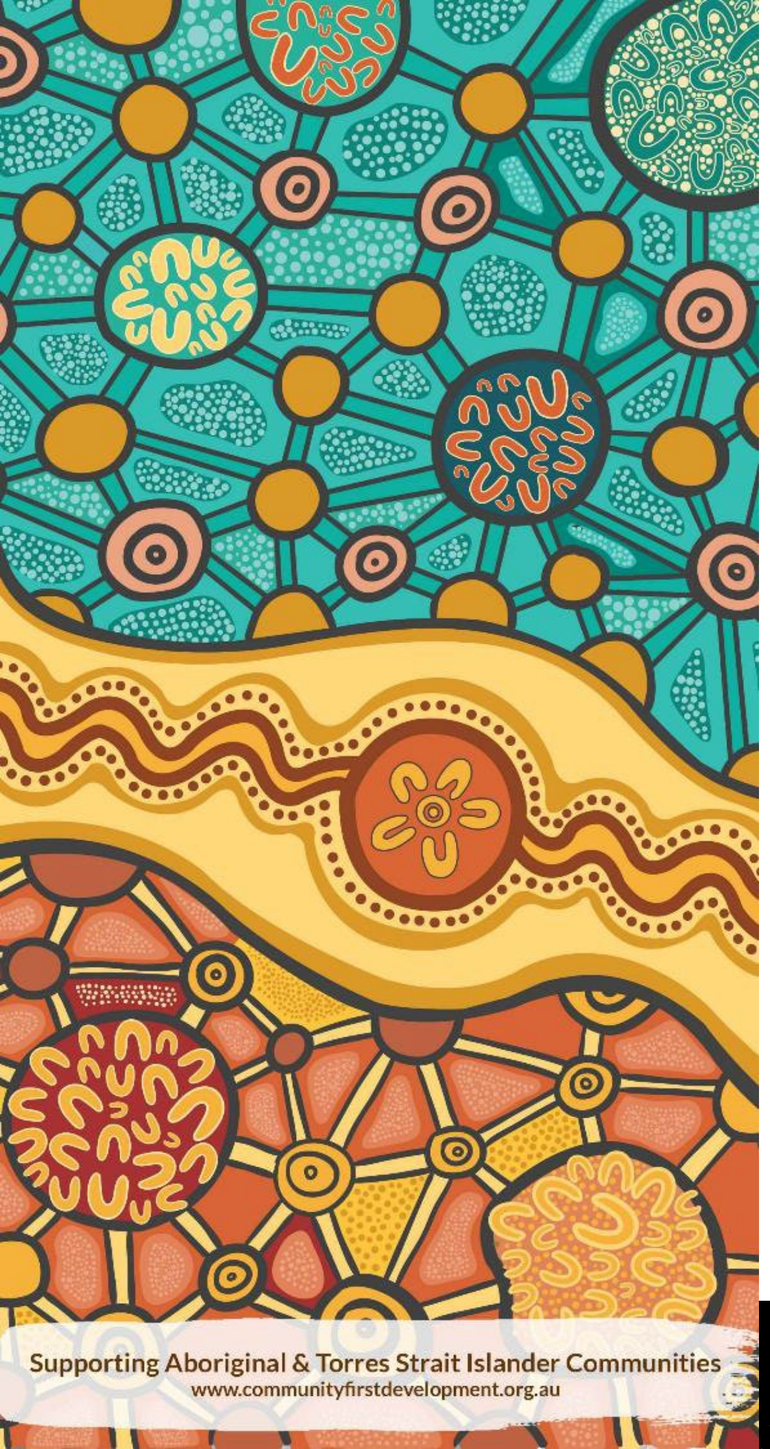
Victorian Pathways Certificate

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.

