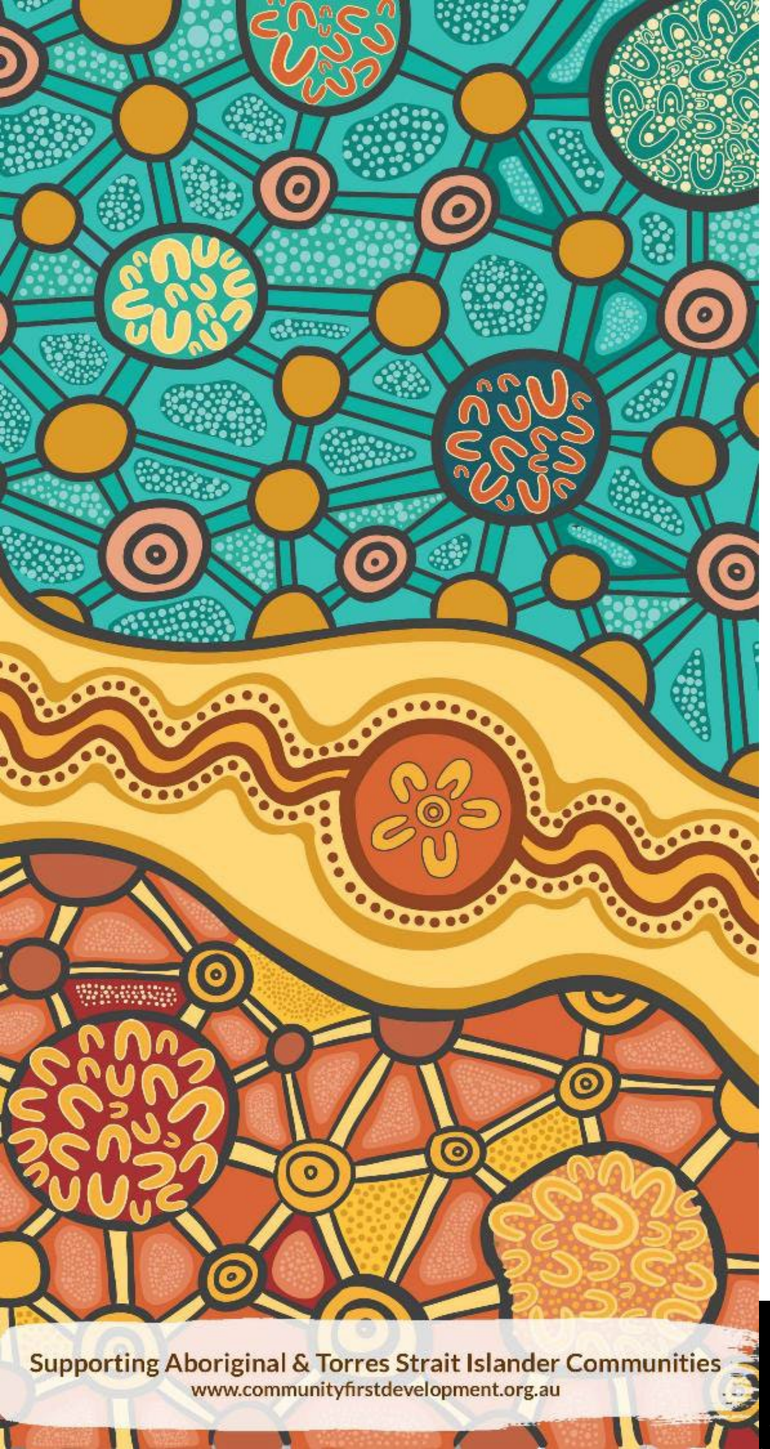
VCE Vocational Major

Vocational and applied learning options for Years 10 to 12 in 2027

Your world.
Your VCE.

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all
First Nations Peoples here today, recognising their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters, seas, skies and communities.

