Australia: Micro-credentials supporting skills development
National microcredentials framework

“a certification of assessed learning or competency, with a minimum volume of learning of one hour and less than an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) award qualification, that is additional, alternate, complementary to or a component part of an AQF award qualification”

Department of Education Skills and Employment, 2022, National Microcredentials Framework, PwC November 2021, DESE, Canberra
Delivery of TVET microcredentials

• 3.9 million TVET students per annum (22% of Australia’s working age population)

• Australian TVET qualifications comprise of ‘units of competency’ – competencies are specified by industry

• Many students do not study full qualifications
  • 76% study full qualifications
  • 24% enrolled in units only or small clusters of units (skill set)

NCVER, 2021, Total VET students and courses 2020, NCVER, Adelaide
TVET funding & microcredentials

• 30% students in TVET are government-funded
• 70% fee-for-service (employers or individuals fund their own training)

• Microcredentials mostly fee-for-service (some variations)
  • New South Wales: 20% of government-funding allocated to microcredentials
  • Victoria: 1% of government-funding to microcredentials

• Government-owned TVET colleges: more full qualification delivery
• Private TVET providers: more microcredentials (& more fee-for-service)

NCVER, 2022, Government-funded students and courses – January to September 2021, NCVER, Adelaide
NCVER, 2021, Total VET students and courses 2020, NCVER, Adelaide
Popular microcredentials

Figure 1: Enrolments in the Top 5 units not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program, 2020 (‘000)

- HLTAID003 - Provide first aid: 792
- HLTAID002 - Provide basic emergency life support: 533
- CPCCWHSS1001 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry: 172
- HLTAID004 - Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting: 113
- HLTAID001 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation: 1305

NCVER, 2021, *Total VET students and courses 2020*, NCVER, Adelaide
Employer & student satisfaction

• Student satisfaction with TVET (2021)
  • 89% qualification completers
  • 93% short course completers
  • 93% for subject(s) only completers

• 74% of employers who use TVET system satisfied (2021)
• Satisfaction declining slightly in recent years – across all TVET courses not microcredentials specifically

NCVER, 2021, VET student outcomes 2021, NCVER, Adelaide
NCVER 2021, Employers' use and views of the VET system 2021, NCVER, Adelaide
Thank you / Merci!

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