

Section 1:

In 2005 there were two certificates of senior secondary education in Victoria, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Information about VCAL is included in Section 5.

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

VCE completion is calculated on the basis of satisfactory completion of units. Refer to the VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook for the regulations, which may be found on the VCAA website at:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/schooladmin/handbook/handbook.html>

TABLE 1.1 VCE PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETION 2003-2005

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>All Students:</i> | | | |
| Eligible to complete the VCE ¹ | 50,276 | 49,741 | 49,273 |
| Students satisfactorily completing VCE ² | 47,585 | 48,134 | 47,566 |
| Percentage ³ | 94.6 | 96.8 | 96.5 |
| <i>Females</i> | | | |
| Eligible to complete the VCE ¹ | 26,794 | 26,498 | 26,413 |
| Students satisfactorily completing VCE ² | 25,529 | 25,771 | 25,621 |
| Percentage ³ | 95.3 | 97.3 | 97.0 |
| <i>Males</i> | | | |
| Eligible to complete the VCE ¹ | 23,482 | 23,243 | 22,860 |
| Students satisfactorily completing VCE ² | 22,056 | 22,363 | 21,945 |
| Percentage ³ | 93.9 | 96.2 | 96.0 |

¹ these figures are derived from VCAA information in December and include overseas students. Year 12 enrolments in Victorian schools in Feb 2005 were 52,535 and in August 2005 were 50,521

² students who have successfully achieved their VCE in previous years have been removed from both eligible and completing totals

³ this figure is **not** an indicator of attainment of the Premier's target, see below

TABLE 1.2 UNIT RESULTS BY GENDER AND LEVEL, 2005

| | | Unit 1 | | | Unit 2 | | | Unit 3 | | | Unit 4 | | |
|--------|---|---------|---------|------|---------|---------|------|---------|---------|------|---------|---------|------|
| | | Enrol | S | S% | Enrol | S | S% | Enrol | S | S% | Enrol | S | S% |
| Male | n | 176,955 | 163,882 | 92.6 | 165,107 | 153,102 | 92.7 | 129,230 | 125,767 | 97.3 | 124,320 | 121,574 | 97.8 |
| | % | 48.6 | 48.0 | | 48.2 | 47.6 | | 46.5 | 46.3 | | 46.3 | 46.2 | |
| Female | n | 187,234 | 177,432 | 94.8 | 177,794 | 168,617 | 94.8 | 148,506 | 145,749 | 98.1 | 143,924 | 141,607 | 98.4 |
| | % | 51.4 | 52.0 | | 51.8 | 52.4 | | 53.5 | 53.7 | | 53.7 | 53.8 | |
| Total | | 364,189 | 341,314 | 93.7 | 342,901 | 321,719 | 93.8 | 277,736 | 271,516 | 97.8 | 268,244 | 263,181 | 98.1 |

From this table there were a total of 1,253,070 unit enrolments in 2005 of which 95.6% were successful. Note that the participation of those students who withdrew during the year without an outcome recorded against their unit enrolments were removed from the dataset. Section 2 provides more detailed information of unit participation and completions by study and sequence.

PREMIER'S YEAR 12 ATTAINMENT TARGET

In October 2000, the Victorian Government set three benchmark targets for education and training, including a target for levels of educational achievement of young Victorians:

'By 2010 90% of young people in Victoria will complete Year 12 or its equivalent.'

For the purposes of monitoring progress towards this goal, young people have been defined as 19 year olds. This is consistent with decisions endorsed by MCEETYA for national reporting of similar measures. The VCE is the most popular Year 12 qualification. The table below provides information about the completion of the VCE. These figures below report year 12 or equivalent completions, however completions of other qualifications such as VCAL, the International Baccalaureate and Vocational Education and Training certificates should be added for a full picture.

From the tables below it may be observed that the number of completers increased to a high in 2002 and has decreased marginally since. The completions of 18 and 19 year olds are increasing, but the completions of the over 19 year olds (who don't contribute to the completion indicator) are decreasing.

TABLE 1.3 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS¹ OF VCE BY AGE AT 30 JUNE, 1995–2005

| Year | Under 16 | 16 Years | 17 Years | 18 Years | 19 Years | Over 19 ² | Total |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|
| 1995 | 14 | 774 | 33,054 | 6,275 | 845 | 1381 | 42,343 |
| 1996 | 16 | 686 | 33,248 | 6,539 | 834 | 1154 | 42,477 |
| 1997 | 25 | 667 | 33,340 | 6,953 | 811 | 1049 | 42,845 |
| 1998 | 23 | 663 | 33,318 | 7,298 | 793 | 781 | 42,876 |
| 1999 | 23 | 621 | 33,433 | 8,200 | 786 | 733 | 43,796 |
| 2000 | 25 | 618 | 33,438 | 8,886 | 854 | 601 | 44,422 |
| 2001 | 23 | 747 | 34,333 | 9,626 | 1,028 | 665 | 46,442 |
| 2002 | 24 | 687 | 34,952 | 10,214 | 1,088 | 661 | 47,626 |
| 2003 | 25 | 705 | 34,342 | 10,608 | 1,216 | 689 | 47,585 |
| 2004 | 16 | 660 | 33,752 | 10,784 | 1,401 | 605 | 47,218 |
| 2005 | 17 | 636 | 32,700 | 11,458 | 1,203 | 535 | 46,549 |

Notes: ¹ Students who have already completed the VCE successfully in a previous year are excluded, as are students completing at offshore schools.