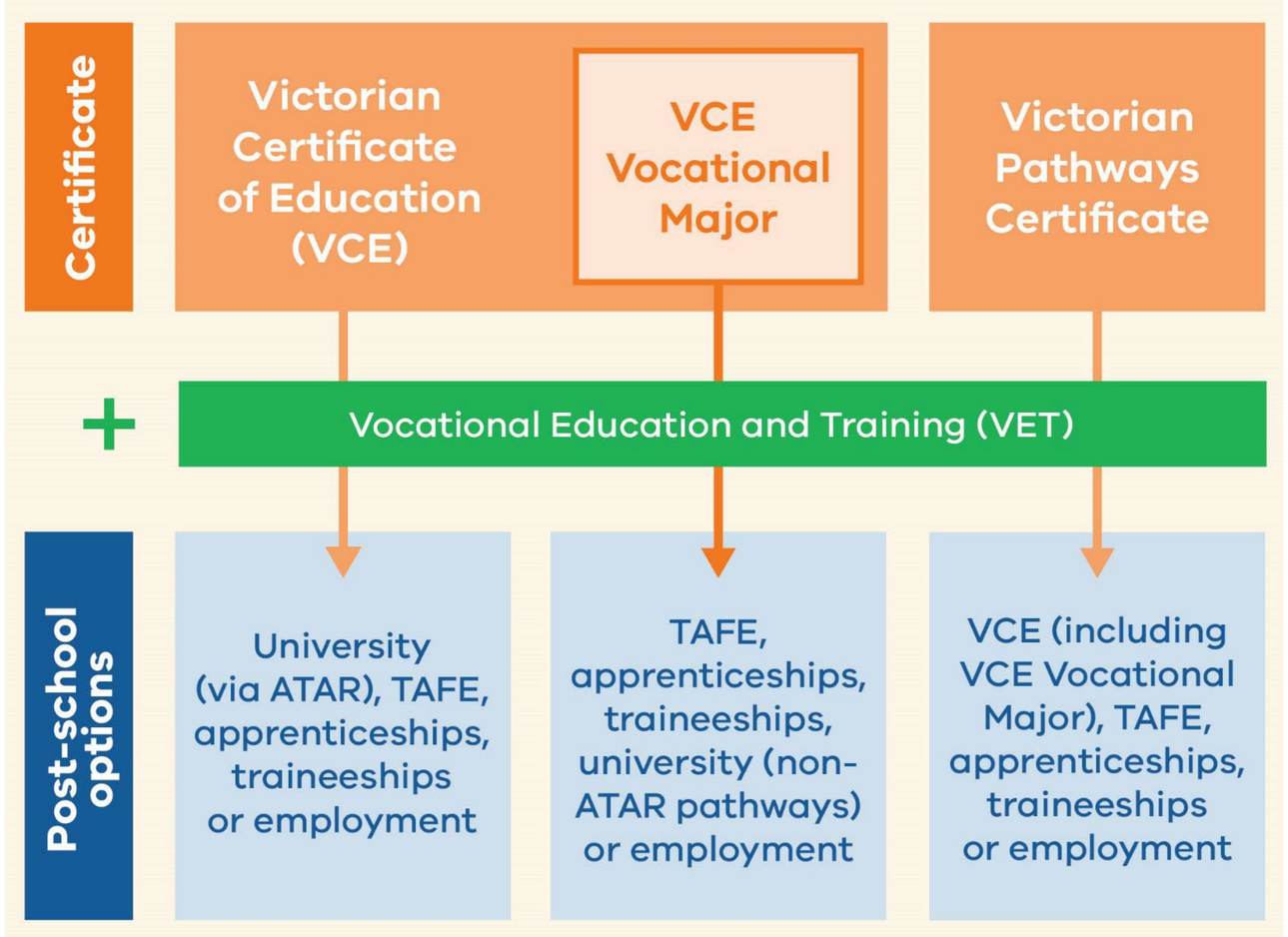
Every student can choose a Year 11 and 12 pathway that supports their goals.

