formal learning environments to access, remain in or return to education or training in order to complete, as a minimum, two years post-compulsory education or accredited training. Projects operate in identified high need areas throughout metropolitan and regional New South Wales.

More than 90 community organisations are funded to provide services to young people at risk, both through individually tailored education, training and related activities focused on the development of key competencies, and through referrals to specialist support services. Young people at risk are assisted to engage with a ‘next step’ course or activity which is linked to recognised education or training pathways.

It is expected that approximately 4,000 young people will be assisted during 2003/04.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACCREDITATION BOARD (VETAB)**

The Board promotes consistency of standards in vocational education and training, accredits vocational courses and registers training providers in New South Wales. VETAB is currently engaged in the accreditation of Registered Training Organisations and Quality Endorsed Training Organisations to ensure that the quality of vocational education and training provision in NSW is maintained and enhanced.

- $1,344.6 million recurrent expenditure for TAFE NSW
- $72 million on TAFE NSW capital works
- $195.9 million for grants on external education and tertiary services
- $6 million for targeted Youth Programs
- $35 million for TAFE Building Maintenance
- $3 million for TAFE Capped Scholarships ($11.9 million over the next four years)
- $1.9 million for TAFE Youth at Risk Program ($7.5 million over the next four years)
Budget 2003-2004

Providing quality vocational education and training and expanding employment opportunities in NSW continue to be key priorities of the NSW Government. This year’s Budget provides $1,612.5 million in recurrent and capital funding for vocational education and training.

In 2003/04, enrolments for TAFE NSW are projected to grow to more than 528,000. The TAFE NSW Budget takes into account the need for greater efficiencies in an increasingly competitive training market.

Grants for external education and training services will amount to some $195.9 million in 2003/04.

TAFE NSW

In this Budget, the State Government is spending $1,344.6 million in recurrent funding for TAFE NSW and $72 million to upgrade facilities at TAFE NSW campuses throughout the State.

As the major provider of vocational education and training, TAFE NSW contributes to the economic development of the State by creating a skilled workforce.

During 2003/04, TAFE NSW will offer a wide range of courses covering all industry areas to more than 528,000 students. In the calendar year 2002, over 226,000 students enrolled in industry courses, mainly in the areas of general education and training, business and clerical, computing and tourism and hospitality. Young people continue to make up a large percentage of TAFE NSW enrolments, with around 25 per cent of students aged between 15 and 19 years.

In 2003, it is estimated that around 14,000 university graduates will continue their studies in TAFE Institutes. This reflects the practical nature of TAFE provision and the extent to which courses provided are employment related.

Increasing numbers of students are taking the opportunity to fast track their studies through credit transfer with universities and other providers. In addition, Recognition of Prior Learning arrangements allow relevant qualifications and experiences to be recognised and credited towards TAFE NSW qualifications.

The major focus of TAFE NSW in 2003/04 will be to continue to work with existing and emerging industries to ensure a skilled workforce is available, strengthen links between TAFE, schools and universities and support small and rural businesses and their communities.

TAFE NSW will continue to support the expertise, creativity, innovation and commitment of its staff to improve overall performance, particularly student outcomes. The continuation of programs for Aboriginal people in conjunction with Aboriginal centres, which provide opportunities for whole communities to join with Aboriginal people in a variety of programs, is also high on the TAFE NSW agenda.

To better meet students and employers needs, courses will increasingly be offered by technologies such as the internet, e-mail, video and teleconferencing and by satellite, in the workplace, on-campus and at home.

TAFE NSW Institutes are developing more specialist centres by consolidating facilities to ensure cost-effective high quality delivery.

The TAFE NSW On-line project will increase the organisation’s capacity to provide more courses, more effectively, using Internet and high-speed electronic technologies. Students in all Institutes will have the option of studying on-line modules in over 800 courses.

TAFE NSW continues to implement strategies to increase the efficient use of human, physical and financial resources. These include the improvement of management systems and processes, resource sharing and joint planning with other organisations, income generation through increased commercial activity and tendering for targeted funds.

