do not meet the needs of all industries
- Reduce youth unemployment
- Re-training and up-skilling
- Re-entry to the labour market

## Having a post-school qualification makes a significant difference

Labour force participation by age and highest educational attainment



## More jobs may need VTE skills than university qualifications

Qualification	Current profile of population	Potential pathway for jobs
	% of 15-64 population	% of employment
University	16.4	21.7
VTE	30.0	<b>62.8</b>
No tertiary	53.6	15.5



## The vocational and technical education system



## Australia is a federation . .

of 6 States and 2 Territories:

- States and Territories are responsible for education and training

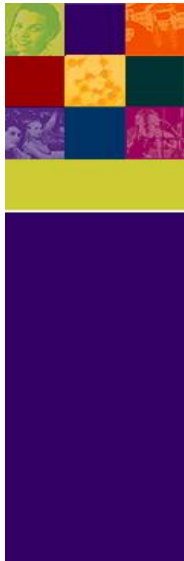




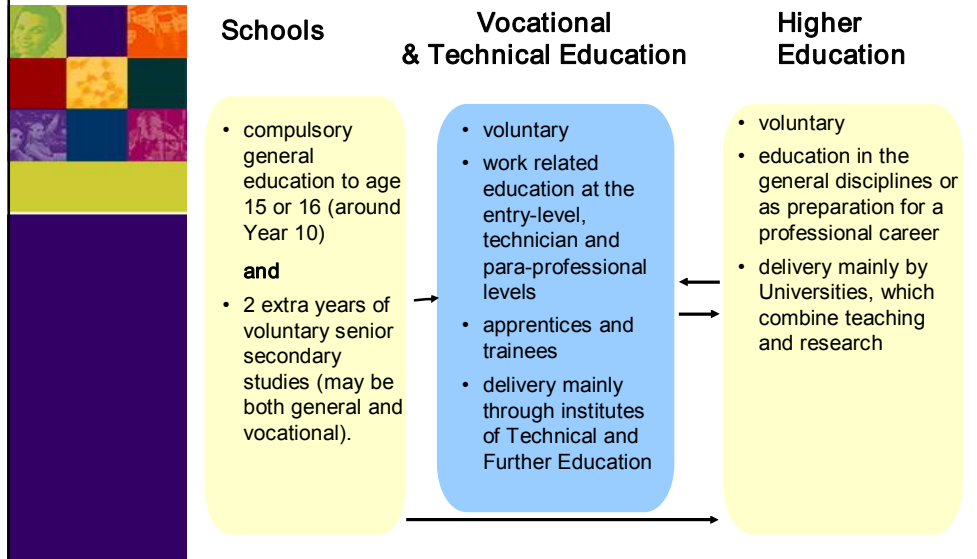
## The Australian Government has national leadership on VTE policy

It also provides:

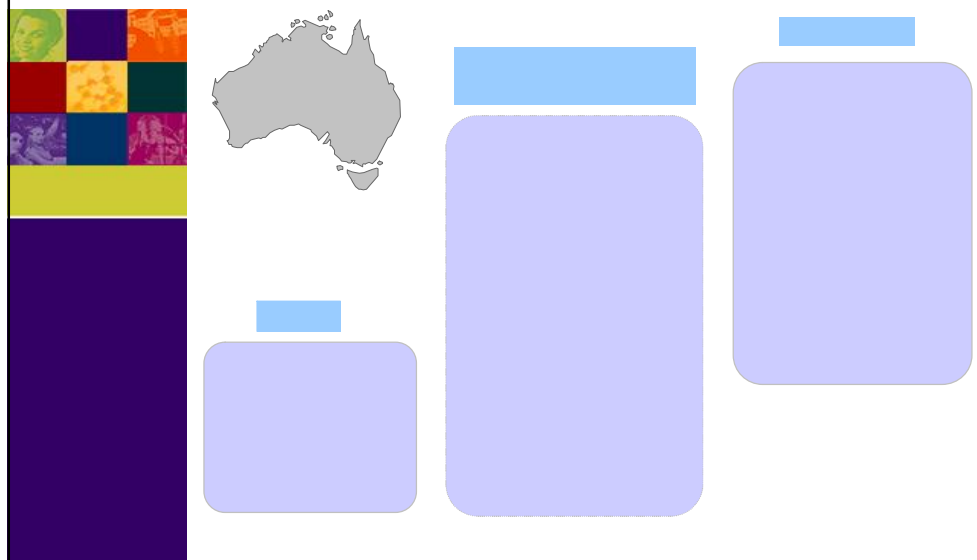
- One third funding for the public sector
- Funding for specific progrg