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

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



Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

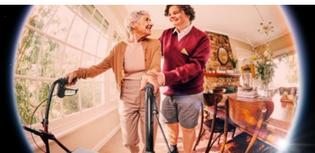
- Stand-alone certificate for students in Year 11 and 12
- Designed for students who would benefit from a more individualised program at a more accessible level than the VCE
- Provides opportunities in developing employability skills and preparing students for further study or the workforce
- Program can include VCE subjects (including VCE VM subjects) or VET
- Acceptance into this course is a shared decision between the school, the student, and parents or carers

Accreditation Period
2023–2027
Victorian Pathways Certificate
LITERACY
CURRICULUM DESIGN
Accreditation Period
2023–2027
Victorian Pathways Certificate
NUMERACY
CURRICULUM DESIGN
Accreditation Period
2023–2027
Victorian Pathways Certificate
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS
CURRICULUM DESIGN
Accreditation Period
2023–2027
Victorian Pathways Certificate
WORK RELATED SKILLS
CURRICULUM DESIGN
Accreditation Period
From 2026
Victorian Pathways Certificate
Art and Design
Curriculum Design
Accreditation Period
From 2026
Victorian Pathways Certificate
Digital Literacy
Curriculum Design
Accreditation Period
From 2026
Victorian Pathways Certificate
Food Studies
Curriculum Design

Is the VPC right for your child?

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) may be appropriate if a student:

- is re-engaging in school or had a highly modified program during their schooling from F–10
- has additional or complex social and wellbeing needs
- has a disability, a Disability Inclusion Profile, or an Individual Education Plan during their schooling from F–10.

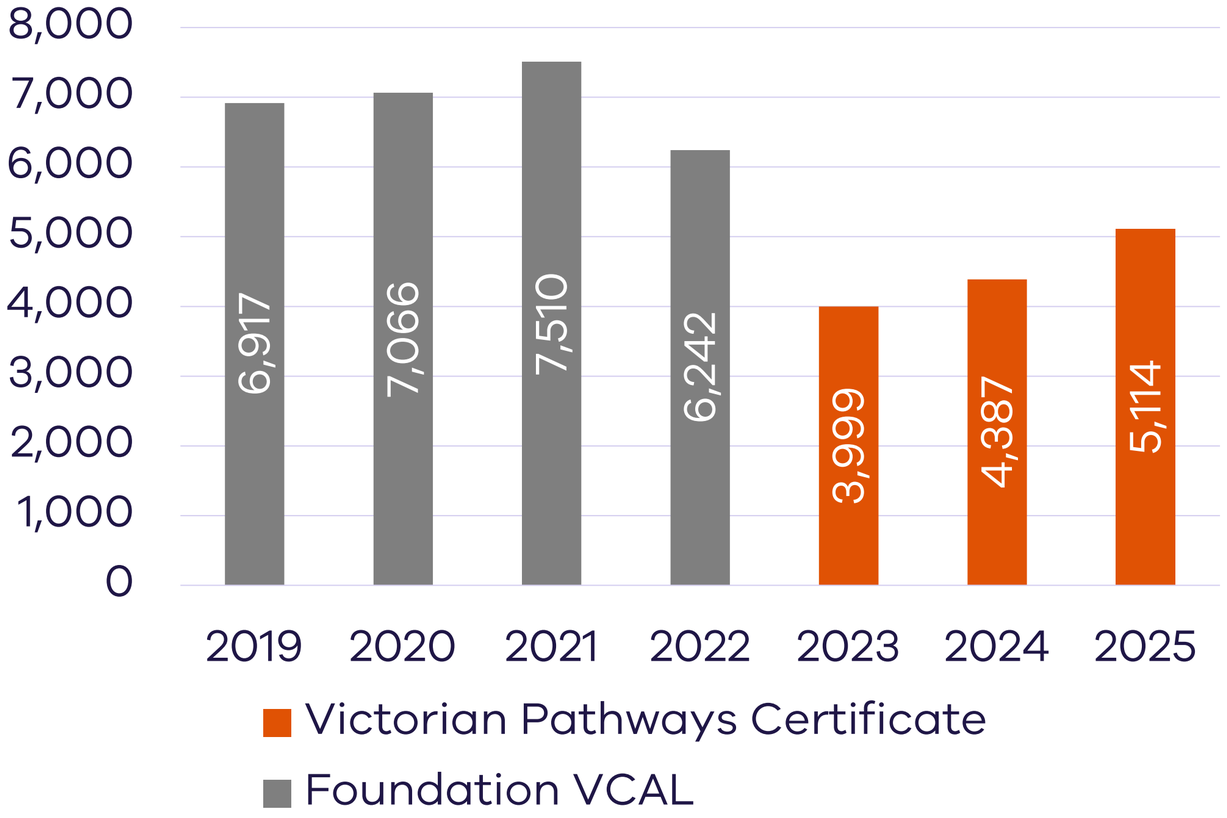


Access and enrolment is growing

In 2025:

