

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?

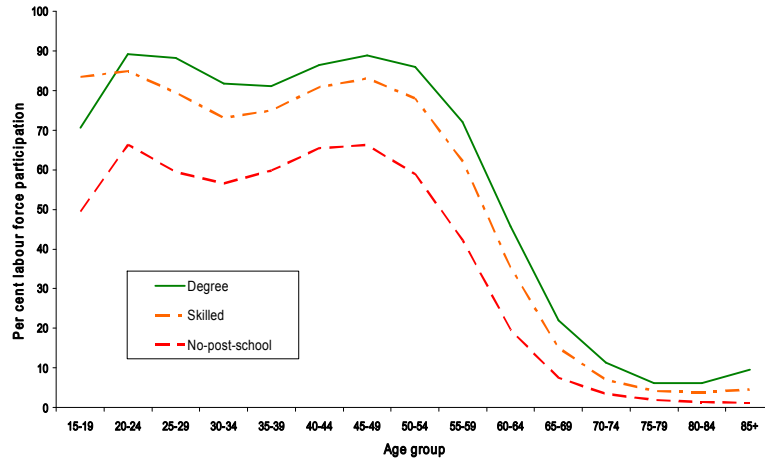


There are a range of reasons ...

- 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	62.8
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

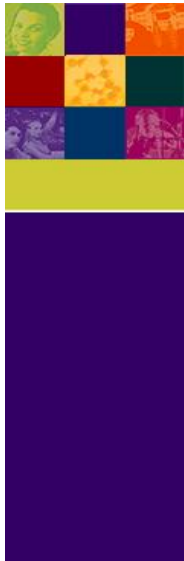




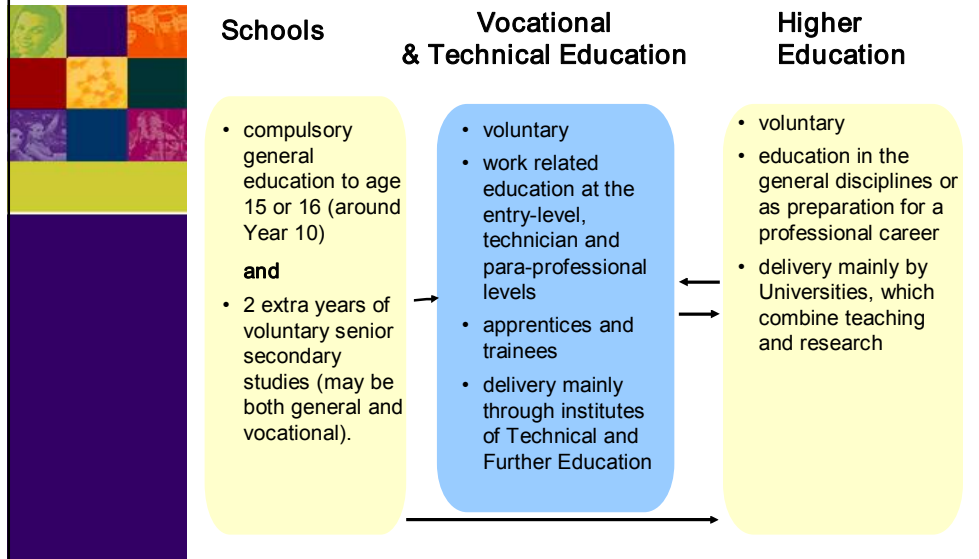
The Australian Government has national leadership on VTE policy

It also provides:

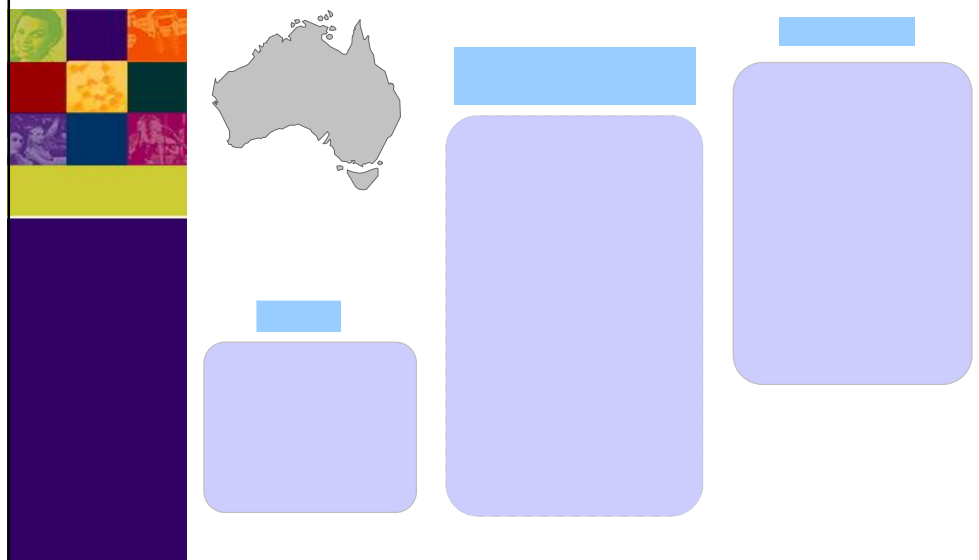
- One third funding for the public sector
- Funding for specific progrg



