

Symposium: MCC091151

Paper: MCC091185

Using Descriptive Statistics for Advocacy Some Sources of Descriptive Data on Australian Schools and VET

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The resources are grouped under the headings:

- International Context,
- National/Federal Context,
- State Context.

All URLs checked and functional as of 17 November 2009.

1. International Context

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Education at a Glance

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_39263238_43586328_1_1_1_1,00.html (NOTE: not available without charge via the internet)

This is an annual publication that provides data on education in the various OECD countries (and some others). Not all information is provided by all countries across the various subjects for which information is sought, and caution needs to be exercised, as it is not always clear that every country has used similar criteria as the basis for their reports. The international classifications of levels of education used in the data tables do not map neatly onto the levels of education as we know them in Australia. There is also a “highlights” document.

Release Date: usually early September.

Creating Effective Teaching and Learning Environments: First Results from TALIS

<http://www.sourceoecd.org/9789264056053> (NOTE: not available without charge via the internet)

The first results from the Teaching and Learning International Survey were published this year. Australia and 23 other countries participated but a number of high-profile OECD countries did not (e.g. USA, UK, Finland, France). It is not at this stage clear how often the survey will be conducted. The report provides data on the profile of the teaching population and the schools in which they work, teacher professional development, teaching practices, teachers' beliefs and attitudes, school evaluation, teacher appraisal, school leadership and management styles, classroom disciplinary climate and teacher self-efficacy.

Release Date: future release dates uncertain

Programme for International Student Assessment

http://www.pisa.oecd.org/document/0/0,2340,en_32252351_32236173_33694144_1_1_1,00.html (NOTE: not available without charge via the internet)

PISA is an international assessment of the knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds. In 2009, nearly 70 countries including Australia participated. Currently, data is available from the 2000, 2003, 2006 round of testing.

International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)

TIMMS and PIRLS International Study Center

<http://timssandpirls.bc.edu/>

TIMSS assesses mathematics and science knowledge of students in Year 4 and Year 8. It is conducted every 5 years. Australia has participated in all five cycles. More than 60 countries are expected to participate in the next round to be conducted in 2010 in Australia (but in 2011 in the Northern Hemisphere). Reports are available on previous rounds. Data is also available for the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), but Australia has yet to participate (though it will in 2010).

2. National/Federal Context

Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

<http://www.acer.edu.au/timss/index.html>

Reports on Australia's performance in previous rounds are available.

Programme for International Student Assessment

<http://www.acer.edu.au/ozpisa/>

Reports on Australia's performance in previous rounds are available.

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service

Report of the Review of Government Services

<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2009>

This is an annual report, published by the Productivity Commission, which contains a large amount of information and data (including in relation to funding) about schools (in Chapter 4) and VET (in Chapter 5). A Steering Committee, comprising senior representatives from the central agencies of all governments, manages the Review. The current edition (2009) contains data to 2007. The “attachments” to these chapters contain far more data than the chapters themselves (e.g. Chapter 4 is 102 pages; its Attachment is 222 pages). Data is disaggregated by state/territory and also in some cases by schooling sector.

Release Date: usually late January.

MCEECDYA (formerly MCEETYA)

National Report on Schooling in Australia

<http://www.mceecdy.edu.au/mceecdy/anr/>

This is an annual publication produced by the Ministerial Council on Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (i.e. the Council of the relevant State and Federal Ministers) but it can take some time for the full report to make it onto the web. The most recent edition available on-line is 2008, but is incomplete. Earlier editions are also available on line. The site provides links to sites providing NAPLAN, PISA and TIMSS results.

Release Date: progressively (and slowly) released.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

http://www.naplan.edu.au/home_page.html

Full results for 2008 and a summary of 2009 results are available at the NAPLAN website. Results from previous years are included in the National Reports on Schooling (also the Report on Government Services).

Australian Bureau of Statistics

1136.0 - A Directory of Education and Training Statistics

http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/1136.0Main%20Feature_s32009?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=1136.0&issue=2009&num=&view=

This resource lists over 70 statistical publications relevant to education. Some are not ABS publications. The publications are grouped under the following headings: Education and Training - General; Expenditure and Costs; Higher Education; Labour Force; Early Childhood Education; Schools; Social; and Vocational Education and Training.

4221.0 - Schools, Australia

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/71F991F558DF88B2CA2575DD001F5F72?opendocument>

This is an annual publication. The current issue is 2008 (released in March 2009). It has general data on staff and students but does *not* provide any funding data. It is worth checking the Excel “data cubes”, some of which provide additional data to that provided in the report proper.

Release Date: February/March

5518.0.55.001 - Government Finance Statistics, Education

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/5518.0.55.001Main+Features12007-08?OpenDocument>

Includes financial data (reported in accrual accounting terms) broken down by level of government and by type of economic transaction. Current issue covers schools, VET and higher education to 2007-08.

Release Date: late March/early April.

4102.0 - Australian Social Trends

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Main+Features1June%202009?OpenDocument>

The report is now published quarterly (it was annual until 2009) and some (but not all) issues include educational data – some of which is not available elsewhere (e.g. the 2006 issue includes information on family expenditure on education).

Release Date: quarterly

2070.0 - A Picture of the Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census, 2006

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/2070.0>

The Statistician's Report analyses information collected in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. It also incorporates information from previous censuses. There is an education section.