- **291 schools** delivered the Victorian Pathways Certificate
- **5,114 students** did the Victorian Pathways Certificate

- Preliminary 2026 data shows **5,294 students** are doing VPC studies from **302** schools delivering the VPC.



Your world.
Your VCE.

Education for future success

- Possible future pathways for VPC students may include:
  - completion of VCE including the VCE VM
  - apprenticeships and traineeships
  - TAFE courses at Certificate I level and above
  - community programs
  - employment.

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.

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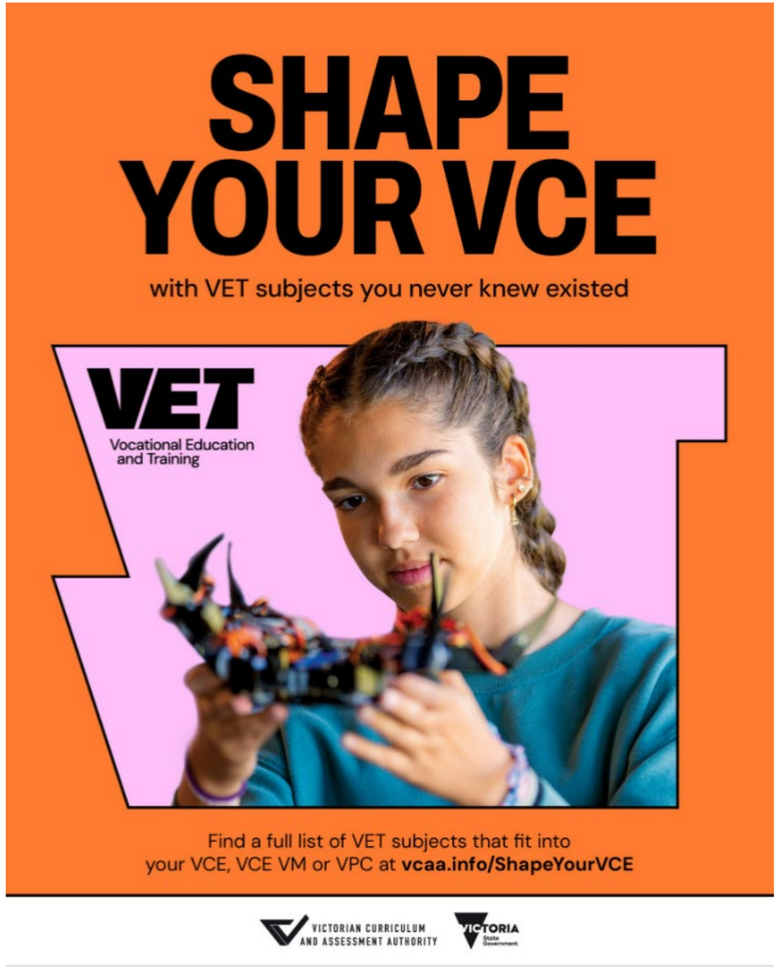
What are VCE VET studies?