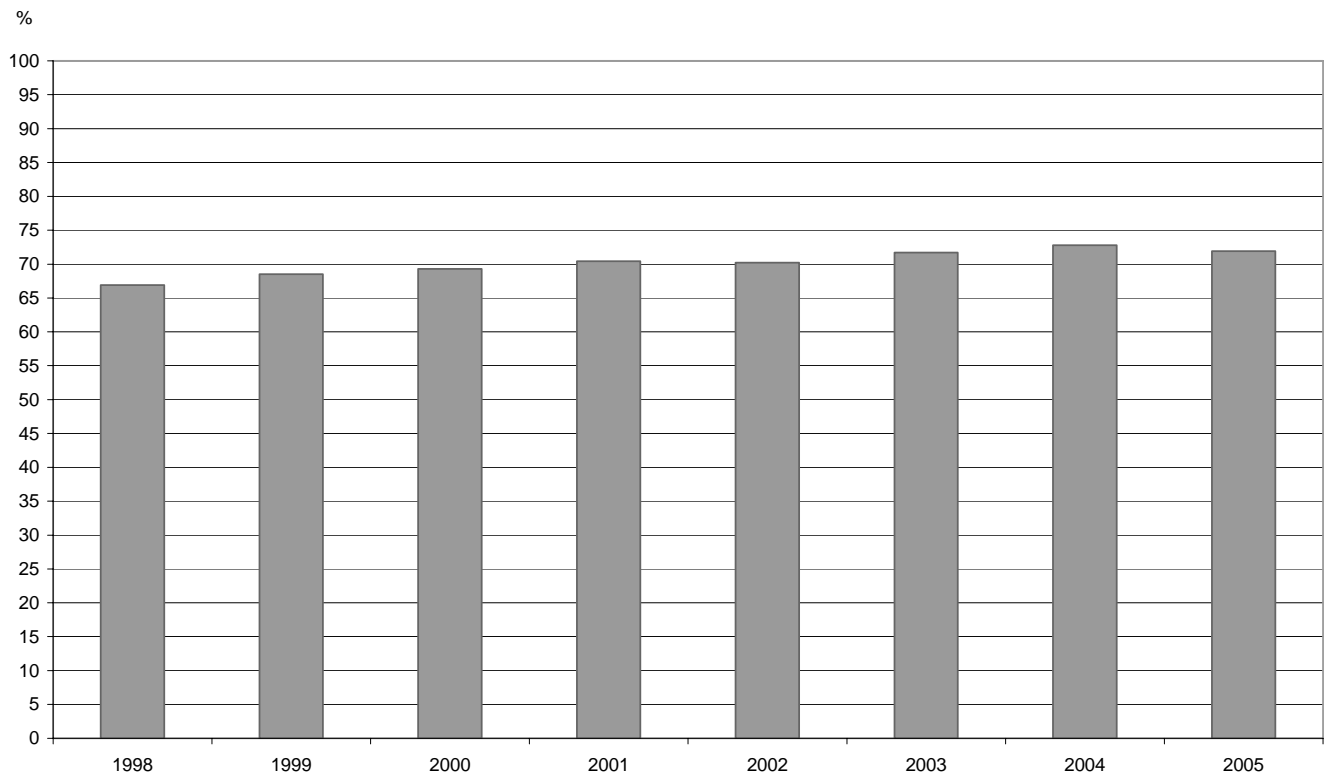
² Students who are over 19 years old are adult VCE students.

TABLE 1.4 VCE COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2005

| Year | 19 Year Olds Who Have Successfully Completed VCE | Target Population ¹ | VCE Completion Rate (Percentage) |
|------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1998 | 41,768 | 62,433 | 66.9 |
| 1999 | 42,110 | 61,469 | 68.5 |
| 2000 | 43,039 | 62,110 | 69.3 |
| 2001 | 44,010 | 62,529 | 70.4 |
| 2002 | 44,796 | 63,774 | 70.2 |
| 2003 | 46,404 | 64,716 | 71.7 |
| 2004 | 47,733 | 65,528 | 72.8 |
| 2005 | 47,039 | 65,416 | 71.9 |

Note: ¹ Source Australian Bureau of Statistics, revised in 2003.

FIGURE 1.1 VCE COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2005



The number of young people aged 19 on 30 June each year who had successfully completed VCE has risen from 41,786 in 1999 to a high of 47,733 in 2004 and has dropped very slightly to 47,039 in 2005. The percentage of young people aged 19 on 30 June each year who had successfully completed VCE has risen from 66.9% in 1999 to 71.9% in 2005, which is an increase of 5 percentage points. This rate is down 0.9 percentage points from a high of 72.8% in 2004.

Outcomes of VCE Graded Assessment 2005

Grades

Students undertaking Units 3 and 4 sequences may participate in graded assessment. The outcomes of each graded assessment are shown in Section 3 of this publication. In summary, the most awarded grade in 2005 was an A. The median grade was a B, with 59.5% of grades at a B or higher.

TABLE 1.5 AGGREGATE GRADE DISTRIBUTION: ALL GRADED ASSESSMENTS, ALL STUDENTS, 2005

| Grade | UG | E | E+ | D | D+ | C | C+ | B | B+ | A | A+ | All |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| N | 11,665 | 12,815 | 21,280 | 35,439 | 54,117 | 78,441 | 100,658 | 111,223 | 118,574 | 124,998 | 107,972 | 777,182 |
| %e | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 4.6 | 7.0 | 10.1 | 13.0 | 14.3 | 15.3 | 16.1 | 13.9 | 100.0 |

FIGURE 1.2 GRADE DISTRIBUTION: ALL GRADED ASSESSMENTS, 2005

