PERFORMANCE REPORT: IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

OUR PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Fifty per cent increase in the proportion of people with qualifications at AQF certificate III and above by 2020

Figure 14: Proportion of NSW people aged between 20 and 64 years with an AQF qualification at certificate III or above, 2006 to 2015

The achievement of higher-level qualifications enables people to develop the skills needed to participate effectively in the labour market, secure rewarding jobs and contribute to the state’s economic growth by meeting the needs of industry.

In 2015, 60.2 per cent of people aged between 20 and 64 years in NSW held an AQF qualification at certificate III or above, an increase of 4.4 percentage points from 2010, the agreed baseline for the target.

One hundred per cent increase in the number of higher-level qualifications at diploma and above by 2020

Figure 15: Number of completions at diploma qualification and above in NSW, 2006 to 2014

A focus on lifting the achievement of higher-level qualifications responds to the need for a skilled and productive workforce that can support consistent economic growth into the future in all industries.

Preliminary data for 2014 show 22,567 completions at diploma qualification level and above, an increase of 41 per cent from the baseline of 16,013 completions in 2009.
Twenty per cent increase in the number of women, regional and Aboriginal students completing higher-level qualifications at AQF certificate III and above by 2020

The number of higher-level qualification completions by women, regional and Aboriginal students is progressing over time toward the department’s 2020 targets.

The number of women completing higher-level qualifications at certificate III or above was 61,705 in 2013, which is lower than 2012 and just below the 2020 target of 62,232 completions.

While completion numbers in rural and regional NSW continue to increase over time, numbers fell slightly to 32,879 completions in 2013 compared with 2012.
The number of Aboriginal students completing qualifications at certificate III or above continues to exceed the department’s target of 2,760 by 2020, with 3,634 completions in 2013.

Increase the proportion of young people with a bachelor degree or above to 44 per cent by 2025

In 2015, 40.5 per cent of young people in NSW held a bachelor degree or higher. This proportion has increased from 31.7 per cent in 2006. This increase supports NSW efforts to build an educated and skilled workforce to meet the growing demands of industry, provide improved employment and deliver strong economic growth for NSW.

NSW remains on track to increase the proportion of 25-to-34-year-olds holding a bachelor degree or above to 44 per cent by 2025.
Increase the proportion of undergraduate enrolments by students from low-socioeconomic status backgrounds to 20 per cent by 2020

The focus on lifting undergraduate enrolments by students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds reflects the drive to ensure that NSW has the most highly skilled workforce in the country and that all members of the community have access to high-quality education and training.

In 2014, 17.8 per cent of students from low-socioeconomic status backgrounds were enrolled in an undergraduate degree at a NSW higher education institution. Since 2008, this number has increased from 16.7 per cent.

Increase the proportion of young people who have left school and are participating in further education, training or employment to 90 per cent by 2020

Full-time participation in education or work after leaving school is an important step in establishing a young person’s employment path through the working years.

In 2015, 72.5 per cent of school leavers aged 15 to 19 were fully engaged in further education, training or work.

Increase the number of apprenticeship and traineeship completions by 10 per cent by 2016

Increasing apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates is a key initiative for the government’s plan to develop a highly skilled workforce to support NSW’s growing economy.

In 2015, 38,400 apprentices and trainees completed their apprenticeship or traineeship. There was a decline of 13 per cent in comparison with 2014. This was consistent with national trends, and is mainly attributed to Commonwealth changes to incentives from 1 July 2012 that affected existing worker traineeship commencements. The NSW Government has a range of strategies for improving apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates and is building on strategies already in place.

Source: NCVER, VOCSTATS (September 2015 quarter estimates). Note: Annual figures are based on 12 months to end of September.