



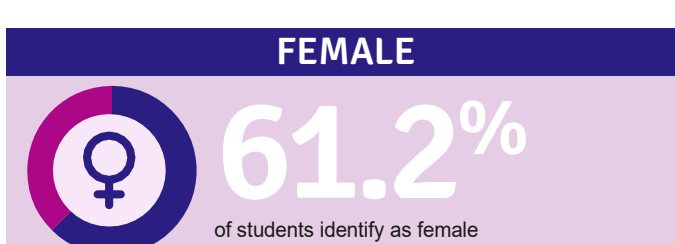
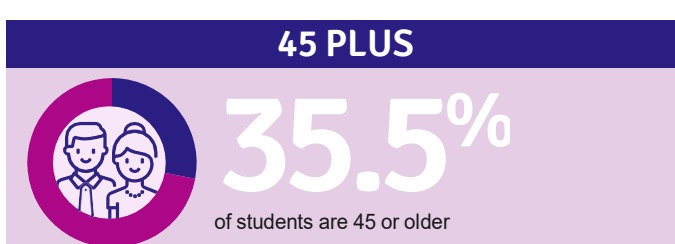
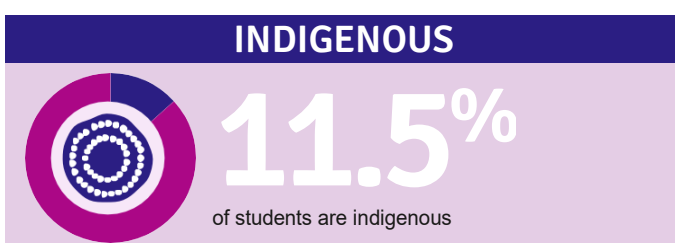
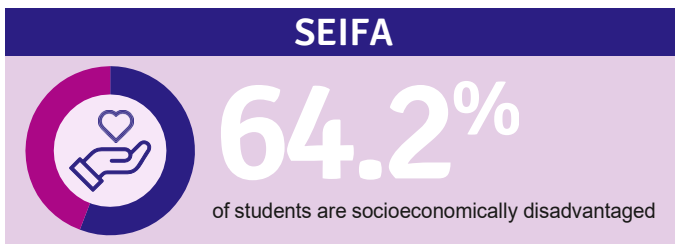
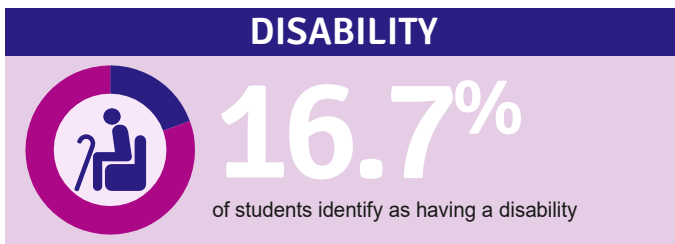
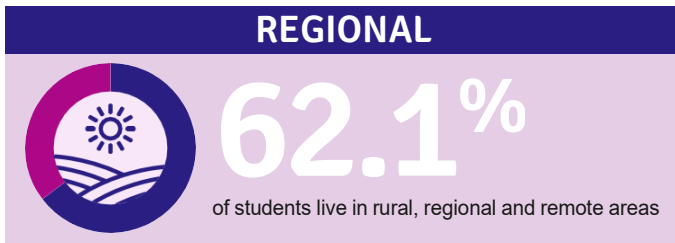
**Community
Colleges
Australia**

**Vulnerable and Disadvantaged
Students of NSW Adult and
Community Education Providers:
Analysis of 2020 Data
Australian VET Fact Sheet 2**

18 October 2021



Executive Summary

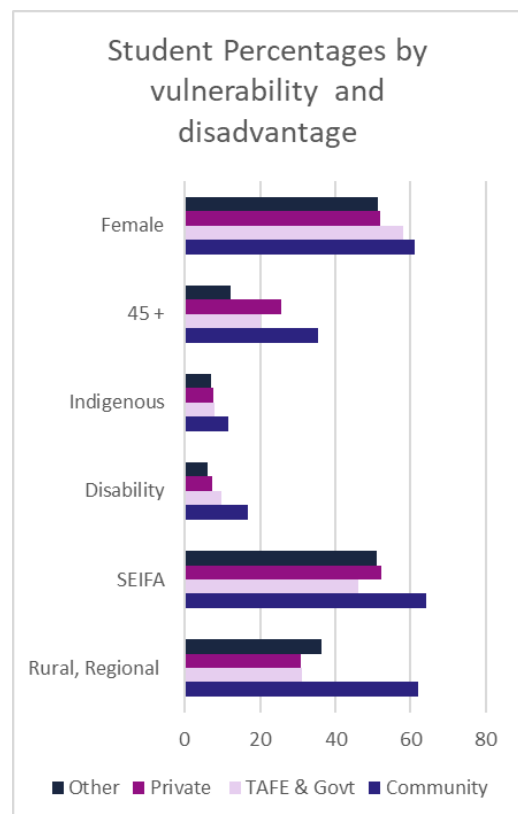


Reaching Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Learners

NSW adult and community education (ACE) VET providers disproportionately cater for students from the state's most disadvantaged groups and regions.

