



Transnational education in the public VET sector

Transnational education (TNE) is the provision of education by Australian providers offshore. For example, a state government may have campuses of a TAFE in one or several countries outside Australia. This snapshot looks at the TNE delivered by public sector VET providers and onshore public VET provision between 2003 and 2007. Equivalent data on private sector providers was not available at the time of writing. Within public VET, offshore provision consistently outpaced onshore delivery between 2003 and 2007, with the rate of growth in offshore public VET delivery highest in 2007 (Figure 1).

The top five countries for offshore public VET provision in 2007 were China, Fiji, Vietnam, Kuwait and the Republic of Korea. By contrast, the top five source countries for onshore public VET enrolments in 2007 were India, China, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Japan. In most instances, the offshore component of VET enrolments represented a small percentage of total public VET international enrolments. The striking exception to this is China, which had 90.7% of its enrolments offshore. TNE enrolments in China have been the primary driver of overall growth in public VET TNE in recent years (see Figure 2).

The vast majority (98.0%) of public VET courses provided offshore were classroom-based. Furthermore 99.2% of offshore public VET provision took place entire offshore – only 0.8% had an onshore component. Over 63% of teachers in offshore campuses were sourced locally from local communities, while 34.1% were sourced from Australia.

Most offshore public VET courses were taught in English (52.2%), or a combination of English and the local language (46.0%). Only 1.8% of courses were taught entirely in the local language. The top five broad fields of education in offshore public VET were Management and Commerce (56.1%), Society and Culture (22.2%), Information Technology (11.2%), Engineering and Related Technologies (6.1%), and Food, Hospitality and Personal Services (0.9%).

The majority of enrolments were at the Diploma level, with all other course levels having fewer than 7,000 enrolments (see Figure 3). Although all states except the ACT delivered public VET offshore in 2007, Victoria and NSW were the greatest providers of both onshore and offshore public VET.

