

National
Rail
Skills
Hub

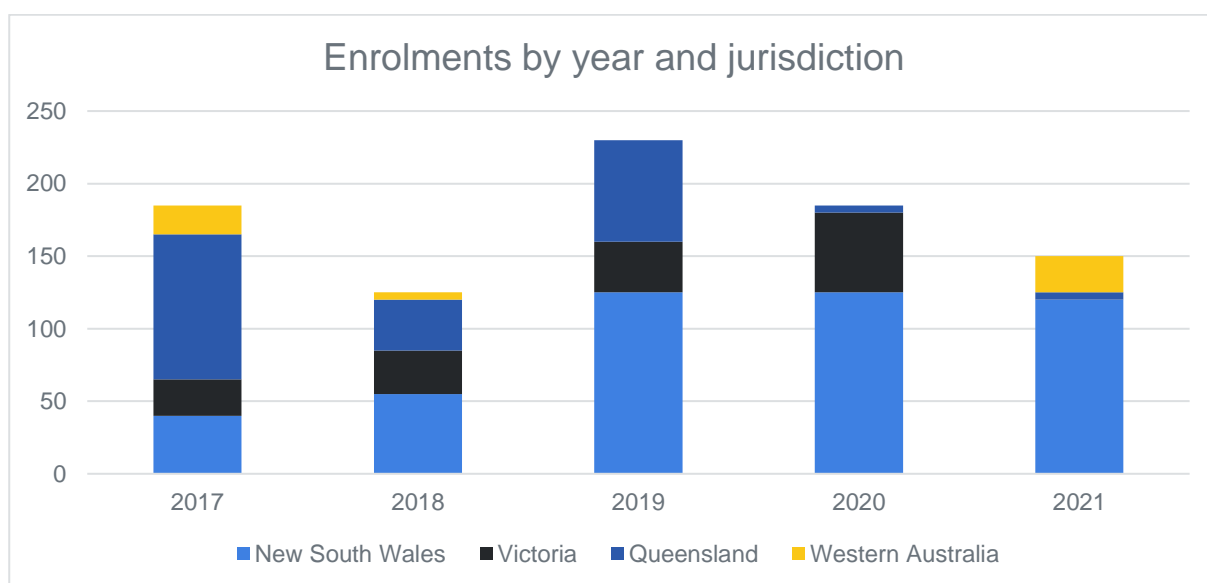
Signalling Technician— analysis of NCVER data

May 2023

Certificate IV in Electrical - Rail Signalling

The National Rail Skills Hub has analysed National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) data¹ relating to the Certificate IV in Electrical - Rail Signalling.²

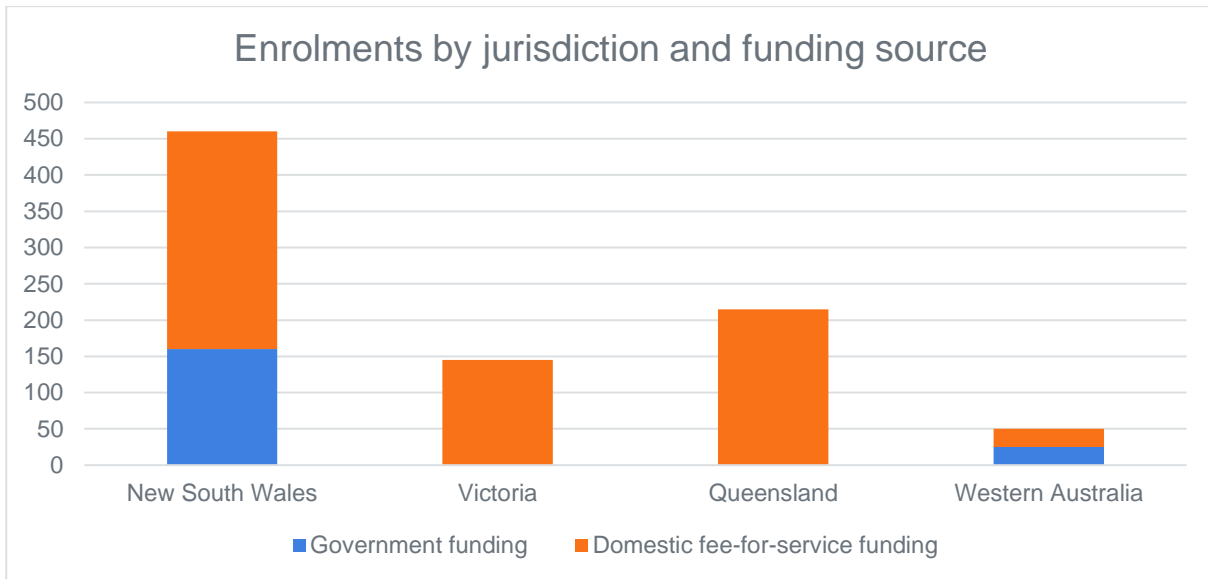
Enrolments in the Certificate IV in Electrical - Rail Signalling varied across years in the time period analysed, ranging from 120 in 2018 to 230 in the following year, with 865 enrolments in total across the five years. NSW had the most enrolments, with over half of the national total over these years, and the majority of its enrolments were in the last three years. By contrast, almost all of Queensland's enrolments were in the first three years, with very few enrolments delivered in 2020 and 2021. Victoria had relatively steady numbers until 2020 but no enrolments in 2021.