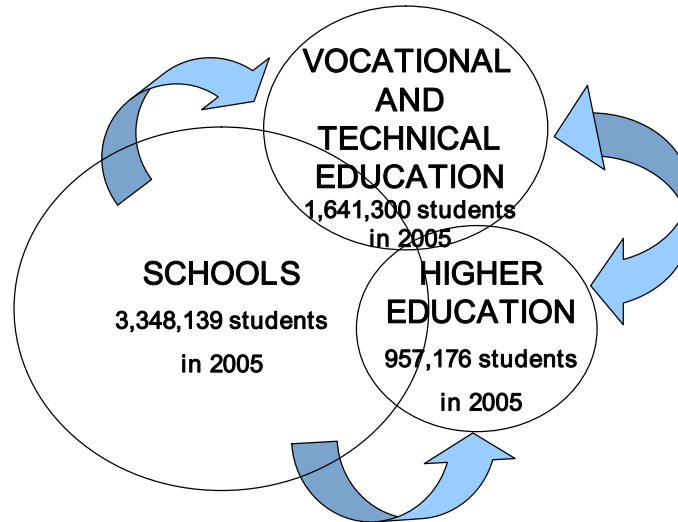
## VTE has strong links with the other education sectors



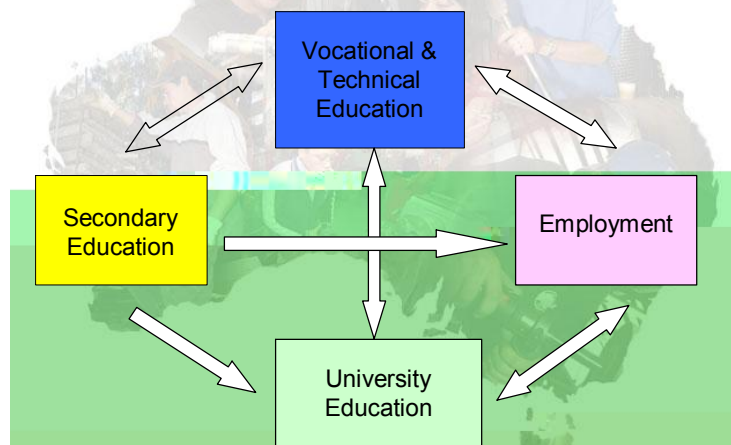
## A national recognition framework links qualifications between the sectors



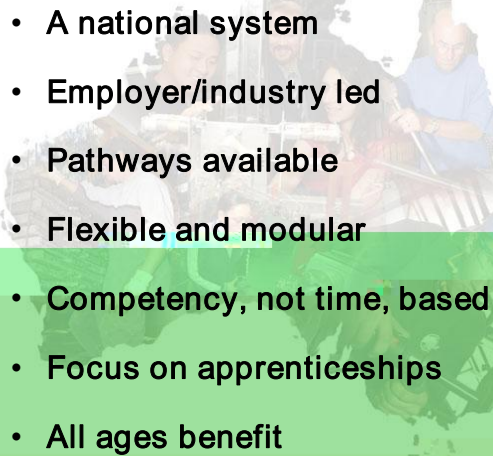
## VTE is the largest post-school sector



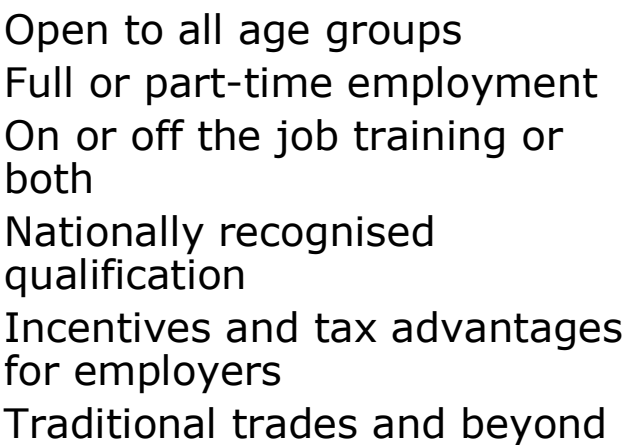
## VTE is an important pathway between education and employment in Australia