More possibilities in Year 11 and 12

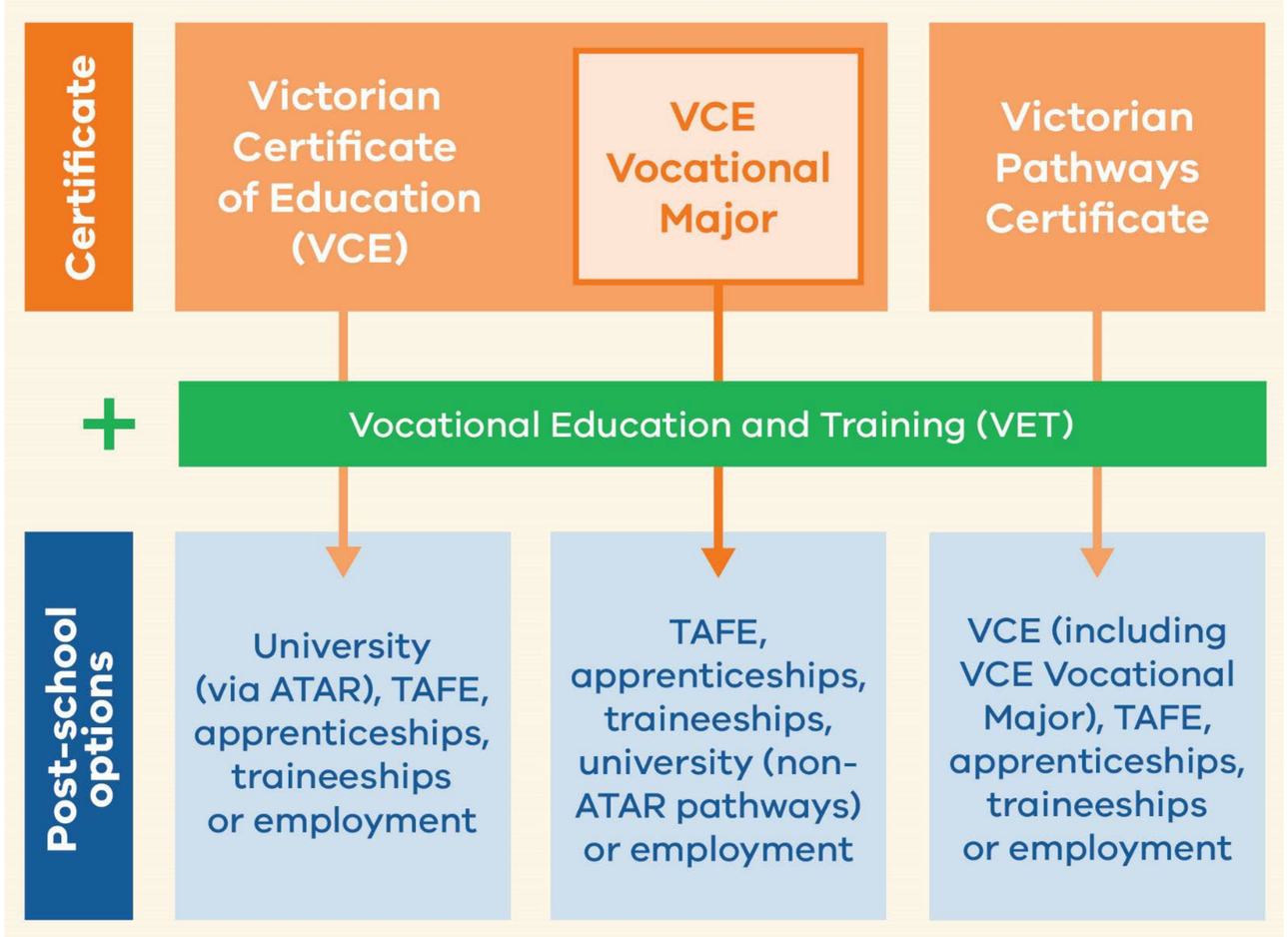
Students have more options, including:

- the VCE
- the VCE Vocational Major program – 4 subjects
- more vocational education and training (VET) options
- the Victorian Pathways Certificate.

Every student can choose a Year 11 and 12 pathway that supports their goals.