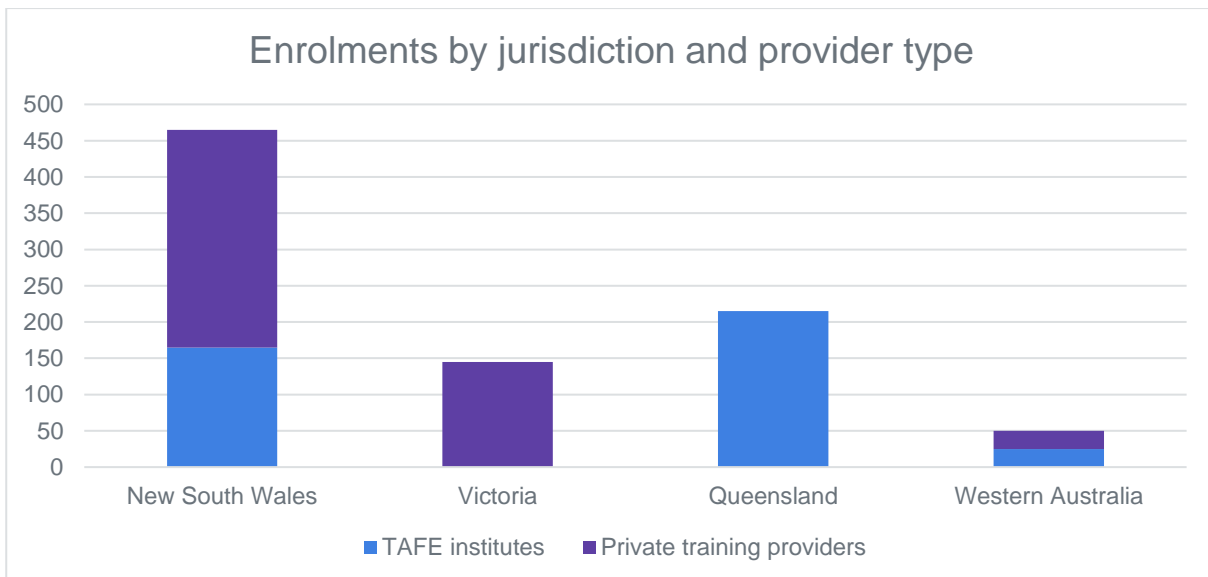
Around 22% of enrolments were government funded, with the remainder funded through domestic fee-for-service funding. Almost all of the government-funded enrolments occurred in NSW, with Western Australia the only other jurisdiction to offer any (beginning in 2021).

¹ NCVER, *Total VET students and courses 2021: program enrolments DataBuilder*, 2022, accessed at: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/data/databuilder>.

² This includes the UEE41211 and UEE41220 which were the codes for the qualifications relating to Electrical - Rail Signalling with enrolments during the 2017 to 2021 time period analysed. The qualification has recently been renamed as part of its latest release, UEE41223 - Certificate IV in Rail Signalling, which also includes a pathway for electrical fitters.