## Australia's VTE system has a number of key features

- 
- A national system
  - Employer/industry led
  - Pathways available
  - Flexible and modular
  - Competency, not time, based
  - Focus on apprenticeships
  - All ages benefit

## Australian Apprenticeships are a feature of the VTE system

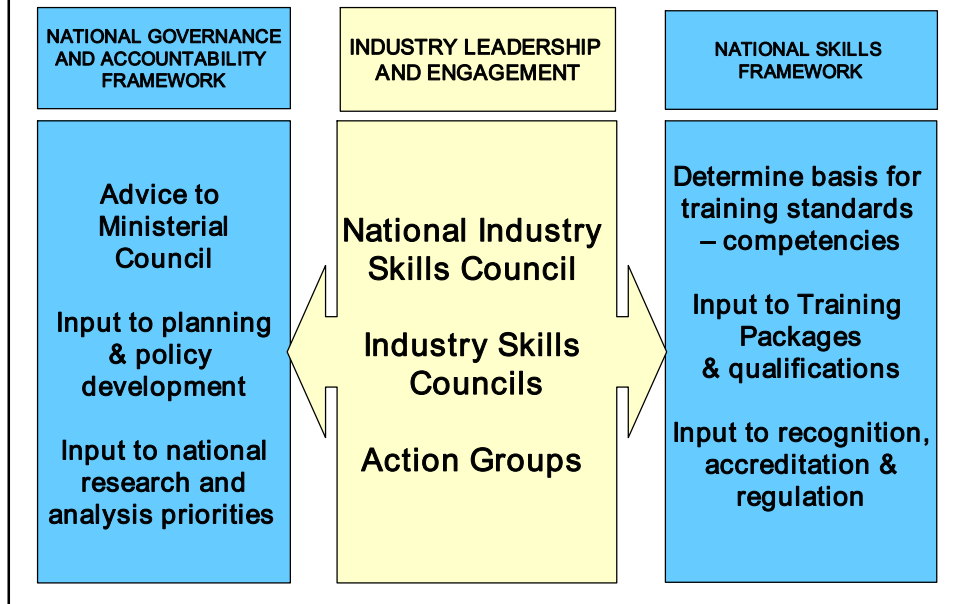
- 
- Open to all age groups
  - Full or part-time employment
  - On or off the job training or both
  - Nationally recognised qualification
  - Incentives and tax advantages for employers
  - Traditional trades and beyond



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Science and Training

The national government  
accountability framework  
ensure quality provision

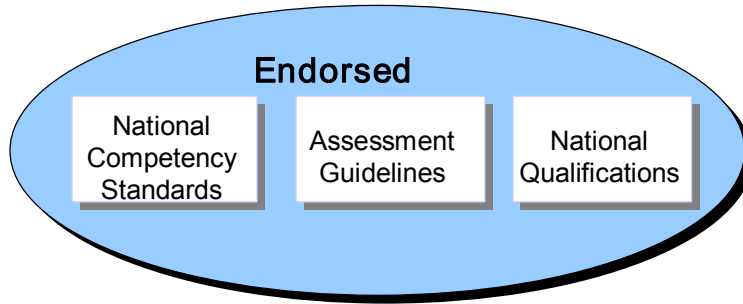
## Industry/ employers play a key role



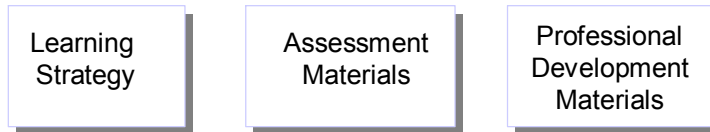
## Training is Competency Based

- Time based training  $\neq$  competency level attained
- Training Packages
  - 75 Training Packages nationally
  - cover 80% of the workforce
  - outcomes determined by industry

