# Summary of rail VET qualification enrolments based on NCVER data from 2017 to 2021

The National Rail Skills Hub has analysed data available from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) on the use of Vocational Education and Training (VET) by the rail sector and compared it with other areas of the transport and logistics sector and all areas of VET. The analysis uses data sourced from the NCVER’s DataBuilder tool,[[1]](#footnote-1) and is based on cumulative program enrolments from 2017 to 2021 (inclusive)—the latest time period available at the time of writing.

The *Rail qualifications* included in the analysis are primarily those clearly distinguished as rail qualifications from within the Transport and Logistics (TLI) training package, along with a small number of qualifications from the Electrotechnology (UET) training package.[[2]](#footnote-2) The *Other Transport and Logistics qualifications* category includes all other TLI training package qualifications (but do not include the *Rail qualifications*). The *All VET qualifications* category includes all qualifications, including those from the first two categories.

## Funding and delivery of VET for rail

### Funding source

Rail has a relatively low share of enrolments where governments provide the highest funding source. Only around 6% of enrolments in rail qualifications are primarily government-funded, compared with almost 40% of enrolments in other transport and logistics qualifications and over half of enrolments across all VET qualifications.

### Types of training providers delivering training

Compared with other areas of VET, rail makes relatively little use of TAFEs, with just 3% of all rail enrolments being delivered by TAFEs compared with 31% across the whole of VET. While private training providers are used for a majority (54%) of enrolments across all VET qualifications, the enrolment share is significantly higher than this among rail and other transport and logistics qualifications at 75% and 89%, respectively. Despite private training providers delivering the majority of rail training, the rail industry makes much higher use of enterprise training providers than other sectors, with more than one-fifth of enrolments occurring at these providers for rail compared with just 3% across the whole of VET.

## Demographics of people undertaking VET for rail

### Gender

The vast majority of enrolments in rail qualifications are by males (around 90%); this share slightly exceeds the male share of enrolments for other transport and logistics qualifications. By contrast, the male-female split of enrolments is roughly equal across all VET qualifications.[[3]](#footnote-3)

### Country of birth

Around 70% of enrolments in rail qualifications are by Australian-born people. This share is higher than the share for all VET qualification enrolments, where it is around 60%. It is also slightly higher than the Australian-born share of the total population, which is around 67%.[[4]](#footnote-4)

### Apprentices and trainees

Just 2% of enrolments in rail qualifications are by apprentices or trainees. This share is significantly lower than for other transport and logistics qualifications (22%) and all VET qualifications (13%).

### Indigenous status

The share of enrolments by Indigenous people in rail qualifications is similar to the share for other transport and logistics qualifications and all VET qualifications. Around one in 20 enrolments (5%) are by Indigenous people. This is higher than the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the total population, which is 3.2%.[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/data/databuilder>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These are Certificate IV in Electrical - Rail Signalling and Certificate IV in Rail - Communications and Network Systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. However, while the male-female share is roughly equal when considering all VET qualifications in aggregate, underlying this figure there are individual sectors that similarly have relatively high male enrolment shares (such as Electrotechnology [96%] and Automotive Industry Retail, Service and Repair [94%]) or relatively high female enrolment shares (such as Floristry [97%] and Hairdressing and Beauty Services [93%]). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Cultural diversity data summary*, 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people data summary*, 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)