ACE providers overperform compared to TAFE, private for-profit and other VET providers, on almost all tracked measures of vulnerability and disadvantage.

These achievements result from the NSW Government's "ACE Program" and Smart and Skilled funding.



About This Report

This report from Community Colleges Australia (CCA) details the performance of not-for-profit New South Wales adult and community education (ACE) providers in reaching vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. This report is the fifth in CCA's series that analyses government-funded NSW VET students, based on 2020 data compiled by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).¹

Reaching Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Learners

On almost all tracked measures of vulnerability and disadvantage, NSW community education providers consistently over-perform compared to TAFE, private for-profit and other VET providers, disproportionately catering for students from the state's most disadvantaged groups and regions.

This achievement results from the funding provided by the NSW Government's ACE Program and other support programs, combined with the ability of NSW ACE providers to use government training funds effectively and successfully to meet desired outcomes to "guarantee training for key equity groups".² The calendar year 2020 figures are consistent with CCA's previous analyses of the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 government-funded VET data.³ In 2020, NSW ACE providers achieved the following percentage proportions of their government-funded VET student populations:

- 16.7% students with a disability (19.2% in 2019), compared to 9.6% of TAFE & government providers, 7.2% of private for-profits, and 6.1% of other VET providers;
- 62.1% regional and rural students (64.5% in 2019), compared to 31.0% TAFE & government providers, 30.7% private for-profits, and 36.2% other VET providers;
- 64.2% most disadvantaged students – bottom two SEIFA quintiles (55.7% in 2019), compared to 46.2% TAFE & government providers, 52.3% private for-profits and 50.9% other VET providers;
- 13.0% non-English speaking background students (13.2% in 2019), compared to 20.8% of TAFE & government providers, 16.2% of private for-profit providers and 6.3% of other VET providers;
- 35.5% older (age 45+) students (36.9% in 2019), compared to 20.1% TAFE & government providers, 25.7% private for-profits and 12.1% other VET providers; and
- 11.5% Indigenous students (13.1% in 2019), compared to 7.9% of TAFE & government providers, 7.5% of private for-profit providers and 7.0% other VET providers.

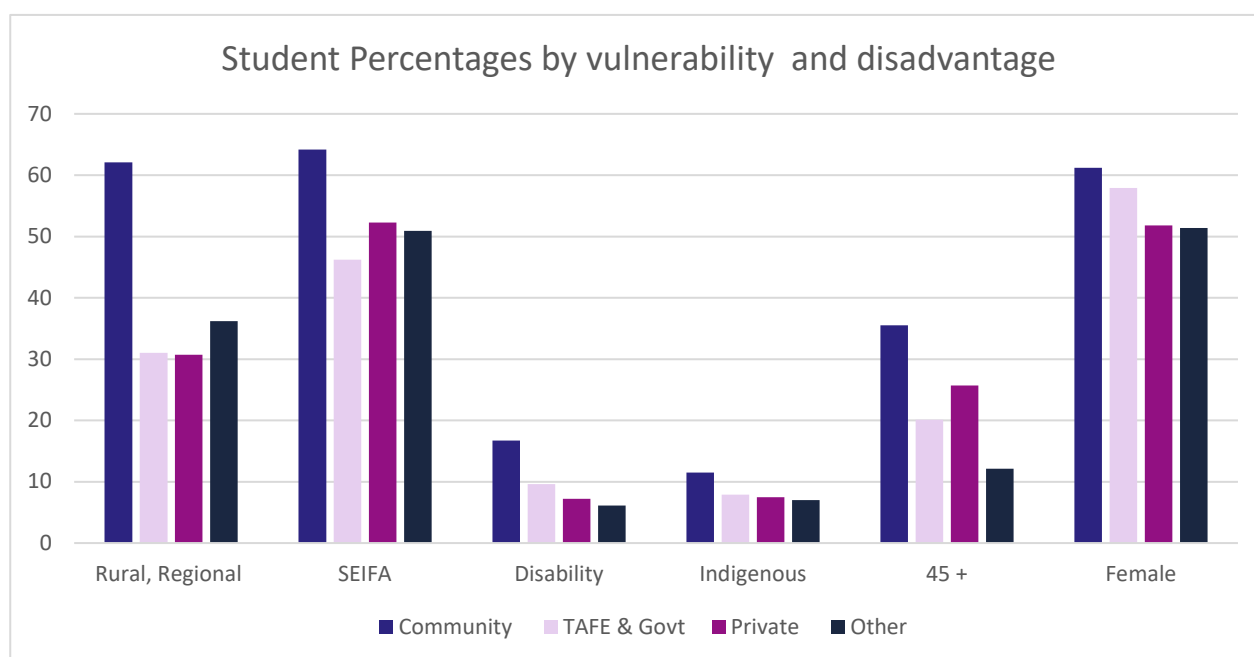
¹ See *Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Students of NSW Not-for-Profit Community Education Providers: Analysis of 2019 Data*, Community Colleges Australia, September 2020, <https://cca.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vulnerable-and-Disadvantaged-Students-of-NSW-ACE-Providers-24Sept2020.pdf>.