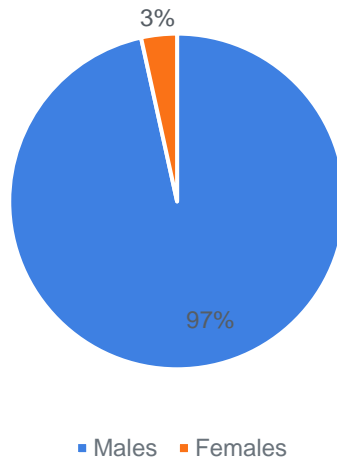


Delivery of training was relatively evenly split between TAFEs (47%) and private training providers (53%). Queensland exclusively used TAFEs and had the most overall enrolments at TAFEs, with NSW the second highest in absolute numbers of TAFE enrolments (which accounted for around 35% of NSW’s total enrolments). NSW was the largest user of private training providers, with Victoria the second largest – and only using private training providers for its delivery. WA used private training providers for its training in the early years of this time period, but used TAFEs for delivery in 2021 after two years with no enrolments at all. All government-funded enrolments were delivered by TAFEs, although overall TAFEs still had slightly more enrolments that were domestic fee-for-service funded than government-funded.

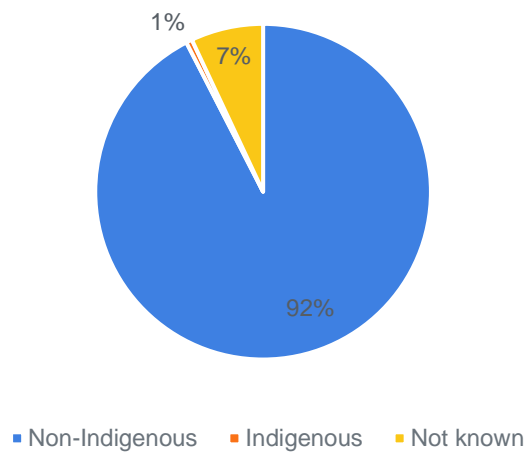


Almost all enrolments were by males (97%) and non-Indigenous students (92%, with 1% Indigenous and 7% not known). These trends were consistent across all jurisdictions, given the very low numbers of female and Indigenous students.

Share of enrolments by gender

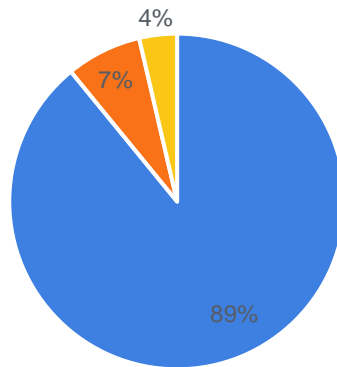


Share of enrolments by Indigenous status



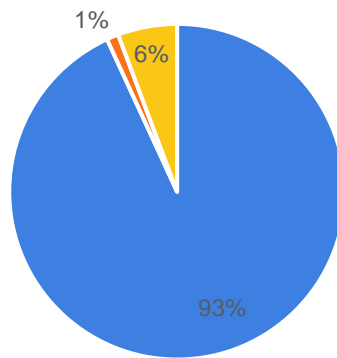
The Australian-born share of enrolments was similarly high at 89%, with 7% born overseas and 4% not known. The share of people enrolling that spoke English at home was also very high, at 93% (with 6% not known).

