



Australian Government

Department of Employment,  
Skills, Small and Family Business  
National Careers Institute

real skills for  
real careers

# FACTSHEET

## Vocational Education and Training Employment Partner Program

We provide real careers

**FOR EMPLOYERS**

## What is vocational education and training (VET)?

- Government and industry work together inform the vocational education and training (VET) sector to offer qualifications and training that are recognised across Australia.
- VET provides its graduates with relevant, transferable and innovative skills - all qualities that are highly regarded in the employment market.
- VET is about ways of thinking which involve creative and critical approaches to problem solving and decision-making. It is also about ways of working, including communication, collaboration, and the capacity to recognise and exploit the potential of new technologies. VET prepares our students for the future - in both skills and education, in industries that are needed to facilitate Australia's economic growth.
- There are thousands of courses available across a vast range of industries. Agriculture & Food Processing, Arts & Culture, Business Education & Training, Construction & Mining, Defence, Design, Government, Safety & Environment, Health & Community Services, Manufacturing & Engineering, Retail, Hair and Beauty Services, Science & Technology, Sports & Recreation, Tourism & Hospitality, Transport and Utilities
- VET providers range from TAFEs to private colleges, secondary schools and even some universities.
- Students train directly through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and teaching is conducted by trained professionals working within their specialist industry, ensuring what is being taught is relevant to today's marketplace.
- The Australian VET system has always been based on a strong government-industry alliance. Federal and state governments provide funding and policy direction, while employers shape the qualifications needed by their industry.
- Graduates of VET finish their chosen course with a combination of education and work experience.
- Qualifications offered through VET courses can range from traineeships and apprenticeships to Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas.

## The Background

- Despite the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector continuing to produce exceptional education and employment results for its graduates, this career pathway is not widely understood. Quantitative data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that 40 per cent of school leavers were enrolled in University in 2015, compared to 14 per cent in TAFE.
- The impact of low rates of take-up into vocational education and training affects a significant portion of the young population whose needs are not being met when it comes to support in making informed education decisions. It also has wide-reaching effects on Australia's ability for long-term economic growth.
- There is a shortage of skilled candidates in industries across Australia. The vocational education and training sector supplies a skilled workforce. Of the current skills shortage list, almost three-quarters of the occupations listed require qualifications taught by vocational education and training.
- There are many misconceptions surrounding the benefits and opportunities that an individual can gain by completing a VET qualification. The misconceptions are expressed by students, their parents/caregivers and influencers. Parents and influencers are pushing the majority of students towards a university career pathway with little understanding of Australia's economic status and the potential impact on their employment outcomes at the point of graduation.
- There is a disconnect between what industry needs and states as desirable education, skills and experience and what students and their influencers believe industry need/want.
- This problem has far-reaching effects. This low take-up into VET is affecting our country's ability to keep up with demand for new housing, telecommunications infrastructure and transport. Put simply, Australia's pigeonholing of VET as an option only for those who don't perform well at school is impacting Australia's ability for long-term economic growth. Left un-tackled, this will affect every single business in Australia.
- VET graduates are skilled, committed, flexible and forward thinking. They are trained in their chosen career, are job ready and are versatile. The future of both education & employment is changing.

## **THE OBJECTIVE: TO LEVEL THE EDUCATION PLAYING FIELD & CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF VET**

Preparing young people for the future of work is an issue of national significance that affects governments, industry and communities.

### **The Program**

- An information and awareness strategy, titled real skills for real careers has been designed by the Australian Government to help Australians understand that VET qualifications may lead to successful, meaningful, professional careers with great salaries and outstanding career prospects.
- The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family business is looking to partner with employers across the full spectrum of industries to help correct assumptions about the VET sector, to the benefit of all.
- As part of this strategy, a Vocational Education and Training Employment Partner Program has been developed.
- The VET Employment Partner Program aims to work with industry to educate students, parents/caregivers and influencers on industries and employers in Australia who actively recruit or train VET graduates.
- Amongst others, the long-term objective of this strategy is to fuel our industries with the skilled workforce they need to thrive and secure Australia's economic growth for the long term.
- By partnering, there is a belief that the collective voice will reach the students and graduates of the future and their influencers. The department is committed to supporting all education options and is looking for industry to commit to supporting career options by letting ideal candidates know their doors are open to VET graduates.
- Companies across Australia are being asked to be endorsers and advocates for vocational education and training - to display a brand mark, consider their recruitment practices and to use their existing communication channels to highlight their desire for candidates who are graduates of VET.

## The Stats

- 40 per cent of school leavers today are enrolled in university, compared with just 14 per cent in TAFE<sup>1</sup>.
- Research commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training found that 54% of employers could not identify any disadvantages to employing VET/TAFE qualified candidates.
- The same research found that most (64%) employers see VET/TAFE qualifications as on par with University.

---

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015

**THERE ARE MANY  
WAYS TO SUCCEED.**

**CHECK OUT**

**[myskills.gov.au](http://myskills.gov.au)**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Employment,  
Skills, Small and Family Business  
National Careers Institute**

**real skills for  
real careers**