Total Enrolments in TAFE NSW by ANTA Industry Area 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Area</th>
<th>Enrolments 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Sport &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>24,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>11,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Construction</td>
<td>41,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Clerical</td>
<td>62,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>2,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services, Health and Education</td>
<td>39,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>40,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Mining</td>
<td>22,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Banking and Insurance</td>
<td>11,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Processing</td>
<td>3,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education and Training</td>
<td>99,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Industry</td>
<td>27,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process Manufacturing</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Personal Service</td>
<td>14,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Technical and Other</td>
<td>29,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles, Clothing, Footwear and Furnishings</td>
<td>4,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism and Hospitality</td>
<td>44,939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport and Storage</td>
<td>6,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>17,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>526,083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAFE Scholarships

TAFE scholarships aim to assist students from rural and low socio-economic areas who have successfully completed vocational education training courses as part of the Higher School Certificate to continue full-time study at TAFE NSW.

This initiative will provide funding of $11.9 million over four years, including $3 million in 2003/04 and will assist students to meet course costs.

Capital Works

TAFE NSW will spend $72 million on capital works programs during 2003/04. The program will provide for the commencement of 14 new major projects including facilities at Belmont, Blue Mountains, Chullora, Granville, Meadowbank, Mount Druitt, Mudgee, Northern Beaches, Orange, Ultimo, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

Construction will continue on 22 major projects commenced in previous years at an estimated total cost of more than $86 million. These projects include the construction of a multi-storey building at the Ultimo campus, at an estimated total cost of more than $28 million.

Other major works continuing in 2003/04 include projects at Albury, Cootamundra, Dubbo, Grafton, Lightning Ridge, Liverpool, Shellharbour, Wollongbar and Wyong.

TAFE Building Maintenance

In 2003/04, TAFE NSW has been provided with $35 million for building maintenance. These funds are targeted specifically to improve facilities and amenities for students and staff.

Rural and Isolated Students

In 2002, TAFE NSW offered courses to around 280,000 students in regional and remote areas of NSW through the non-metropolitan colleges and the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), based on the NCVER definition of non-metropolitan rural areas.

OTEN continues to improve on technological innovation to provide support for programs in rural communities including an internet home page which links information, learning resources and a message board so that students can interact and exchange information.

Equity Focus

Equity programs within TAFE NSW and the Department of Education and Training are continuing to assist people in areas of special need, including disadvantaged youth, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities and women.

TAFE NSW has an extensive history in developing and providing educational programs to meet the needs of disadvantaged members of society by improving literacy and numeracy skills, increasing their self confidence and preparing them for work or further study.

Students at Risk

The Government introduced the TAFE NSW Students at Risk Program in 1999/00. Funding of $7.5 million will be provided over the next four years, including $1.9 million in 2003/04. This program has provided a joint TAFE and schools initiative, through TAFE NSW Outreach and school substitute care, to target youth and to expand their access to vocational education and training.

An additional 100 TAFE places for students in Juvenile Justice Centres will be available.

Encouraging Apprentices and Trainees

As at mid June 2003, there are 38,957 apprentices and 48,031 entry level trainees in training in NSW, a total of 86,988 participants in structured training which supports their apprenticeship or traineeship.

TAFE NSW provides the majority of apprenticeship training. Twelve apprenticeships and all traineeships are available on the open market, which means that public and private registered training organisations are eligible to deliver the structured training. In 2003/04, funding will continue to be available under the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Training Program for the delivery of open market apprenticeship training and traineeship training to new entrant trainees.

Priority is placed on flexibility in the delivery of training for apprentices and traineeships to meet the demands of industry. Structured training can be delivered using more traditional pathways, which are institution or distance based. Training can also be delivered wholly on the job or using a number of different pathways.

In addition, Industry Programs and Services provides training places which support training:

- in key Government priorities, strategies and initiatives;
- in traditional and emerging industries, facing restructuring and regional and rural economies; and
- to disadvantage groups in gaining access to training and employment opportunities.

Adult and Community Education

Funds will be provided to assist ACE organisations to develop and implement initiatives to encourage greater participation and maximise successful outcomes for geographically isolated communities, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, older people, those experiencing social and economic disadvantage including people who are unemployed, women and men experiencing educational disadvantage including those with low literacy levels.

Adult migrant English Services

The NSW Adult Migrant English Service (AMES) helps migrants to study English, enabling them to participate in the community, education and work.

AMES is recognised throughout the world as a high-quality provider of language training education for newly-arrived migrants, migrant people in the workplace, or those who want to re-enter the workforce. English for construction can be received at an AMES centre, from a home tutor, or through distance education.

Links to Learning Program

In 2003/04, over $6 million will be provided in direct assistance grants through the Links to Learning Program. The program funds a range of community based education and training initiatives for young people who experience significant difficulties participating in learning.