Share of enrolments by country of birth



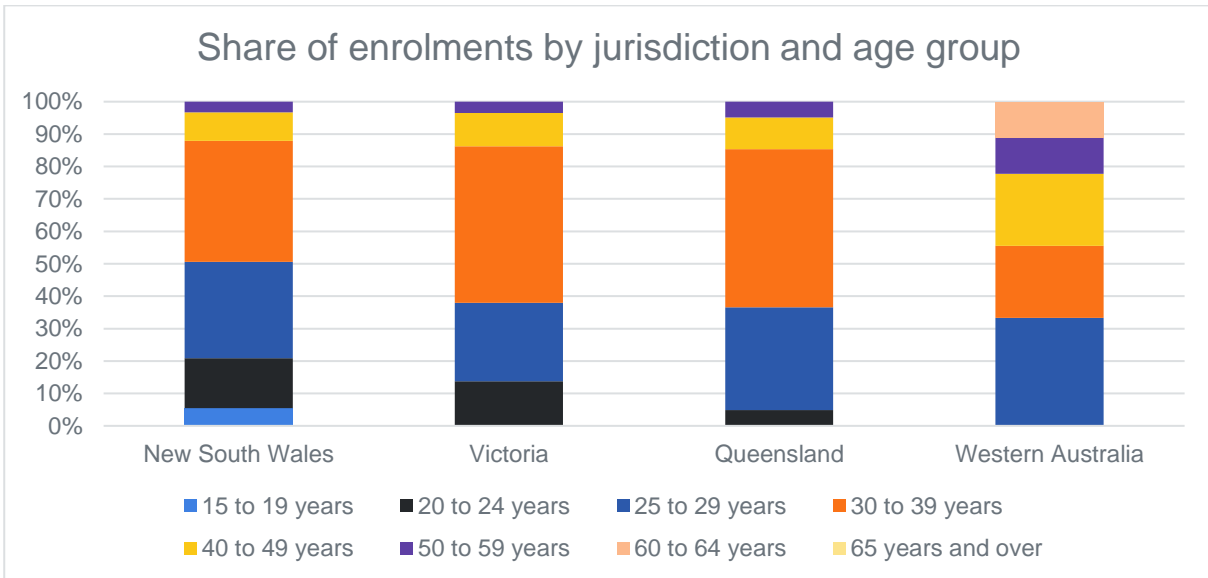
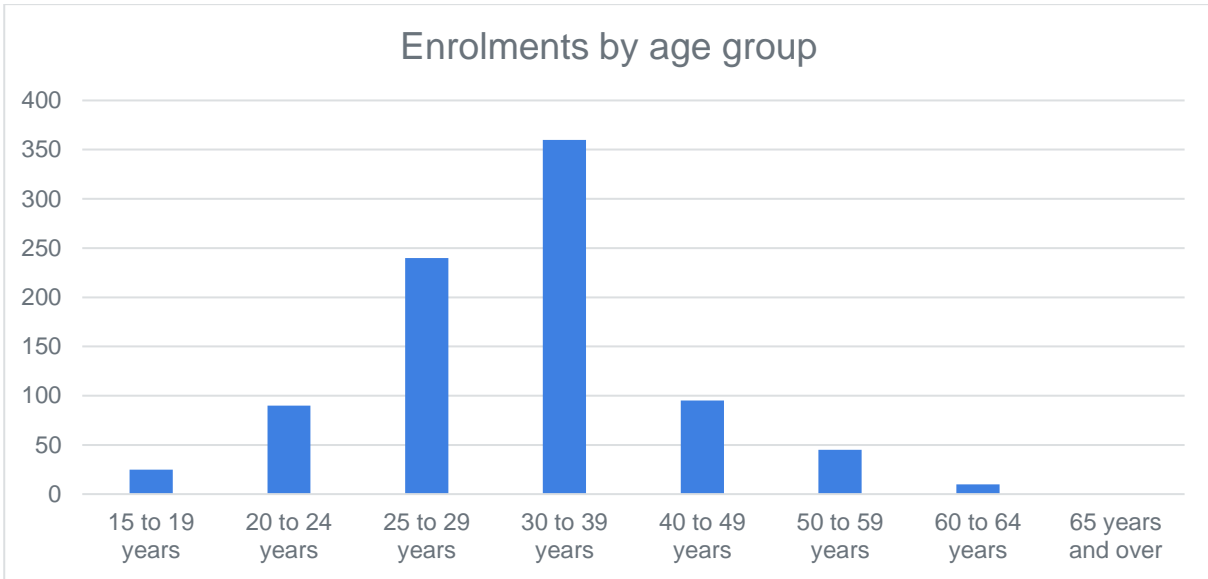
■ Australian born ■ Overseas born ■ Not known