² For more details about the NSW ACE program, see https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/ace/ace_program.html

³ See *Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Students of NSW Not-for-Profit Community Education Providers: Analysis of 2019 Data*, Community Colleges Australia, September 2020, <https://cca.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vulnerable-and-Disadvantaged-Students-of-NSW-ACE-Providers-24Sept2020.pdf>.

The only vulnerable population group that NSW ACE providers do not over-perform in reaching is people from non-English speaking backgrounds. This appears to result from the high achievements in other cohorts, especially the high percentage of regional and rural students, as regional NSW tends to have a much lower level of migrants and native English speakers.

Women: In 2020, 61.2% NSW ACE provider government-funded VET students were female (62.3% in 2019), compared to 57.9% of TAFE, 51.8% of private for-profit providers, and 51.4% of other providers. “The challenges and burdens faced by women are exacerbated with women’s economic security, participation in formal employment, political representation, health outcomes and educational achievement negatively impacted, and more so than men.”⁴ “A higher proportion of women (8.1%) than men (6.2%) lost their jobs in March and April 2020, and women suffered a greater reduction in working hours, largely connected to the feminised sectors, including retail and hospitality. Women also reduced their hours of work to care for, and home school, children.”⁵



⁴ See “The impact of COVID-19 on women,” Australian Medical Association, 3 March 2021, <https://www.ama.com.au/articles/impact-covid-19-women>. Also see *Women’s work: The impact of the COVID crisis on Australian women*, the Grattan Institute, 12 April 2021, <https://grattan.edu.au/report/womens-work/>.

⁵ See “COVID’s toll on women – why Australia needs a Gender Impact Statement,” by Trish Bergin, Broad Agenda, 5 August 2020, <http://www.broadagenda.com.au/home/we-need-a-gender-lens-on-public-policy-more-than-ever/>; and “Progress towards economic equality for women in Australia has been wiped out by the coronavirus,” SBS News, 18 August 2020, <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/progress-towards-economic-equality-for-women-in-australia-has-been-wiped-out-by-the-coronavirus>.

Table 1: Summary Comparison of ACE, TAFE, Private and Other Provider Student Percentages by Vulnerability/Disadvantage – Government-Funded VET, 2020

Category	Community Education (%)	TAFE and other Government (%)	Private for-profit providers (%)	Other providers (%)
With a disability	16.7	9.6	7.2	6.1
Rural regional and remote	62.1	31.0	30.7	36.2
Socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA)	64.2	46.2	52.3	50.9
Non-English speaking background	13.0	20.8	16.2	6.3
Aged 45+	35.5	20.1	25.7	12.1
Indigenous	11.5	7.9	7.5	7.0
Female	61.2	57.9	51.8	51.4

Table 2: Government-Funded VET Students NSW 2020

Source: NCVET 2021, Government-funded students and courses 2020: students DataBuilder,