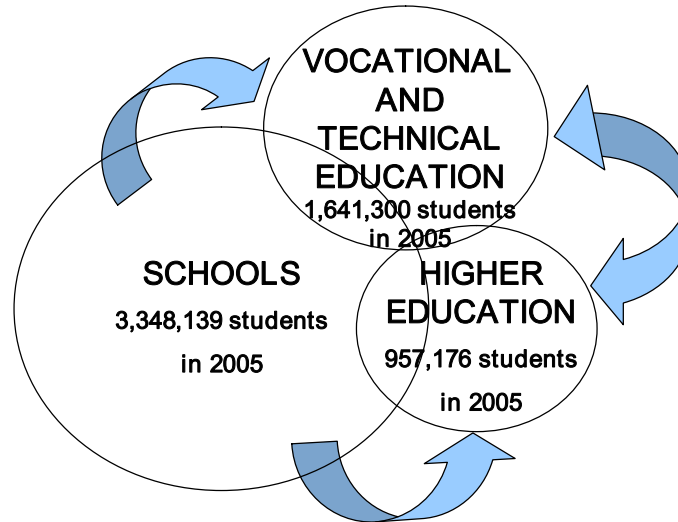
VTE has strong links with the other education sectors



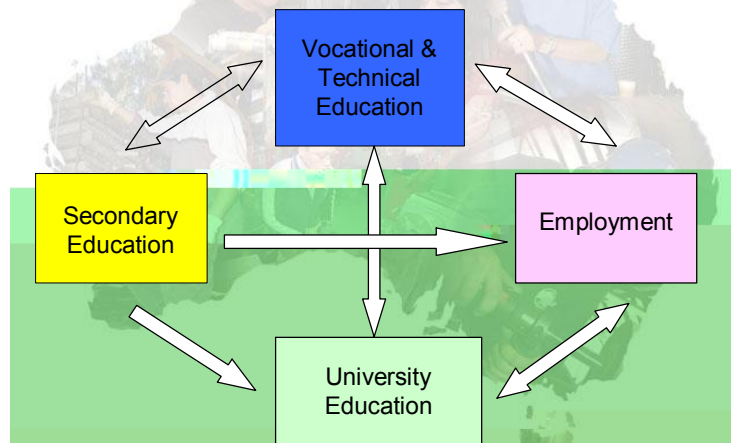
A national recognition framework links qualifications between the sectors



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

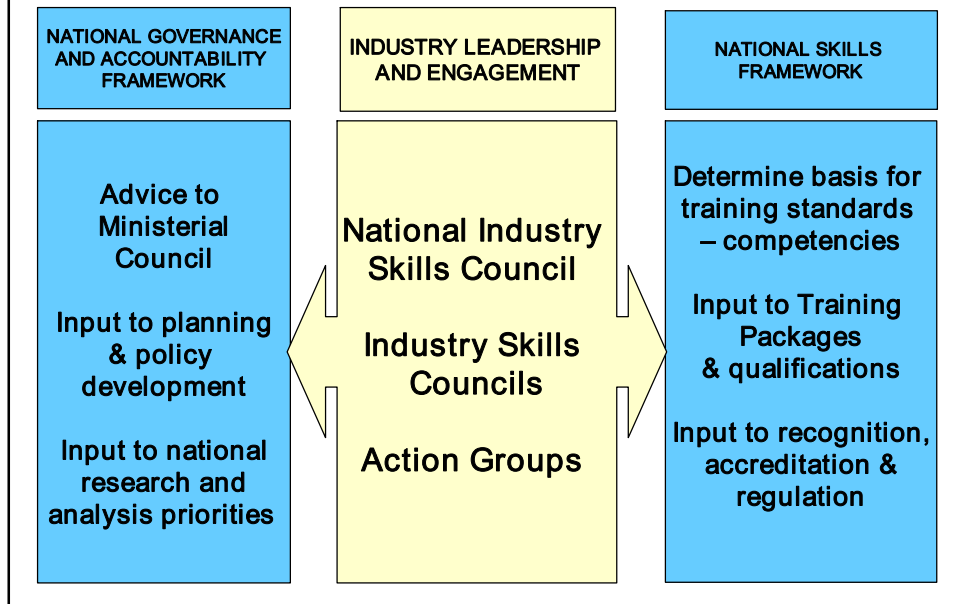
- Open to all age groups
- Full or part-time employment
- On or off the job training or both
- Nationally recognised qualification
- Incentives and tax advantages for employers
- Traditional trades and beyond