## Training Packages are the foundation of the system



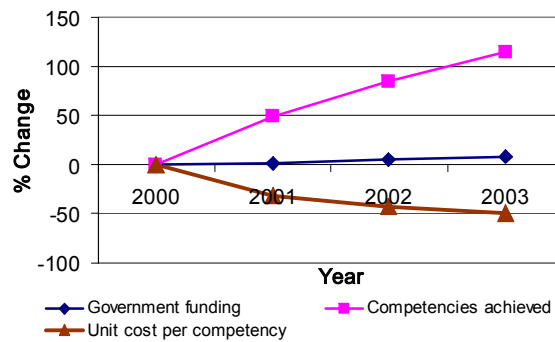
## Training Package Support Materials



## Australia's VTE system performs well



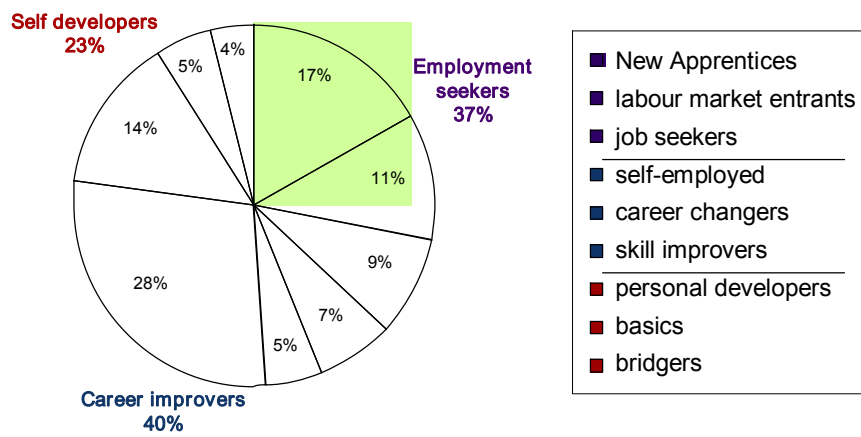
Selected VET Sector Efficiency Measures





## VTE Students

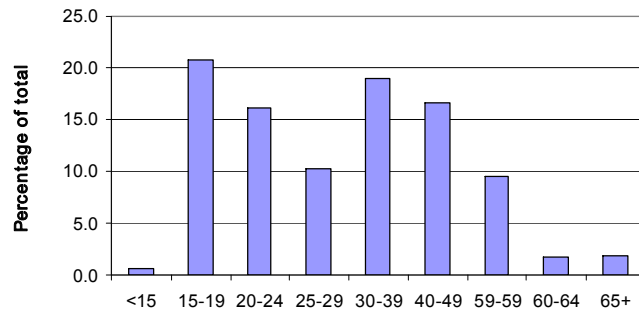
### Students choose VTE for a variety of reasons



## People of all ages participate



VET Engagement by Age Group 2003



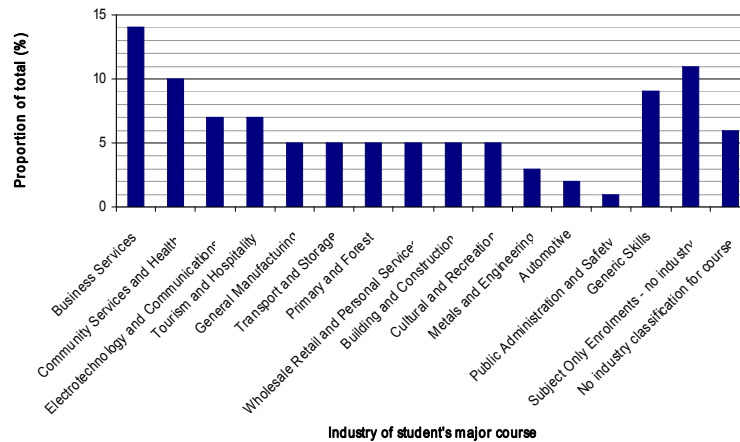
## Students learn and train in many locations



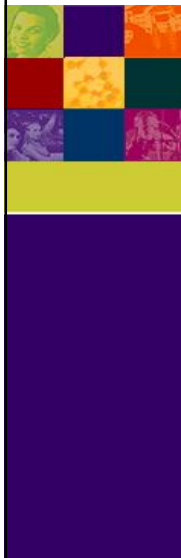
- TAFE and other Government providers
- Commercial training providers
- Adult and community education organisations
- Enterprises
- Secondary schools



