



Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2008

Section 5: Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Data source: 2008 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 15 January 2009 (Published).

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact the Data Analysis, Measurement and Reporting Unit on (03) 9651-4484.

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Section 5

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING

There were 15,641 enrolments in VCAL certificates in 2008. Students were enrolled with 423 providers. About two thirds of all VCAL certificate enrolments (66%) were students enrolled in Government schools.

TABLE 5.1 NUMBERS OF SCHOOLS PROVIDING VCAL AND VCAL CERTIFICATE ENROLMENTS BY SECTOR, 2008

	Schools	VCAL Certificate Enrolments
Government	280	10,316
Catholic	71	1,645
Independent	23	1,083
Adult	49	2,597
Total	423	15,641

With respect to the level of certificates studied (see Table 5.2) 28.5% of VCAL students were enrolled in Foundation and 48.0% in Intermediate level certificates. Senior and Senior Extension enrolments comprised 23.5% of enrolments.

TABLE 5.2 VCAL ENROLMENTS BY CERTIFICATE, GENDER AND LEVEL, 2008

Level	Title	Gender		
		Female	Male	All
Foundation	VCAL (Foundation)	1,692	2,759	4,451
	<i>Foundation Total</i>	1,692	2,759	4,451
Intermediate	VCAL (Intermediate)	2,865	4,644	7,509
	<i>Intermediate Total</i>	2,865	4,644	7,509
Senior	VCAL (Senior)	1,458	2,060	3,518
	Senior Extension (Folio Enhancement)	123	40	163
	<i>Senior/Senior Extension Total</i>	1,581	2,100	3,681
ALL		6,138	9,503	15,641

Gender

About three in five VCAL student enrolments in 2008 were male (60.8%).

Unit Enrolments and Completions

In 2008 there were a total of 73,107 VCAL unit enrolments. (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 VETiS and VCE units are included in the participation and completion reports for those units and certificates.

VCAL Personal Development units (32.4%) and VCAL Work Related Skills units (31.6%) accounted for the majority of enrolments in VCAL units.

Overall 78.4% of VCAL units were satisfactorily completed. Males (78.4%) and females (78.5%) had very similar completion rates across all units. Literacy Skills units averaged 76.9% completion, with males completing at a lower rate (76.5%) than females (77.6%). Numeracy skills units were completed at a rate of 74.4% with a lower completion rate for females (73.9%) than for males (74.8%). Personal Development units completion rate was 79.8% overall with similar rates for both males and females. The Work Related Skills units completion rate was 79.6% overall, with a lower rate for females (79.1%) than for males (79.9%).

TABLE 5.3 VCAL UNIT COMPLETIONS BY GENDER AND LEVEL, 2008

DESCRIPTION	Female			Male			All		
	S	Total	% S	S	Total	% S	S	Total	% S
Advanced Numeracy Skills (S)	45	56	80.4	56	72	77.8	101	128	78.9
Advanced Study Skills (SE)	101	121	83.5	20	38	52.6	121	159	76.1
Folio Enhancement and Presentation (SE)	108	121	89.3	31	38	81.6	139	159	87.4
Literacy Skills (F) Oral Communication	544	731	74.4	928	1,288	72.0	1,472	2,019	72.9
Literacy Skills (F) Reading and Writing	603	857	70.4	1,006	1,533	65.6	1,609	2,390	67.3
Literacy Skills (I) Oral Communication	1,056	1,399	75.5	2,072	2,570	80.6	3,128	3,969	78.8
Literacy Skills (I) Reading and Writing	1,161	1,506	77.1	2,228	2,852	78.1	3,389	4,358	77.8
Literacy Skills (S) Oral Communication	857	1,034	82.9	1,190	1,527	77.9	2,047	2,561	79.9
Literacy Skills (S) Reading and Writing	925	1,106	83.6	1,269	1,597	79.5	2,194	2,703	81.2
Numeracy Skills (F)	617	899	68.6	979	1,455	67.3	1,596	2,354	67.8
Numeracy Skills (I)	880	1,240	71.0	1,764	2,312	76.3	2,644	3,552	74.4
Numeracy Skills (S)	607	709	85.6	866	1,060	81.7	1,473	1,769	83.3
Pathways Planning (SE)	104	127	81.9	43	94	45.7	147	221	66.5
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (F)	907	1,204	75.3	1,612	2,025	79.6	2,519	3,229	78.0
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (I)	1,817	2,212	82.1	3,513	4,249	82.7	5,330	6,461	82.5
Personal Development Skills Unit 1 (S)	1,173	1,343	87.3	1,532	1,836	83.4	2,705	3,179	85.1
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (F)	680	969	70.2	1,235	1,701	72.6	1,915	2,670	71.7
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (I)	1,481	1,915	77.3	2,692	3,397	79.2	4,173	5,312	78.6
Personal Development Skills Unit 2 (S)	1,002	1,198	83.6	1,246	1,618	77.0	2,248	2,816	79.8
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (F)	950	1,305	72.8	1,759	2,266	77.6	2,709	3,571	75.9
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (I)	1,861	2,226	83.6	3,195	3,802	84.0	5,056	6,028	83.9
Work Related Skills Unit 1 (S)	930	1,087	85.6	1,279	1,526	83.8	2,209	2,613	84.5
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (F)	711	1,049	67.8	1,317	1,807	72.9	2,028	2,856	71.0
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (I)	1,660	2,114	78.5	2,760	3,468	79.6	4,420	5,582	79.2
Work Related Skills Unit 2 (S)	879	1,060	82.9	1,075	1,388	77.4	1,954	2,448	79.8
Grand Total	21,659	27,588	78.5	35,667	45,519	78.4	57,326	73,107	78.4

Note: F=Foundation, I=Intermediate, S=Senior, SE=Senior Extension.
Students formally withdrawn from Units have been excluded from the above table.

Certificate Completions

There were 7,678 VCAL certificate completions out of 10,962 enrolments which were eligible to complete in 2008. This is a completion rate of 70% (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. Note that not all student VCAL enrolments are eligible to complete. Students may also gain credit towards their VCAL from VCE units and VETiS units of competence.

Of those students eligible to complete, the completion rates for male and female students were 69.2% and 71.4% respectively.

TABLE 5.4 VCAL CERTIFICATE COMPLETIONS BY GENDER AND LEVEL, 2008

Level	Completed	Eligible to Complete	% Completed
Female			
Foundation	554	845	65.6
Intermediate	1,255	1,869	67.1
Senior and Senior Extension	1,114	1,379	80.8
Total	2,923	4,093	71.4
Male			
Foundation	957	1,496	64.0
Intermediate	2,456	3,597	68.3
Senior and Senior Extension	1,342	1,776	75.6
Total	4,755	6,869	69.2
All			
Foundation	1,511	2,341	64.5
Intermediate	3,711	5,466	67.9
Senior and Senior Extension	2,456	3,155	77.8
Total	7,678	10,962	70.0

Of those students who completed a VCAL certificate, 61.9% were male and 38.1% were female.

TABLE 5.5 PERCENTAGE OF VCAL CERTIFICATE COMPLETIONS BY GENDER, 2008

Level	% Completed
Female	
Foundation	36.7
Intermediate	33.8
Senior and Senior Extension	45.4
Total	38.1
Male	
Foundation	63.3
Intermediate	66.2
Senior and Senior Extension	54.6
Total	61.9