Practical skills for specific industries

Nationally-recognised qualifications

VET
Vocational Education and Training

Learning in the workplace

Competency-based assessment

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

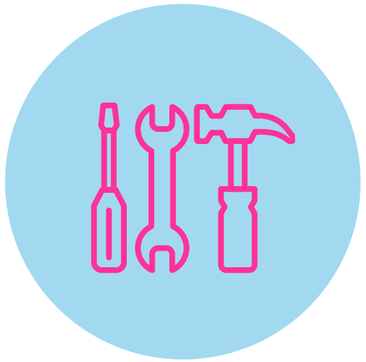
… and 8 other Industry Areas

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

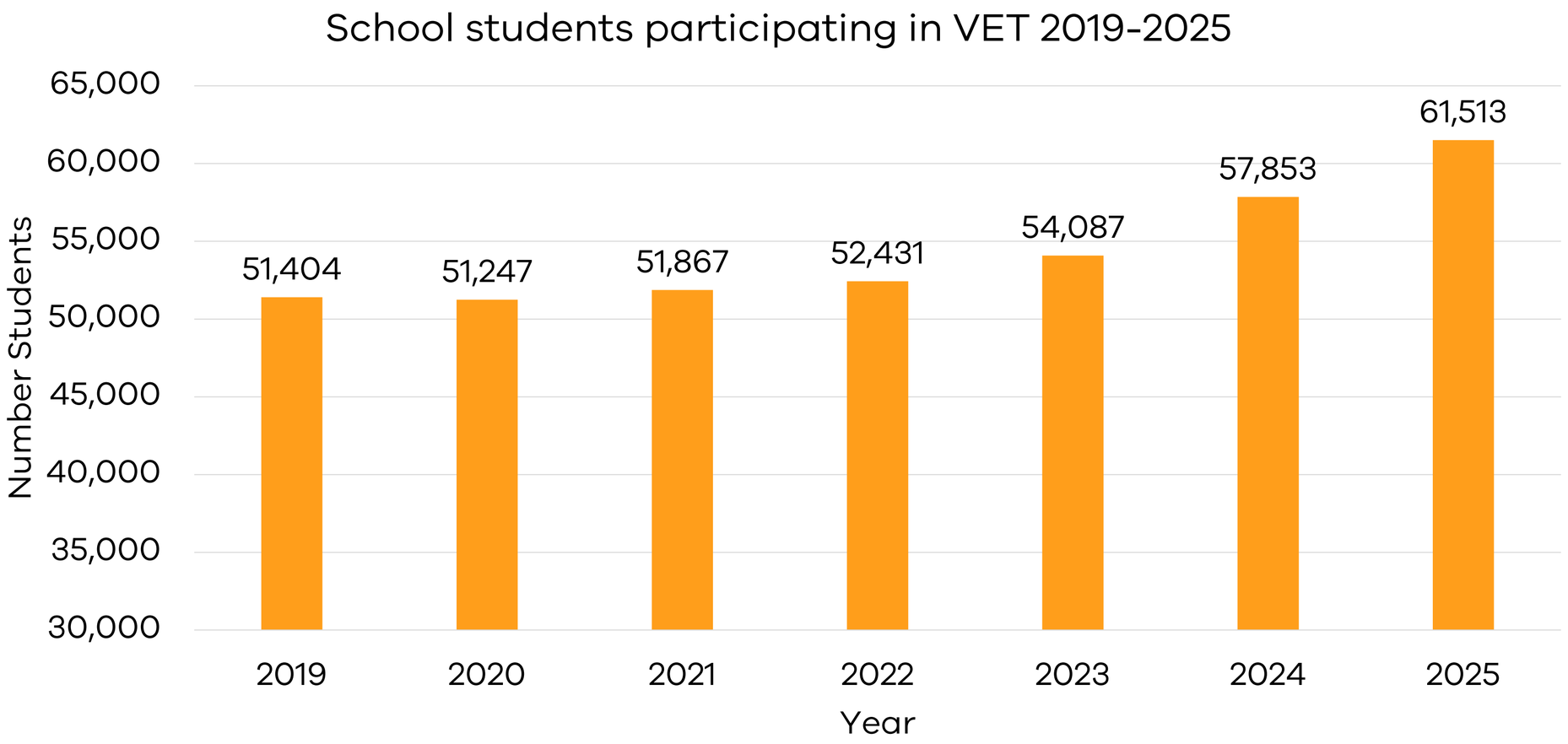
A closer look at 2 of the 6 priority industry areas