## ... across a range of industries



## VTE students are diverse



- 1.64 million students undertook training in 2005 = 11.4% of working age population
- 50% undertook short, focussed programs
- 89.4% undertook p/t training
- 389,000 Australian Apprentices
- 4% of total Overseas Students
- 211,828 students undertook VTE in Schools in 2004





## Links between secondary schools and vocational and technical training



## Many reasons for offering VTE in secondary schools . .

- Make school more attractive for the 70% of students who will not go on immediately to university.
  - strong commitment to general education in schools
  - balance this with more employment-related curriculum
- Support disengaged young people and those at risk of leaving early
- need for alternative pathways between school and employment
- meet specific industry needs in key locations

## Three ways to study VTE subjects in secondary school

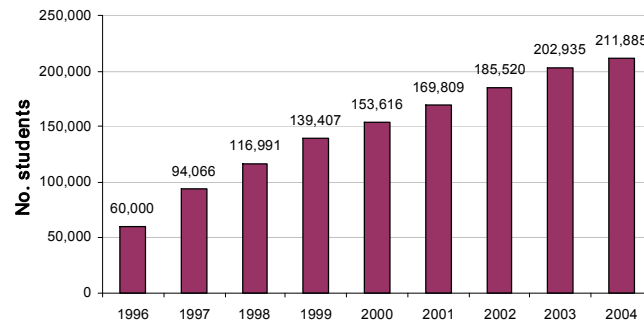
- VTE in Schools
- School-based Australian Apprenticeships
- Australian Technical Colleges

## What is VTE in Schools?

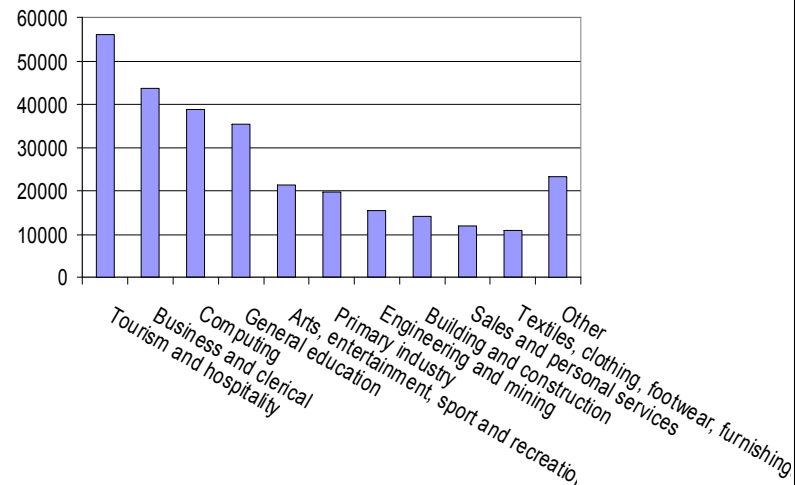
- programs undertaken by school students as part of the senior secondary certificate
- provide credit towards a nationally recognised VTE qualification
- training that reflects specific industry competency standards
- delivered by a Registered Training Organisation

## There is significant involvement

- 49 per cent of school students
- Across 95 per cent of schools



## Students encounter a range of industry training





## School-Based Australian Apprenticeships incorporate employment

- Based on a formal arrangement with an employer
- Opportunity to gain a recognised VTE qualification in conjunction with completing a senior secondary certificate.
- Participating as a full-time student and a part-time employee.



## Australian Technical Colleges

- 24 regions across Australia
- School-based Australian Apprenticeships
  - metal and engineering, automotive, building and construction, electro-technology, commercial cookery
- Industry governing body



## ATCs - all around Australia



## Australia's VTE system is delivering good results

- Better system and student outcomes
- Improved options for students
- High satisfaction rates
- Increased competition
- International interest

### But more to do:

- Increased flexibility
- More higher-level courses and students
- Processes simplified and streamlined



## Central principles to continuing reform:

- Industry and business needs must drive training policies, priorities and delivery
- All working-age people must have opportunities to gain a range of skills
- The system must be as streamlined as possible consistent with effective quality assurance



Thank you