Provider Type		TAFE and Govt		Community		Private		Other Providers	
Total Students		334,160	%	16,990	%	78,580	%	49,255	%
Gender	Males	140,495	42.0	6,360	37.4	37,815	48.1	23,920	48.6
	Females	193,335	57.9	10,405	61.2	40,705	51.8	25,295	51.4
	Not known	325	0.1	10	0.1	20	0.03	10	0.02
Age group	15 to 19 years	62,975	18.9	2,570	15.1	11,195	14.2	28,905	59.1
	20 to 24 years	61,915	18.6	2,225	13.1	14,015	17.8	4,960	10.1
	25 to 29 years	43,260	13.0	1,460	8.6	9,625	12.3	2,650	5.4
	30 to 39 years	73,620	22.1	3,060	18.0	16,860	21.5	4,605	9.4
	40 to 49 years	48,830	14.6	3,045	17.9	13,370	17.0	3,805	7.8
	50 to 59 years	28,315	8.5	2,720	16.0	9,770	12.4	2,910	5.9
	60 to 64 years	8,095	2.4	945	5.6	2,730	3.5	785	1.6
	65 years and over	6,460	1.9	825	4.9	990	1.3	320	0.7
Not known			120	0.7	10	0.01	5	0.01	
Indigenous status	Indigenous	26,290	7.9	1,960	11.5	5,895	7.5	3,645	7
	Non-Indigenous	307,080	91.9	13,985	82.3	69,660	88.6	44,025	89
	Not known	795	0.2	1,045	6.2	3,025	3.8	1,585	3
Disability status	With a disability	32,180	9.6	2,835	16.7	5,620	7.2	3,025	6.1
	Without a disability	300,760	90.0	12,520	73.7	64,155	81.6	24,090	48.9
	Not known	1,220	0.4	1,635	9.6	8,805	11.2	22,140	44.9
Non English-speaking background	Non-English	69,570	20.8	2,210	13.0	12,740	16.2	3,080	6.3
	English	260,225	77.9	13,105	77.1	55,160	70.2	43,900	89.1
	Not known	4,370	1.3	1,675	9.9	10,675	13.6	2,275	4.6
Student remoteness region	Major cities	226,825	67.9	6,130	36.1	53,455	68.1	30,820	62.7
	Inner regional	75,845	22.7	7,035	41.4	16,595	21.1	12,885	26.2
	Outer regional	26,590	8.0	3,120	18.4	6,615	8.4	4,500	9.1
	Remote	2,605	0.8	295	1.7	790	1.0	315	0.6
	Very remote	795	0.2	95	0.6	190	0.2	140	0.3
	Not known	1,455	0.4	300	1.8	885	1.1	520	1.1
Student SEIFA (IRSD)	Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	76,660	22.9	4,670	27.5	21,375	27.2	12,445	25.3
	Quintile 2	77,895	23.3	6,240	36.7	19,715	25.1	12,620	25.6
	Quintile 3	66,595	19.9	2,605	15.3	15,620	19.9	9,470	19.2
	Quintile 4	50,915	15.2	1,645	9.7	10,730	13.7	6,685	13.6
	Quintile 5	59,635	17.8	1,360	8.0	9,520	12.1	7,125	14.5
	Not known	2,465	0.7	470	2.8	1,615	2.1	910	1.8

About Community Colleges Australia

Community Colleges Australia (CCA) is the peak national body that represents not-for-profit, community-owned education and training providers. Our vision is for dynamic and vibrant communities, informed and empowered through learning. To make our vision a reality, CCA works to empower Australia's adult and community education sector by increasing awareness of the sector and its place in the economic and social fabric of our nation. CCA advocates at all levels of government on the value of the community education sector, and for our members' activities and programs.

CCA assists its members to sustain and grow, promoting learning innovation, focussing especially on vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. CCA members focus on student welfare and are strongly committed to employment outcomes for their learners.

Our members have been providing flexible and dynamic education and training opportunities to individuals, groups and businesses for a long time – in some instances almost 110 years. As well as operating in accredited VET, CCA members offer a range of other learning opportunities, including non-accredited and pre-accredited training, lifestyle and lifelong and cultural learning courses – education for which they are historically well-known. These educational activities help build self-esteem, re-engage “missing” learners and create and sustain social and community networks, all of which help to reinforce and sustain the communities in which our members operate.

Our sector's history permits our members to be strategic and innovative in their flexibility to employ a wide range of tools. Our sector plays a strategic role because our members have the freedom to take considered risks. They are not bound by government structures in the way that government providers are, nor are they beholden to private shareholders to supply cash returns in the way of for-profit private providers.

Our members have an historic commitment to invest in their communities and respond to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians, including a commitment to foundation skills. They do this through small class sizes, focussing on personal support, and creating connections to and collaborations with local non-government organisations, government agencies, social services and employers.

Further Information

Community Colleges Australia

Postal: PO Box 1839, QVB Post Office, Sydney NSW 1230

Street address: suite 30, level 7, 58 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel. (02) 9233 3634

Email admin@cca.edu.au

Web www.cca.edu.au

18 October 2021



Community Colleges Australia

PO Box 1839 QVB Post Office Sydney NSW 1230 | 02 9233 3634 | admin@cca.edu.au | www.cca.edu.au