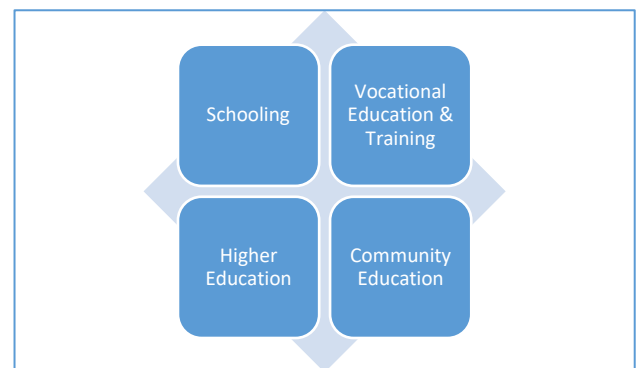
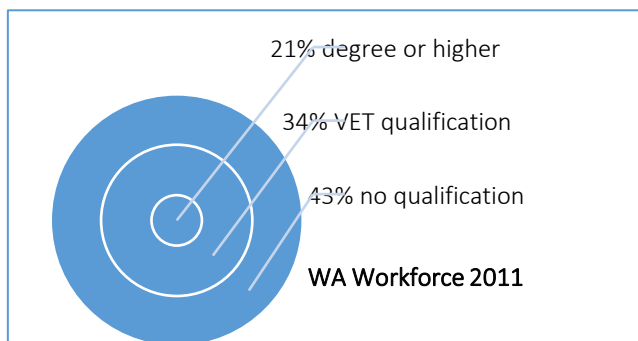


What is VET?

Although VET qualifications are the most common qualifications of Western Australian workers, many people don't understand what VET is. VET stands for Vocational Education and Training. VET is sometimes also called *skills* or just *training* because of its focus on the performance of work tasks. This contrasts to higher education where the focus is more on knowledge & understanding.

Many university degrees can be considered vocational (eg accounting or medicine), however VET is usually used as shorthand for qualifications obtained through the VET Sector. It is one of the four education sectors, along with schooling, higher education (eg universities) and community education.



VET is vital to the Australian economy, both for the development of the nation's workforce and as a major export industry. Apprenticeship and Trade training occur within VET.

VET Accreditation

VET is provided through a network of public and private training providers, with support from industry, State and Territory governments and the Australian Government. This network is often described as the *VET or training system*.

While the term training can include vendor training, informal development activities and non-accredited courses, VET is nationally accredited training. VET requires the learner to be formally assessed as fully competent in work tasks against nationally and industry agreed standards.

For education and training to be widely recognised (accredited) across Australia, VET training and assessment needs to be regulated. The [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) (ASQA) is the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training sector. The [WA Training Accreditation Council](#) (TAC) is Western Australia's registering and accrediting agency. Both are responsible for the quality assurance and regulation of VET courses and training providers to ensure nationally approved quality standards are met.

Competence means that the learner has demonstrated the required foundation skills (eg communications, teamwork), underpinning knowledge & understandings, and the ability to consistently perform a task to industry standards under industry conditions.

Accredited means nationally recognised under the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#). The AQF is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training. It incorporates the qualifications from each education and training sector. The AQF has ten levels of reflecting relative complexity and the level of autonomy. The levels are described below:

Level	Qualification	Competence	Example
2	Certificate II	Basic or entry	Farming assistant
3	Certificate III	Routine or operational	Farm worker
4	Certificate IV	Broad, technical or supervisory	Farm supervisor
5 & 6	Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree	Broad or technical in changing contexts	Agricultural technician Farm manager
7 & 8	Bachelor Degree, Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	Highly developed broad or technical and self-directed	Agricultural consultant
9 & 10	Master's Degree, Doctoral Degree	Advanced, integrated and expert	Agricultural researcher

Industry Training Packages are sets of nationally endorsed qualifications and units of competency designed for specific industries, industry sectors or enterprises. Training Packages specify the skills and knowledge that individuals need to have for specific jobs in the industry. There are Training Packages for

all industries and almost all occupations, eg furniture making, food processing, interior design, landscape construction, shearing, agronomist and meat inspection.

Training Packages are the key resource for **Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)** for the delivery of nationally recognised training, and for the assessment and recognition of people's skills. The official National Register is published online at training.gov.au and is the authoritative source of information on Training Packages, qualifications, units of competency and RTOs.



Which is better, VET or University?

University qualifications are often seen as more prestigious than VET qualifications. University is clearly great if research or academic skills are needed. However, often VET provides a greater emphasis on [employability skills](#), and real workplace competence. Consequently, VET graduates often have higher employment outcomes and higher earning capacities. Employers are increasingly placing more value on the practical capabilities of their employees rather than which qualifications they have got or which university they have attended.