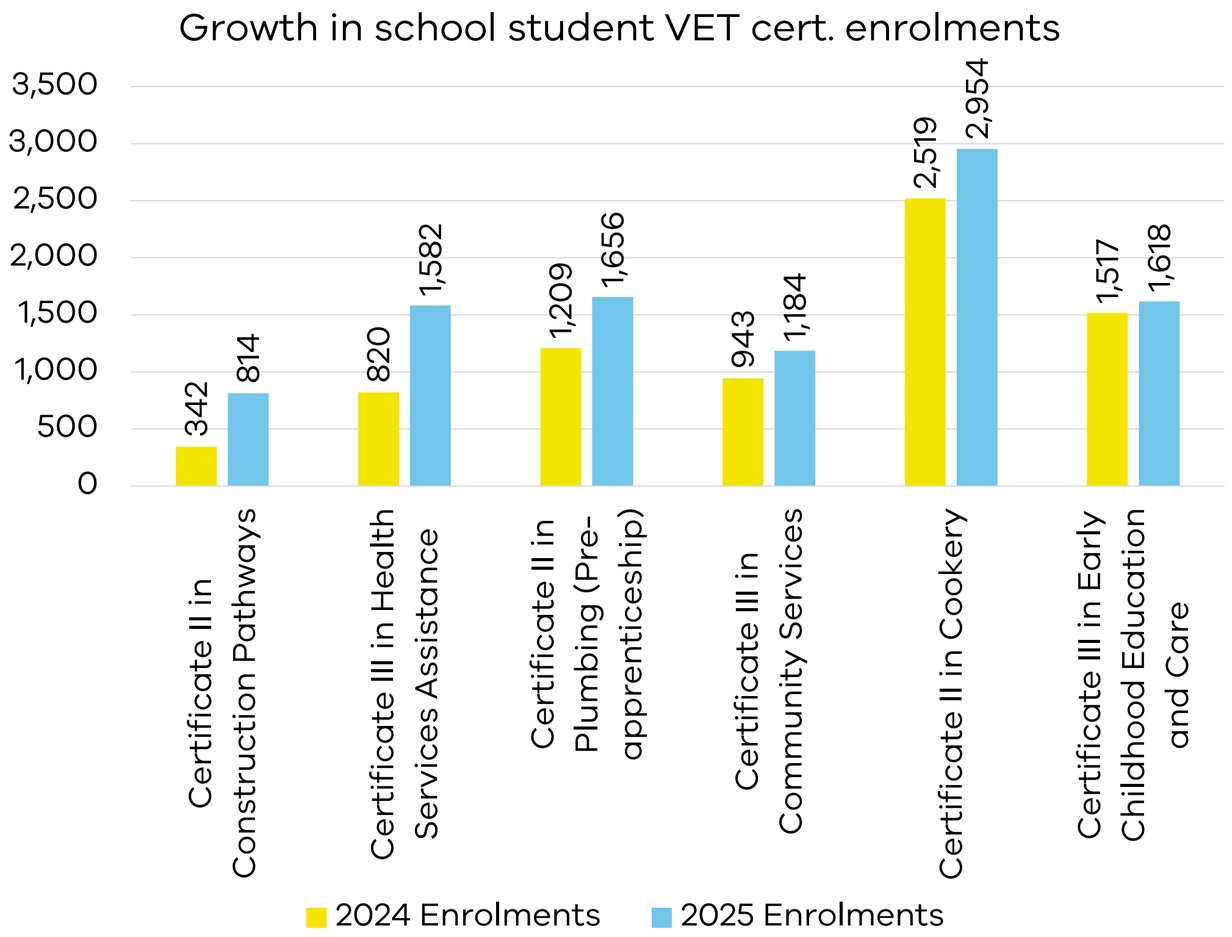
	Units 1&2	Units 3&4	Scored	Non-scored
Building and Construction				
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	●	●		●
Certificate II in Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship	●	●		●
Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)	●	●		●
Certificate II in Civil Construction	●	●		●
Community Services 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.

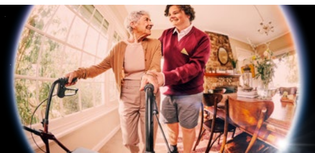
Think about interests and strengths.

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



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More info:

vic.gov.au/vce

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

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