The options

- Two certificates available: VCE and VPC
- VCE Vocational Major is a program within the VCE
- Any student can include VET
- Think about your child's interests and goals to help them make their choice



Defining the language

- **Vocational learning** – focuses on the learning activities that take place in a real or simulated workplace
- **Applied learning** – students take the things they have been learning about in theory and put them into practice. Then they reflect on the outcome and improve on it the next time
- **Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)** – learning in the workplace with specific goals, either during the school week or in a block during holidays

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

- Depending on availability, students can choose from more than 100 subjects to suit their interests, talents and goals
- Subject options include VCE Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Each subject has 4 units: Units 1 & 2 and Units 3 & 4. One unit = one semester
- Students study between 16 and 24 units over 2 years
- Assessment in school and final exams lead to a study score for each study
- Study scores lead to an ATAR for direct university entry

VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)

- Program within the VCE
- Students study 16 to 20 units over 2 years
- Four core subjects:
  - VCE VM Literacy
  - VCE VM Numeracy
  - VCE VM Personal Development Skills
  - VCE VM Work Related Skills
- Can include other VCE subjects
- Must include Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the program (more on this later)
- Assessment in school for each subject (not exams)
- No study scores or ATAR from VCE VM subjects
- Available at every local government school, most Catholic schools, and many independent schools

Supporting student goals at Surf Coast Secondary College

A closer look at the VCE VM core subjects

VCE VM Literacy

In this subject, you will improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in a broad variety of situations, so that you can collect and share information effectively.

You will analyse and interpret print, visual, spoken, digital and multimedia information, improving your ability to understand and create effective communications.

This subject will help you develop confidence in your written and spoken communication skills. This will prepare you to succeed in a variety of settings, including at work.

VCE VM Numeracy

In this subject, you will develop logical thinking and reasoning, and the ability to solve everyday problems. You will explore math theories, covering numbers, measurement, shapes, and data.

You will strengthen your numeracy skills and apply this to real-world scenarios. You will learn to apply this knowledge in daily tasks, work, and the community.

Numeracy will prepare you for many important parts of life, such as personal budgeting, comparing purchase options, meeting tax requirements and planning.

A closer look at the VCE VM core subjects

VCE VM Work Related Skills

This subject helps you succeed in the rapidly changing world of work and study. You will explore different career options, develop a career action plan, and build job-seeking skills.

You will learn about healthy and safe workplaces, your rights at work, and how to support the people you work with. You will build communication and teamwork skills and learn how to negotiate important workplace relationships.

You will also identify your personal strengths and learn how to promote these in applications and interviews. You will create a professional portfolio for further education and job applications.

VCE VM Personal Development Skills

In this subject, you will learn how to play an active role in your community. You will also create a deeper understanding and sense of your identity and your place in the world.

You will explore how communities work together on a local, national, and global scale. You will apply this by planning a project to help your own community, in a group with other students.