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Science and Training

The national government
accountability framework
ensure quality provision

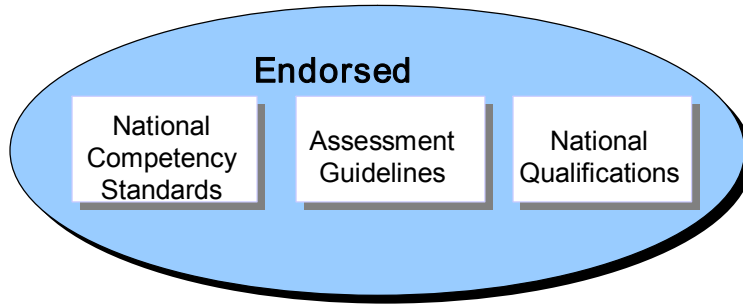
Industry/ employers play a key role



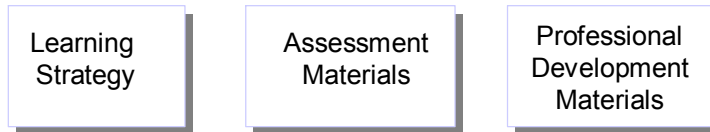
Training is Competency Based

- 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



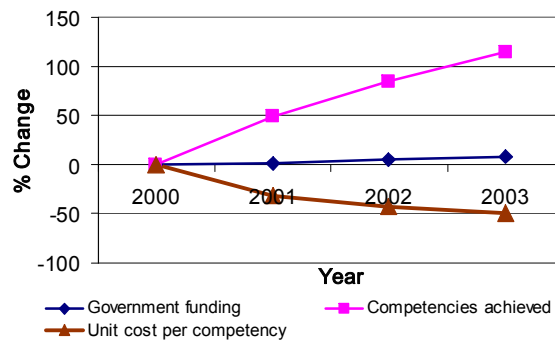
Training Package Support Materials



Australian Government
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Science and Training

Australia's VTE system performs well

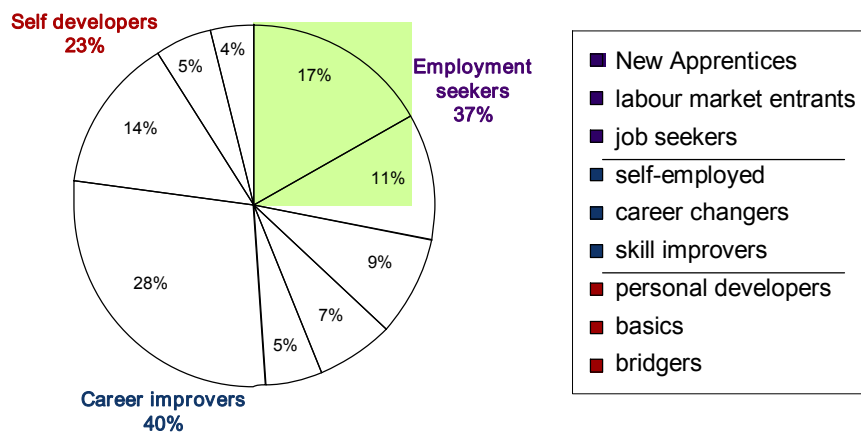
Selected VET Sector Efficiency Measures





VTE Students

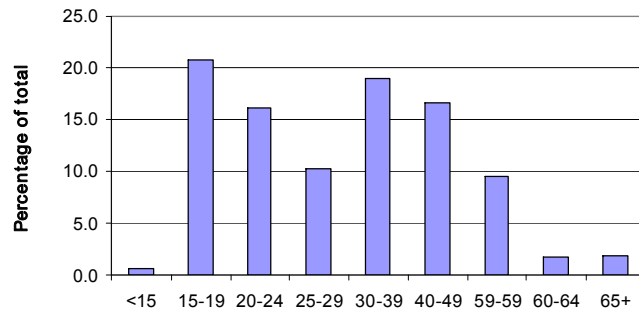
Students choose VTE for a variety of reasons



