



Australian Government



Jobs and Skills Australia

Jobs and Skills report 2025

Understanding the importance of training



Participation in VET Education and Training leads to improved labour market outcomes. The VET system plays an essential role in building skills that align with demand across the Australian economy. It supports better participation, leads to income uplift, and can be a mechanism to improve productivity across the labour market.

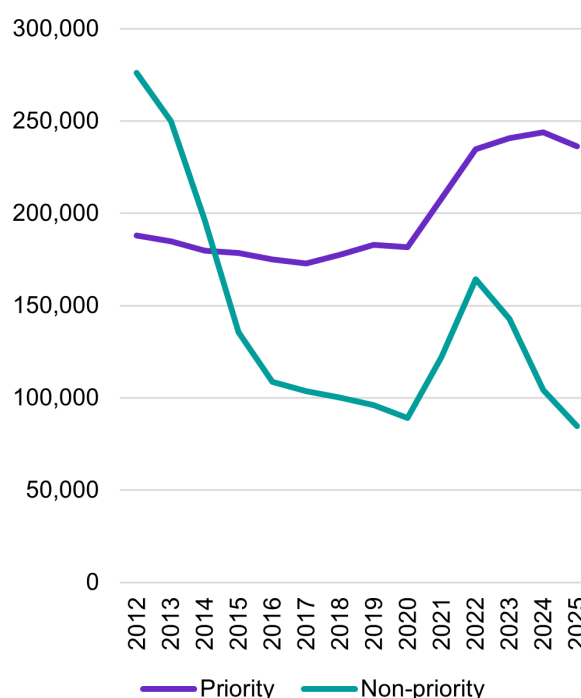
The Australian apprenticeship system

Apprenticeships and traineeships (collectively referred to as Australian Apprenticeships) play an essential role in parts of the labour market. They connect formal training with real-world industry experience, allowing students to earn while they learn and benefit from both institutional and workplace skilling.

The makeup of Australian apprentices is shifting, with increases in apprenticeship numbers largely occurring across occupations listed on the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List

The biggest growth in apprenticeship numbers, by headcount, are in programs to become a qualified Electrician, Child Care Worker, Motor Mechanic, Aged or Disabled Carer or Carpenter.

Apprentices and trainees in-training by headcount, occupation status on the 2025 Australian Apprenticeships Priority List



Source: NCVER Apprentices and Trainees, 2025, VOC-STATS, extracted on 25/9/2025.

Note: This analysis is indicative only and makes assumptions about which occupation apprentices are working in.

Gender Balance Across Apprenticeships

Female participation in apprenticeships, including across trade occupations, has increased. However, there is still a long way to go to in increasing female participation.

In 2025 females comprised 11.5% of all trade apprentices in training, slightly up from 11.1% a decade prior. At that time, most female apprenticeships were in Hairdressing and Food Trade. However, since then, there has been positive progress at the occupation level for several large trade apprenticeships.

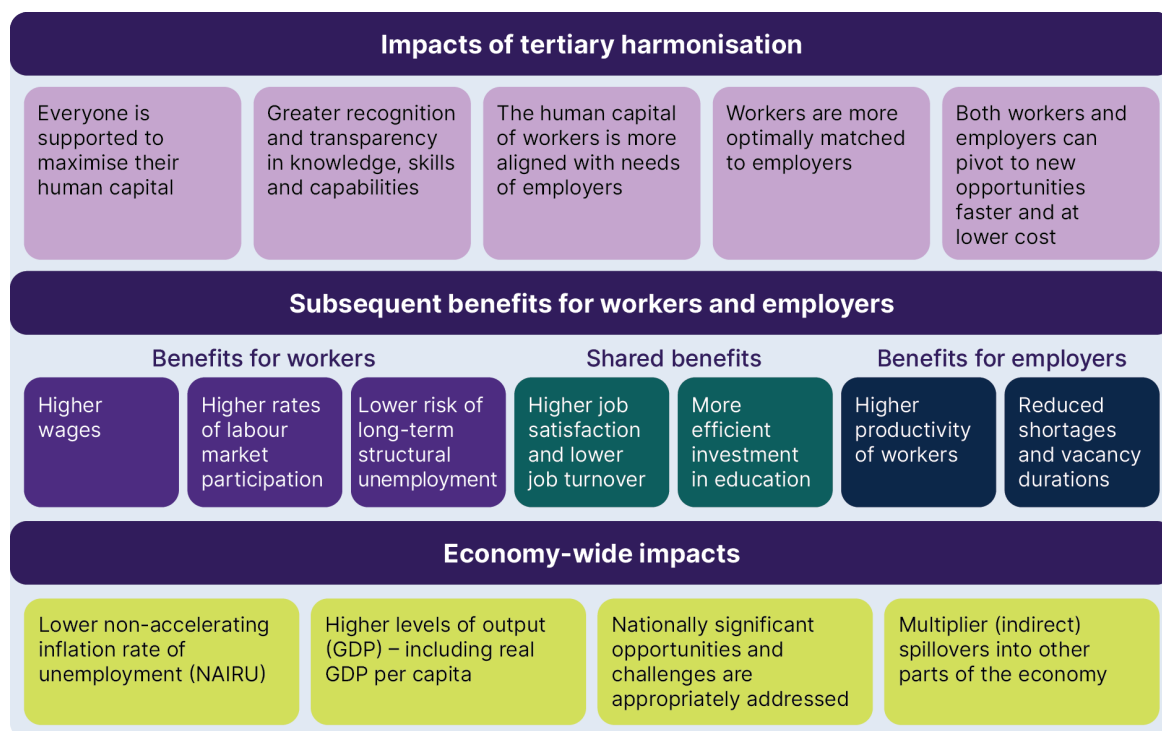
There are around 3 times as many female Electrician apprentices now than in 2015, with significant growth also observed for Carpenters and Joiners, Motor Mechanics, Plumbers and Sheetmetal Workers.

Combined, there were more female apprentices in these male-dominant trades than there were undertaking a hairdressing apprenticeship in 2025.

Tertiary harmonisation

A harmonised Tertiary system that is rooted in connectivity, enables learning mobility, and presents clearer pathways between education and employment. Realising the benefits of a harmonised tertiary education system requires coordinated action from key stakeholders.

Tertiary harmonisation supports clearer pathways, improved credit recognition and enhanced alignment between education and workforce needs, especially for underrepresented cohorts.



Tertiary harmonisation promotes qualification reform, including the development of nested and hybrid models that allow for more flexible and targeted training. These models reflect real world job requirements, and allow for increased transparency and recognition of the knowledge, skills and capabilities that learners possess and that employers require.