Share of enrolments by language spoken at home

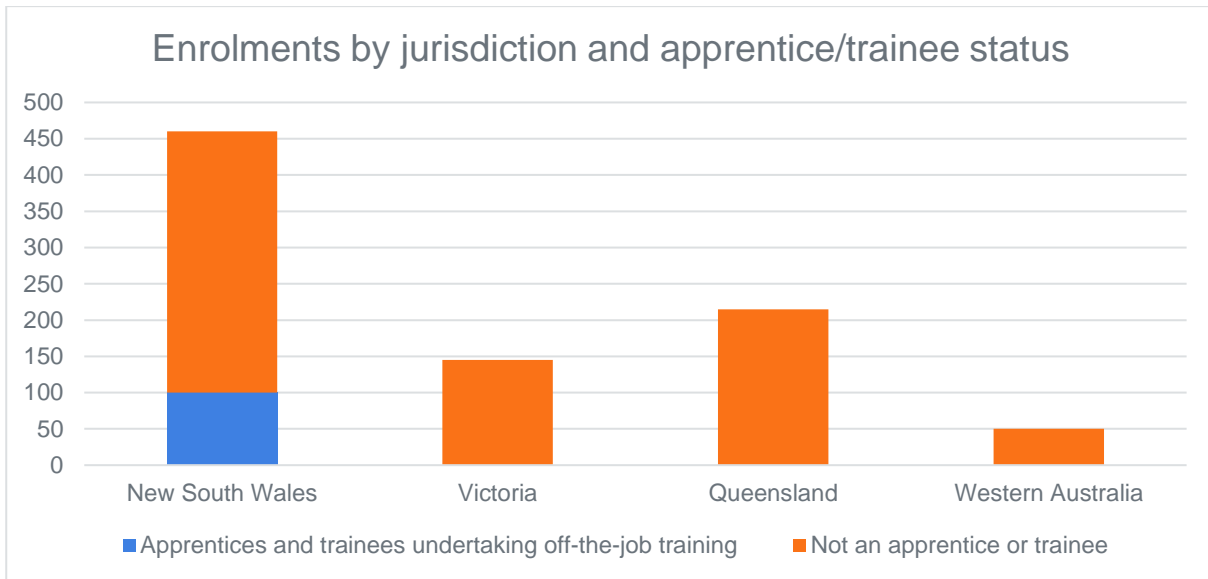


■ English spoken at home ■ Other language spoken at home ■ Not known

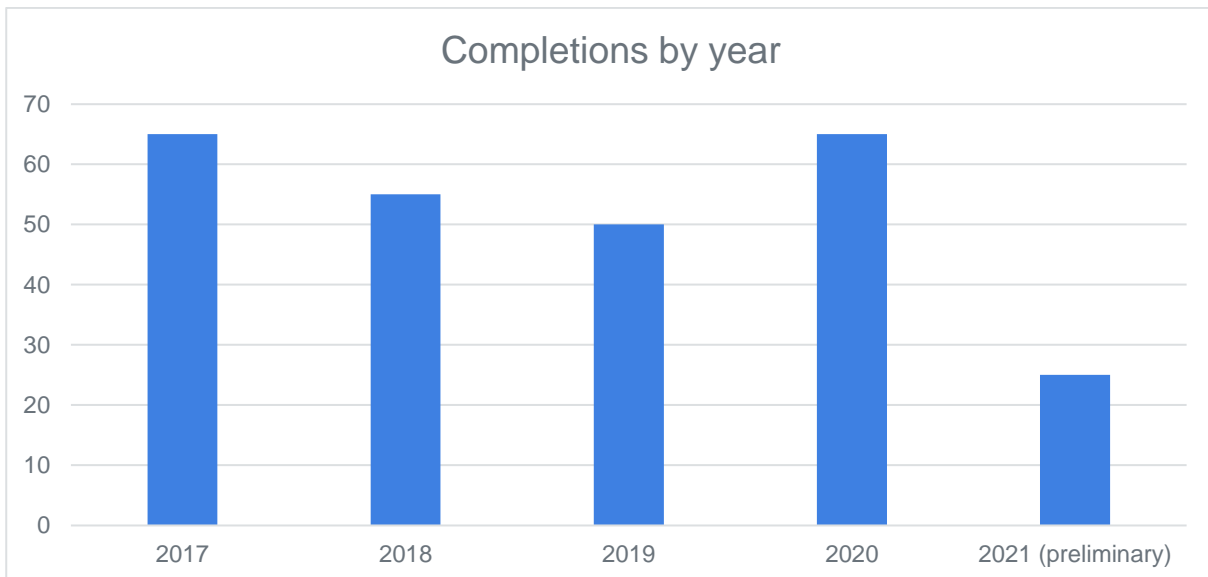
The vast majority of enrolments were by people aged between 20 and 39, with around 80% of all enrolments falling within this age range. Overall a slightly higher share were in their 30s than 20s. Comparing the three jurisdictions on the east coast, which collectively had almost all of the enrolments in this qualification, NSW had a slightly younger demographic. Half of NSW enrolments were under the age of 30, and some were below the age of 20. The demographic mix in Victoria and Queensland was relatively similar, albeit with a slightly higher share of people aged in their early 20s in Victoria.