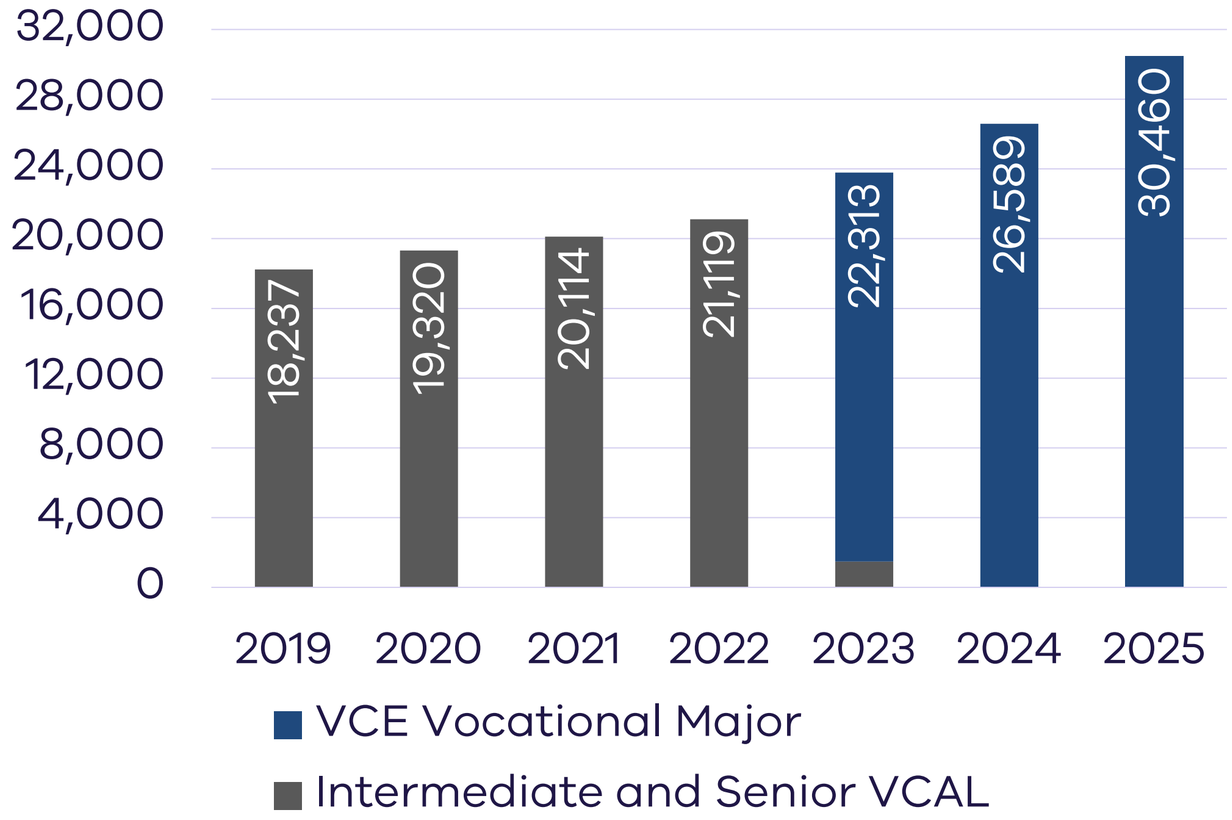
This subject will also help you learn about and build your emotional intelligence, social awareness, and leadership qualities. These relationship skills will help you succeed in the workplace, in further learning like university or TAFE, and in your personal life.

Availability and enrolment are growing

In 2025:

- **487 schools** delivered the VCE Vocational Major
- **30,460 students** did VCE Vocational Major subjects

- Preliminary 2026 data shows **33,155 students** are doing VCE Vocational Major subjects this year from **500** schools delivering VCE VM studies



Your world.
Your VCE.

Education for future success

- Nearly 80% of students leaving Year 12 do further study at TAFE or university immediately after school
- More will study in subsequent years
- More than 90% of new jobs in Victoria will require post-school qualifications (university or TAFE)

Why finish school?

- Completing Year 12 sets young people up for life-long learning
- It means students will be ready to keep learning as they navigate their career and the opportunities of career changes throughout their life
- Continued education and training after school leads to higher paying jobs and better health over a lifetime

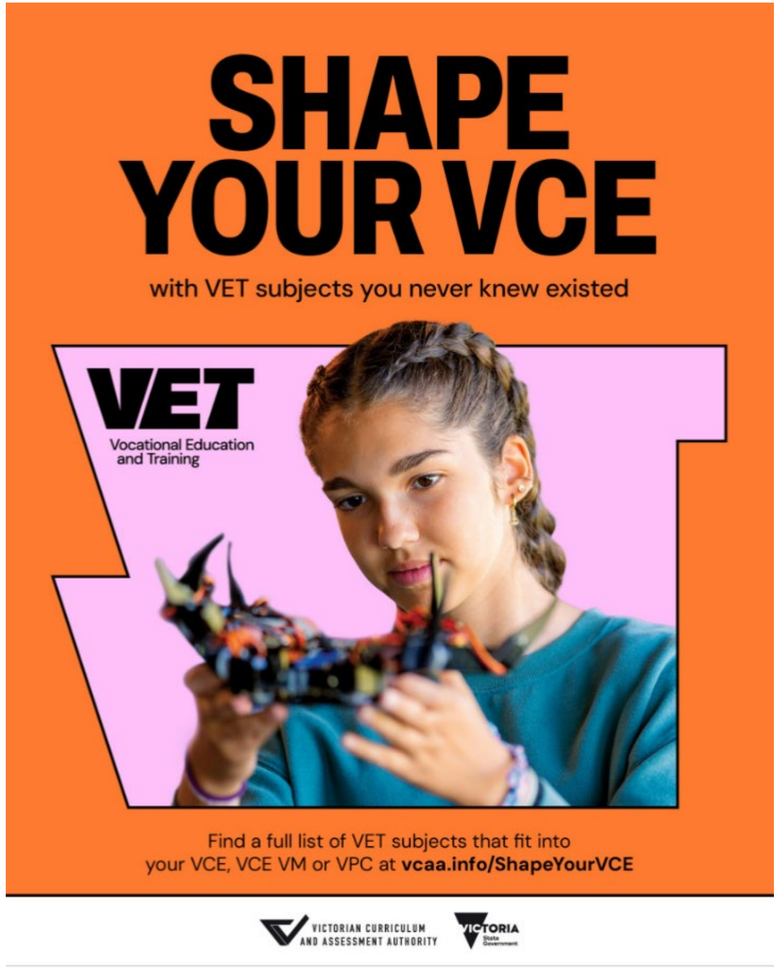
Top growth jobs in Victoria include:

Construction managers	Registered nurses
Civil engineers	Software programmers
Project managers	Chefs
Information communication technology analysts	Early childhood educators
Aged and disability carers	Electricians

...all available through vocational education and training (VET), during school and after.

Your world.
Your VCE.

What are VCE VET studies?



More info: vcaa.info/ShapeYourVCE

VCE VET Industry Areas

6 Priority Industry Areas

aligned to skills shortages and economic growth and other government priorities

- Building and construction
- Digital technologies
- Community services and early childhood education
- Renewable energy and engineering
- Hospitality, events and tourism
- Health

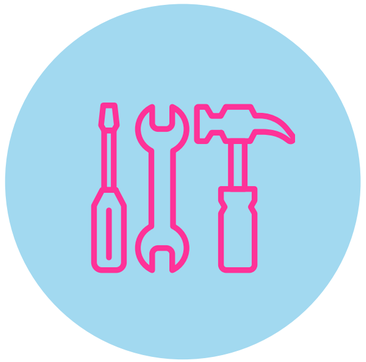
… and 8 other Industry Areas

that may have high local student or community demand

- Agriculture and environment
- Business services
- Animal care
- Sport and recreation
- Automotive
- Salon services and cosmetics
- Creative industries
- Design and manufacturing

More info: vcaa.info/ShapeYourVCE

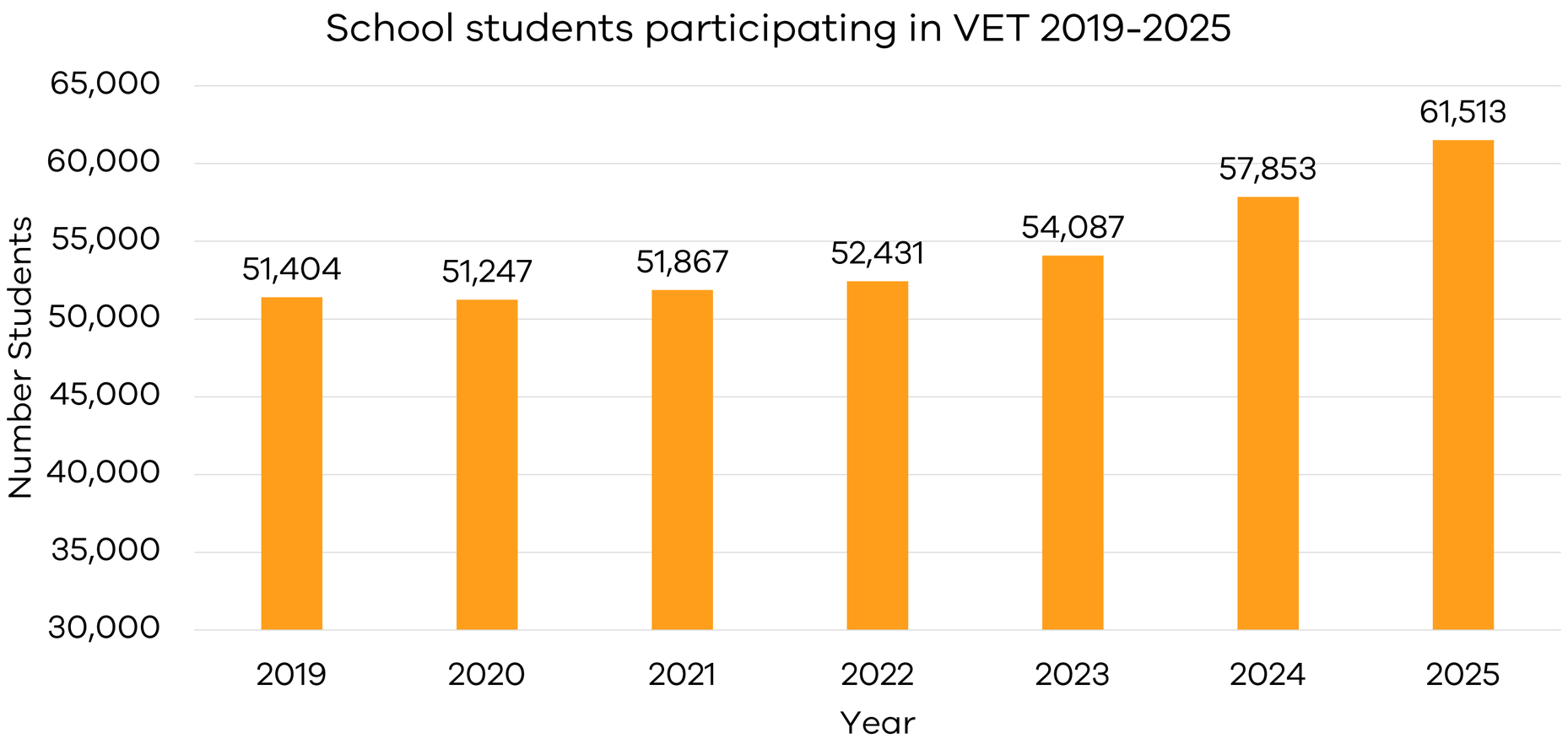
A closer look at 2 of the 6 priority industry areas



