

Section 1:

In 2006 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 2006

	2006
<i>All Students</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE ¹	50,024
Students satisfactorily completing VCE ³	48,352
Percentage ²	96.7
<i>Females</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE ¹	26,924
Students satisfactorily completing VCE ³	26,155
Percentage ²	97.1
<i>Males</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE ¹	23,100
Students satisfactorily completing VCE ³	22,197
Percentage ²	96.1

¹ these figures are derived from VCAA information in December and include overseas students.

² this figure is **not** an indicator of attainment of the Premier's target, see below

³ these figures include students who have successfully achieved their VCE in previous years, but undertook further studies in the current year.

TABLE 1.2 UNIT RESULTS BY GENDER AND LEVEL, 2006

		Unit 1			Unit 2			Unit 3			Unit 4		
		Enrol	S	%S	Enrol	S	%S	Enrol	S	%S	Enrol	S	%S
Male	n	176,954	164,965	93.2	163,587	152,065	93.0	129,242	125,892	97.4	124,510	121,669	97.7
	%	48.9	48.4		48.2	47.7		46.1	45.9		46.0	45.8	
Female	n	185,135	176,111	95.1	175,586	166,522	94.8	151,191	148,353	98.1	146,300	143,844	98.3
	%	51.1	51.6		51.8	52.3		53.9	54.1		54.0	54.2	
Total		362,089	341,076	94.2	339,173	318,587	93.9	280,433	274,245	97.8	270,810	265,513	98.0

From this table there were a total of 1,252,505 unit enrolments in 2006 of which 95.8% 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 over 19 year olds are increasing, but the completions of the 19 year olds are decreasing.

TABLE 1.3 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS¹ OF VCE BY AGE AT 30 JUNE, 1995–2006

Year	Under 16	16 Years	17 Years	18 Years	19 Years	Over 19	Total
1995	14	774	33,054	6,275	845	1,381	42,343
1996	16	686	33,248	6,539	834	1,154	42,477
1997	25	667	33,340	6,953	811	1,049	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	46,422
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
2006	22	622	32,942	12,140	1,019	599	47,344

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

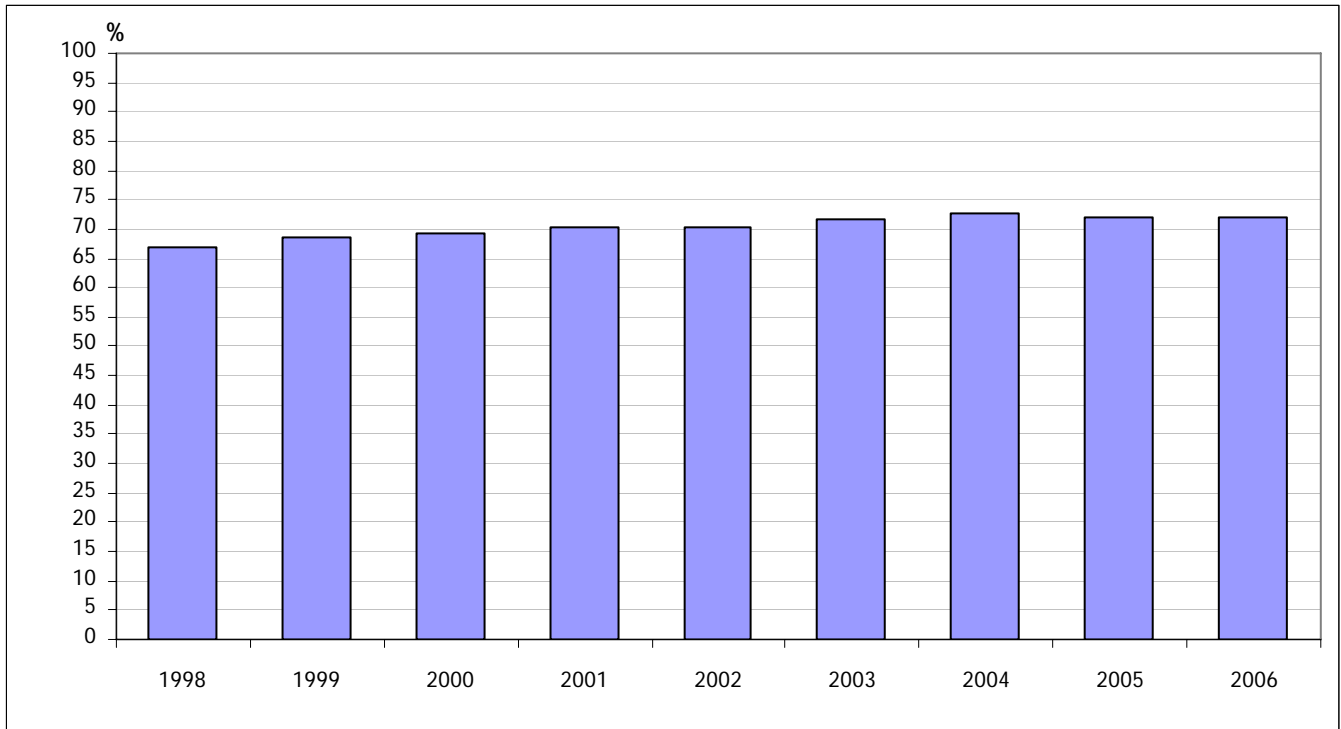
² Students who are over 19 years old are adult VCE students.

TABLE 1.4 VCE COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2006

Year	19 Year Olds Who Have Successfully Completed VCE	Target Population	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
2006	46,958	65,196	72.0

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

FIGURE 1.1 VCE COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2006



The number of young people aged 19 on 30 June each year who had successfully completed VCE has risen from 41,768 in 1998 to a high of 47,733 in 2004 and has dropped very slightly to 47,015 in 2006. The percentage of young people aged 19 on 30 June each year who had successfully completed VCE has risen from 66.9% in 1998 to 72.1% in 2006, which is an increase of 5.2 percentage points. This rate is down 0.7 percentage points from a high of 72.8% in 2004.

Outcomes of VCE Graded Assessment 2006

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 2006 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, 2006

Grade	UG	E	E+	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	All
N	10,285	12,357	21,173	36,547	54,935	78,977	101,554	111,634	118,729	125,035	107,819	779,045
%	1.3	1.6	2.7	4.7	7.1	10.1	13.0	14.3	15.2	16.0	13.8	100.0

FIGURE 1.2 GRADE DISTRIBUTION: ALL GRADED ASSESSMENTS, 2006