People of all ages participate



VET Engagement by Age Group 2003



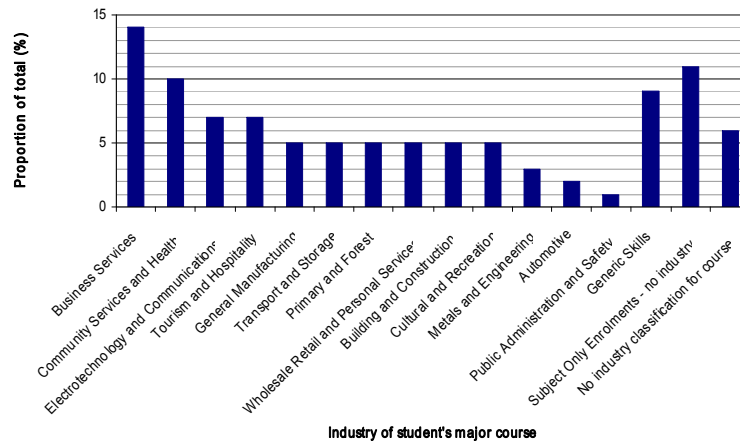
Students learn and train in many locations



- 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

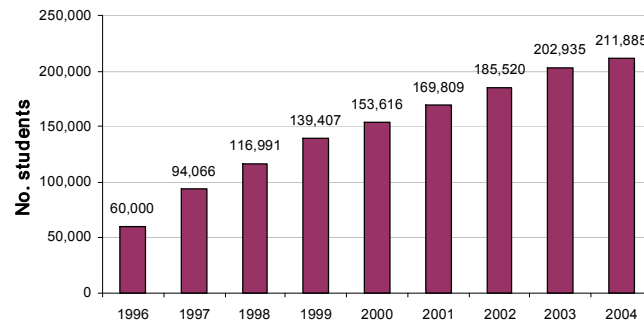
- VTE in Schools
- School-based Australian Apprenticeships
- Australian Technical Colleges

What is VTE in Schools?

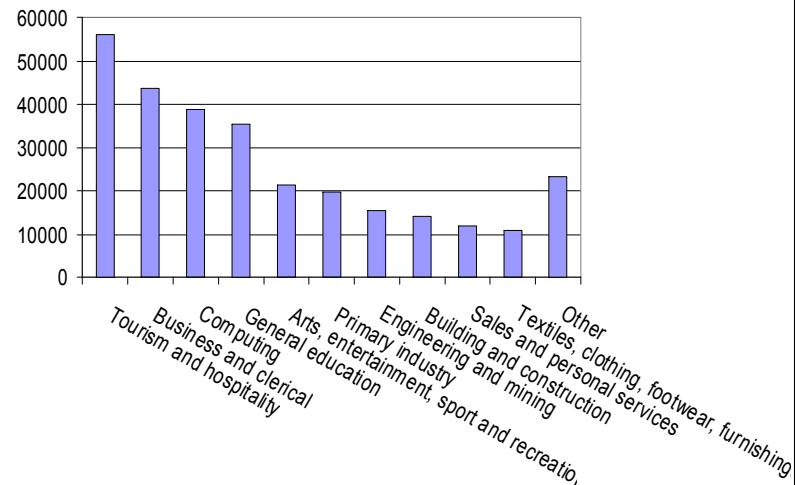
- programs undertaken by school students as part of the senior secondary certificate
- provide credit towards a nationally recognised VTE qualification
- training that reflects specific industry competency standards
- delivered by a Registered Training Organisation

There is significant involvement

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



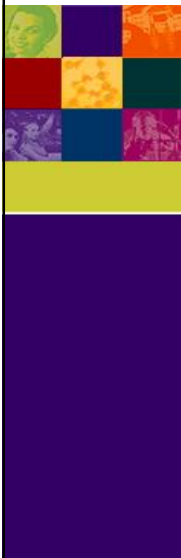
Students encounter a range of industry training





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.

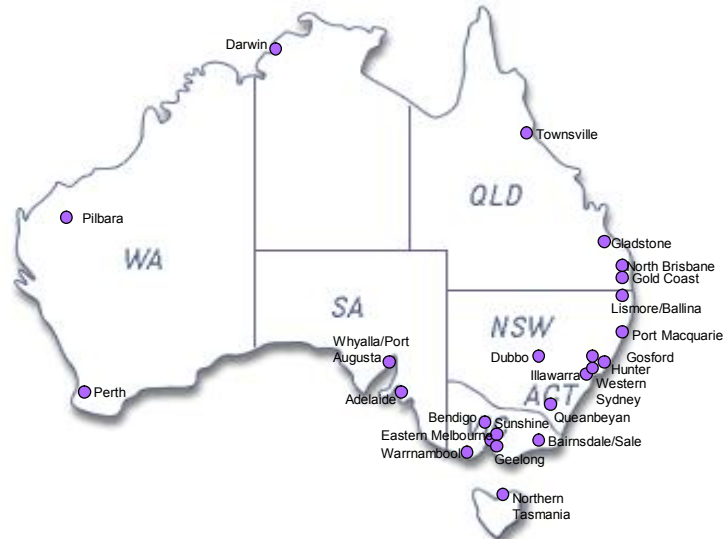


Australian Technical Colleges

- 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

