

Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2021

Section 5: Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Data source: 2021 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 17 January 2022 (Published)

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Section 5

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

There were 27,624 enrolments in VCAL certificates in 2021. Students were enrolled with 480 providers. About 62.6% of VCAL certificate enrolments were students enrolled in Government schools.

Table 5.1: Numbers of Schools Providing VCAL and VCAL Certificate Enrolments by Sector, 2021

Home Sector	Schools	VCAL Certificate Enrolments
Government	304	17,296
Catholic	87	4,357
Independent	61	3,279
Adult	28	2,692
Total	480	27,624

With respect to the level of certificates studied (see Table 5.2) 27.2% of VCAL students were enrolled in Foundation and 43.4% in Intermediate level certificates. Senior and Senior Extension enrolments comprised 29.4% of enrolments.

Table 5.2: VCAL Enrolments by Certificate, Gender and Level, 2021

Level	Title	Gender			All
		Female	Male	Gender X	
Foundation	VCAL (Foundation)	2,787	4,686	37	7,510
Intermediate	VCAL (Intermediate)	4,431	7,506	48	11,985
Senior	VCAL (Senior)	3,344	4,759	26	8,129
All	Total	10,562	16,951	111	27,624

Gender

About three in five VCAL student enrolments in 2021 were male (61.4%).

Unit Completions

In 2021 there were a total of 123,198 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 (27.8%) and VCAL Work Related Skills units (25.5%) accounted for the majority of enrolments in VCAL units.

Overall 73.3% of VCAL units were satisfactorily completed. The overall completion rates for each major unit were as follows: Literacy Skills (72.6%); Numeracy Skills (71.3%); Personal Development Skills (74.9%) and Work Related Skills (73.4%).

Table 5.3: VCAL Unit Completions by Level, 2021

Description	Unit Enrolments	Unit Completions	
		Completed	% Completed
Advanced Numeracy Skills (S)	190	155	81.6
Literacy Skills (F) Oral Communication	5,726	3,087	53.9
Literacy Skills (F) Reading and Writing	5,936	3,020	50.9
Literacy Skills (I) Oral Communication	10,298	7,633	74.1
Literacy Skills (I) Reading and Writing	10,462	7,555	72.2
Literacy Skills (S) Oral Communication	7,666	6,624	86.4
Literacy Skills (S) Reading and Writing	7,908	6,918	87.5
Numeracy Skills (F)	5,456	2,709	49.7
Numeracy Skills (I) - Unit 1	9,002	6,495	72.2
Numeracy Skills (I) - Unit 2	5,089	3,527	69.3
Numeracy Skills (S) - Unit 1	6,243	5,380	86.2
Numeracy Skills (S) - Unit 2	3,347	2,650	79.2
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (F)	5,972	3,675	61.5
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (I)	10,938	8,629	78.9
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (S)	7,946	7,033	88.5
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (F)	5,548	3,007	54.2
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (I)	9,856	7,120	72.2
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (S)	6,516	5,560	85.3
Portfolio Enhancement and Presentation (SE)	103	87	84.5
Skills for Further Study (S)	1,027	878	85.5
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (F)	5,418	3,214	59.3
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (I)	10,413	7,929	76.1
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (S)	6,657	5,866	88.1
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (F)	4,993	2,729	54.7
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (I)	9,327	6,657	71.4
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (S)	6,062	5,061	83.5
Total	168,099	123,198	73.3

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 14,262 VCAL certificate completions out of 20,903 enrolments which were eligible to complete in 2021. This is a completion rate of 68.2% (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.

Due to the on-going impact of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, the VCAA and DET provided additional support to VCAL students. However, anecdotal evidence suggests a higher than usual proportion of the students enrolled in the VCAL Foundation and Intermediate levels found 2021 challenging and were unable to complete learning outcomes for units. These students can re-enrol in 2022 to complete the number of units required to qualify for their VCAL certificates.

Table 5.4: VCAL Certificate Completions by Level, 2021

Level	Eligible Enrolments	Completed	% Completed
Foundation	3,609	1,758	48.7
Intermediate	9,664	5,796	60.0
Senior and Senior Extension	7,630	6,708	87.9
Total	20,903	14,262	68.2

Of those students who completed a VCAL certificate, 61.6% were male and 38.2% were female. This is a reflection of the enrolment pattern.

Table 5.5: Percentage of VCAL Certificate Completions by Gender, 2021

Level	% Gender
Female	
Foundation	34.9
Intermediate	35.7
Senior and Senior Extension	41.1
Total	38.2
Male	
Foundation	64.8
Intermediate	64.1
Senior and Senior Extension	58.6
Total	61.6
Gender X	
Foundation	0.3
Intermediate	0.2
Senior and Senior Extension	0.3
Total	0.2