The data suggests that very few people were enrolling as apprentices or trainees: only 12% of total enrolments. All of these were in NSW, and all occurred in the first three years of the time period analysed (up to and including 2019).

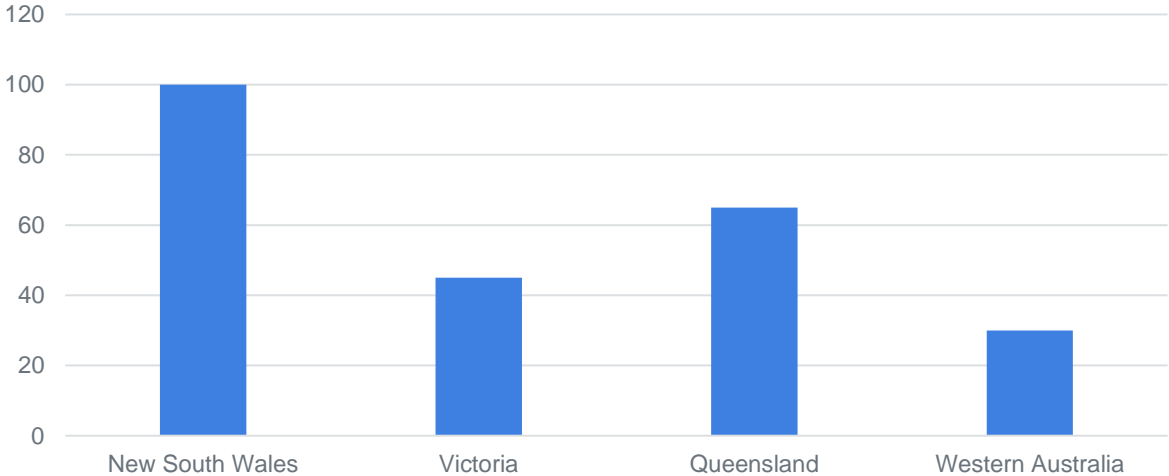


Data on completions shows that the annual trend was relatively stable for the first four years before dropping in 2021 – however data for this year is preliminary.

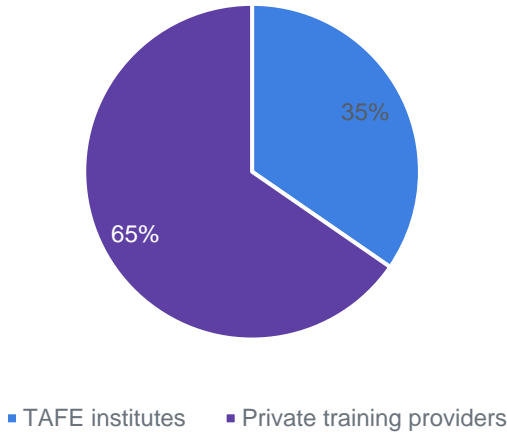


The shares of completions in each jurisdiction were broadly in line with the share of enrolments, although NSW's share of national completions (42%) was a bit below its share of national enrolments (53%). Around two-thirds of completions were at private training providers—higher than the 53% share of enrolments. The data suggests that almost all completions during the time period analysed were by males.

Completions by jurisdiction



Share of completions by training provider





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