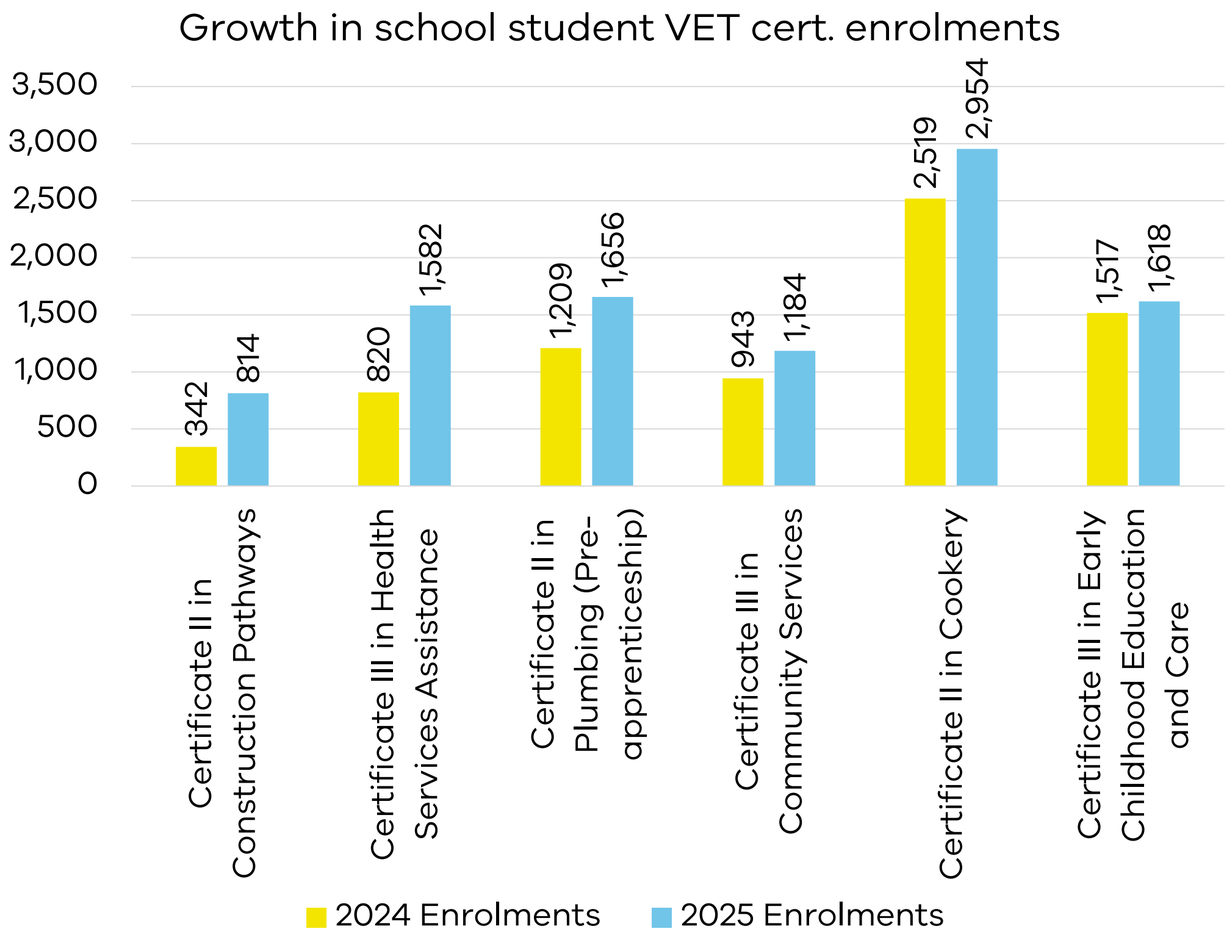
	Units 1&2	Units 3&4	Scored	Non-scored
Building and Construction				
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	●	●		●
Certificate II in Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship	●	●		●
Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)	●	●		●
Certificate II in Civil Construction	●	●		●
Community Services and Early Childhood Education				
Certificate II in Active Volunteering	●			
Certificate II in Community Services	●			
Certificate III in Community Services	●	●	●	●
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	●	●		●

