



Transnational education in the public and private VET sector

This snapshot provides an overview of education delivered offshore by Australian public and private VET sector providers in 2011.

Data for the public VET sector comes from a survey conducted by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) for AEI. Data for the private VET sector comes from a survey by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) in 2012. As this is the first survey of its kind for ACPET members, the survey is considered a pilot. AEI data on enrolments (used for comparisons in this Snapshot) relates only to international students in Australia on a student visa.

In 2011, there were 31 public providers¹ delivering Australian VET qualifications offshore to 58,516 students. The pilot of private providers identified there were 20 providers delivering Australian VET qualifications offshore to 6,771 students. In contrast, international student enrolments onshore in the VET sector were higher with private providers (147,608) than with public providers (23,629).

The number of onshore enrolments with public VET providers grew during a period 2005 to 2009 with an average annual growth rate of 21% (from 13,935 in 2005 to 30,184 in 2009). The number of offshore students with public VET providers also grew during this period with an average annual growth rate of 24% (from 27,842 in 2005 to 64,819 in 2009). Since a high in 2009, both onshore and offshore public VET enrolments have decreased over the two years to 2011 (an average rate of 12% for onshore and 5% for offshore) (Figure 1). Trend over time data is not available for the private VET sector.

Location

For offshore public VET providers, the top country was China (74%), while Singapore (31%) was identified as the top country from the private VET provider pilot survey. For comparison, the top source countries of international students for the VET sector onshore were China (19%) for public providers and India (36%) for private providers (Table 1).

Level of study and field of education

Diploma was the top level of study for VET students for both offshore (49% for public and 48% for private) and onshore (52% for public and 42% for private). Management and Commerce was the top broad field of education among public VET students (59% for offshore students and 20% for onshore students).

The majority of offshore VET providers (95% for private and 81% for public) delivered courses in English. Eighty-six per cent of offshore public VET courses were classroom-based. However, private VET providers reported either classroom (66%) or online and remote access (21%) as the preferred mode of tuition. Sixty per cent of offshore public VET courses were taught by local teachers in the country of delivery, and 36% were taught by teachers from Australia. Of 533 VET courses delivered offshore by public providers, 73% were less than a year, although only 41% (or 23,815) of offshore students were enrolled in those courses.

¹ In 2011, NCVER approached all 61 public VET providers operating in 2011 to participate in the survey. Twenty-nine providers indicated that they did not provide offshore delivery while a further 1 provider indicated it only delivered on-line training offshore. This snapshot provides detailed data from the 31 providers that were delivering classroom-based offshore VET in 2011.

The full report on *Delivery of VET Offshore by Public Providers 2011* is available at: <https://aei.gov.au/About-AEI/Offshore-Support/Pages/TransnationalEducation.aspx>.

For further information about this Research Snapshot or the Research Snapshot Series contact: International Research and Analysis Unit, AEI by email aei_research@innovation.gov.au. The Research Snapshot Series can be accessed from <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/PublicationsAndResearch/Snapshots/Default.htm>.

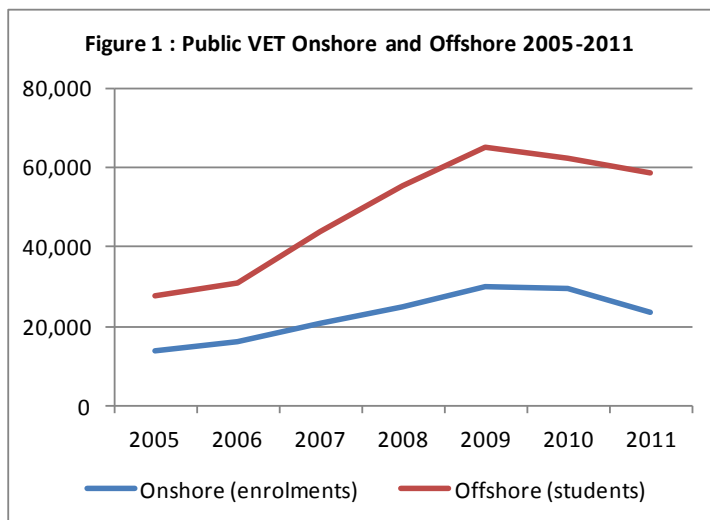


Table 1: Major source countries for on and offshore VET delivery in 2011

Nationalities	Offshore (students)		Onshore (enrolments)	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
China	698	43,183	14,133	4,380
Fiji		1,709		
Hong Kong	640			
India			53,189	2,369
Korea			7,537	2,102
Kuwait		2,247		
Nepal			9,574	
Papua New Guinea		1,848		
Philippines				939
Singapore	2,080			
South Africa	520			
Sri Lanka	876			
Thailand			10,687	
Vietnam		2,055		2,269
Other	1,957	7,474	52,488	11,570
Grand Total	6,771	58,516	147,608	23,629

For each column, data is shown from the top 5 nationalities. The top country for each category is shaded blue.