

Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2020

Section 6: Completion of Victorian Senior Secondary Certificates

Data source: 2020 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 4 January 2021 (Published).

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Section 6

Completion of Victorian Senior Secondary Certificates

This section shows the number and percentage of 19 years olds who have completed VCE and/or VCAL (at Intermediate or Senior certificate level).

The table below shows over the last 10 years, the number of young people by age 19 who completed the VCE/VCAL (Intermediate or Senior level) has risen from 51,987 in 2011 to 56,971 in 2020. The VCE/VCAL completion rate by age 19 in 2020 was 77.6%. This is 3.4 percentage points higher than that in 2011.

This table also shows that:

- By age 19 in 2020, there were 49,174 (49,113 plus 61) young people who completed the VCE.
- An increasing number of young people are completing only the VCAL certificate at an Intermediate and/or Senior level. In 2011 there were 4,444 young people aged 19 who completed a VCAL certificate at an Intermediate and/or Senior level. In 2020 this has increased to 7,797.

Table 1: Contributions of VCE/VCAL^a towards the completion of a Senior Secondary Certificate by 19 year olds

Year ^c	19 Year olds cohort ^b								
	VCE/VCAL completions				Population	VCE/VCAL completion rate			
	VCE only	VCE & VCAL	VCAL only	Total		VCE only	VCE & VCAL	VCAL only	Total
2011	46,480	1,063	4,444	51,987	70,047	66.4	1.5	6.3	74.2
2012	47,394	1,094	4,813	53,301	70,323	67.4	1.6	6.8	75.8
2013	47,640	1,039	5,315	53,994	70,583	67.5	1.5	7.5	76.5
2014	47,574	1,310	5,935	54,819	71,670	66.4	1.8	8.3	76.5
2015	47,530	821	6,649	55,000	71,190	66.8	1.2	9.3	77.3
2016	48,581	118	7,912	56,611	71,857	67.6	0.2	11.0	78.8
2017	48,544	84	7,761	56,389	71,916	67.5	0.1	10.8	78.4
2018	49,354	82	7,932	57,368	72,683	67.9	0.1	10.9	78.9
2019	50,137	70	7,751	57,958	73,494	68.2	0.1	10.5	78.9
2020	49,113	61	7,797	56,971	73,382	66.9	0.1	10.6	77.6

^a Includes satisfactorily completion at an Intermediate and/or Senior level.

^b Population figures are sourced from ABS Cat:3101.0, Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2020. The Estimated Resident Population of 17 year olds two years earlier is used as the population for the aged 19 cohort. This is to mitigate the impact of migration of young people after leaving school. The adoption of this age group for the calculation of completion rate by age 19 is consistent with DET's approach. In the previous report, the population of 19 year olds was used as a denominator to calculate the completion rates.

^c The 2016 - 2020 estimated resident population figures are preliminary.

It should be noted that the Department of Education and Training (DET) publishes the attainment rates of Year 12 or equivalent at age 19. Apart from VCE and VCAL, the attainment also includes International Baccalaureate and non-school qualifications at an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 2 or higher (i.e. Certificate II and above).