More info: vcaa.info/ShapeYourVCE

Victorian school students undertaking VET



Looking closer at options with rising participation



Certificate	Growth
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	+138.0%
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance	+92.9%
Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)	+37.0%
Certificate III in Community Services	+25.6%
Certificate II in Cookery	+17.3%
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	+6.7%

Post-school VET pathways

- Further VET study
- Further university study
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Employment

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs)

A **school-based apprenticeship or traineeship** (SBAT) is an apprenticeship or traineeship that starts while still completing school.

SBATs allow students to get a head start on their career by combining paid on-the-job training that leads to a qualification while completing a secondary school certificate.
All SBATs combine:

- Approx. 7 hours per week of employment
- Approx. 6 hours per week of training
- Minimum required* secondary school attendance

*each school sets minimum class time and attendance rules

Who is eligible for an SBAT?

SBATs are available to secondary school students and TAFE non-school provider students who are:

- enrolled in Years 10, 11 or 12
- at least 15 years of age
- an Australian citizen or permanent resident*

  *Non-citizens may be eligible under certain circumstances

SBATs can be undertaken in combination with the following secondary school certificate options:

- VCE
- VCE Vocational Major
- Victorian Pathways Certificate

Choosing the right pathway

What do you want to do after finishing secondary school?

Further study/work?

Don’t know yet? That’s ok.

Think about interests and strengths.

Read the information provided

Talk to careers staff and teachers.

Options for every young person's goals and strengths

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)		Victorian Pathways Certificate
VCE	**VCE Vocational Major**	By school recommendation only.
A great choice if you ...	**A great choice if you...**	**A great choice if you...**
• prefer to learn in the classroom	• prefer to learn in the real world and classroom	• prefer to learn in the real world and classroom
• want to develop confidence in academic learning	• want to develop confidence in the workplace	• want to develop confidence in practical skills
• want to pursue university immediately after Year 12, or pursue TAFE, an apprenticeship, a traineeship, or full-time work	• want to pursue TAFE, an apprenticeship, a traineeship, or full-time work immediately after Year 12, or pursue university after time in training or work	• want to complete the VCE, entry-level VET or start full-time work after Year 12
• are ready to do the VCE.	• are ready to do the VCE.	• need flexibility to complete Year 11 and 12.
• need an ATAR for your goals	• don't need an ATAR for your goals	• don't need an ATAR for your goals

Your world.
Your VCE.

More info:

vic.gov.au/vce

vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce-curriculum

Your world.
Your VCE.

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education