Release Date: following each census (five years)

Commonwealth Grants Commission

State Finances - Report on State Revenue Sharing Relativities, Relative Fiscal Capabilities of the States, Attachment D, Assessed Revenues and Expenses

http://www.cgc.gov.au/_data/assets/file/0008/15569/Attachment_D_Assessed_rev_and_exp_GST_relativities.pdf

This is an annual assessment of state government revenue and expenditure carried out by the Grants Commission. The Commission reports on actual state/territory expenditure on a financial year basis. It also assesses what each state and territory would need to have spent, taking into account the particular advantages (e.g. economies of scale) or disadvantages (e.g. geographical dispersion) it faces, to have provided services at the average or standard level of all the other states and territories. Thus actual state expenditure on schools or VET can be compared to that of other states/territories but also with the amount assessed as required to provide a standard level of service provision.

Release Date: early March.

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR – formerly DEST)

Note: There is still quite a lot of information that has not “migrated” from the old DEST website (<http://www.dest.gov.au/>) to the new DEEWR website (<http://www.deewr.gov.au/>).

Financial Assistance Granted to Each State (Green Report)

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/other_publications/reports_on_grants_to_states.htm

Most recent edition available on line deals with 2007 (and is still on the old DEST website). In it DEEWR provides a report on Commonwealth assistance provided to each state and territory. It also provides the Commonwealth recurrent and capital grants provided on a school by school basis for non-government schools. Government school capital grants are also provided on a school by school basis.

Release Date: when tabled in parliament.

SES funding

<https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/ses/index.html>

This page on the DEEWR website provides the per capita funding amounts by SES level and lists all non-government schools and their SES scores

<https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/ses/documents/funding2003-2008.pdf>

This document on the old DEST website lists all non-government schools, gives their SES score, their enrolment and Commonwealth funding amount, including per student and total Commonwealth funding figures from 2003 to 2008..

Gazette of Non-Government Schools

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/RecurrentGrants/NonGovSchools/Pages/2009GazetteofNonGovernmentSchools.aspx>

Provides a list of all non-government schools and their Commonwealth Government funding category. Latest version is for 2009.

Release Date: November.

Australian Government

Australian Budget Papers

<http://www.budget.gov.au/>

It can be difficult to find useful information in Budget Papers. Budget Paper 1 sets out total Commonwealth funding figures for education broken into higher education, VET, government schools, non-government schools, and student assistance categories. Budget Paper 2 identifies programs for which “new money” has been provided or from which money has been withdrawn. Budget Paper 3 sets out Commonwealth specific purpose funding for education. Media releases and other documents out by the Minister in conjunction with the Budget often contain additional and more accessible information on programs.

Release Date: May

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Explained

http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/vet/publications/VET_explained_May09.pdf

This technical paper (updated in 2009) provides an overview of the collections, surveys, information systems and resultant statistical reports contained in the policy and strategic framework of the Australian vocational education and training (VET) system.

VOCED

<http://www.voced.edu.au/about/whatis.html>

VOCED is a research database for technical and vocational education and training. It is international in scope and contains over 38,000 English language records, many with links to full text documents. It is maintained by the NCVER and many earlier or superseded NCVER documents can be accessed via VOCED.

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Financial Information

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21051.html>

This annual publication provides data on the finance and expenditure of Australia's public vocational education and training system. Information pertaining to revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are provided nationally, for each state and territory, and for the Department of Education, Science and Training.

Release Date: January

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Students and courses
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21053.html>

This publication includes information about VET students and participation, courses and qualifications, module/unit of competency enrolments, hours of delivery and full-year training equivalents for each state and territory.

Release date (Annual Report): July

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Apprentices and trainees
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/publications/2166.html>

This annual publication provides a summary of training activity in apprenticeships and traineeships in Australia, including information on training rates, attrition rates, completion rates, training within the trades and duration of training. The current edition covers the period 1998 to 2008.

Release date (Annual Report): July

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21065.html>

This survey gathers information on students, including their employment situation, their reasons for undertaking their training, the relevance of the training to their employment, their level of satisfaction, any further study aspirations and reasons for not undertaking further training.

Release date (Annual Report): November/December

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Employers' use and views of the VET system
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21066.html>

The survey collects information about employers' use and views of the vocational education and training (VET) system and the various ways employers use the VET system to meet their skill needs. Questions may differ from survey to survey.

Release date: Irregular, most recent published January, 2008.

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth
<http://www.lsay.edu.au/aboutlsay/about.html>

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) track young people as they move from school into further study, work and other destinations. It uses large, nationally representative samples of young people to collect information about education and training, work, and social development. This project was previously overseen by ACER; it appears that all relevant documents have migrated to the NCVET website.

The Foundation for Young Australians

<http://www.fya.org.au/>

The Foundation for Young Australians website is now the home of the annual *How Young People Are Faring* reports which contain important statistical data. Editions of this report prior to 2008 are on the Dusseldorp Skills Forum website (see below).

Dusseldorp Skills Forum

<http://www.dsf.org.au/>

The Forum website contains a number of reports and papers, some of which include statistical data. An example is *How Young Indigenous People are Faring* (which uses census data from 1996, 2001 and 2006). The broader annual report *How Young People are Faring*, previously produced by the Forum, published by the Foundation for Young Australians, though pre-2008 editions are on the Forum website.

Independent Schools Council of Australia

<http://www.isca.edu.au/>

The Council produces an occasional “snapshot” report entitled “Independent Schooling in Australia”, which contains some data on independent schools that may not be readily available elsewhere. The 2009 edition is available on the web site. The site has links to the state-based independent schools associations, which may also have useful data.

National Catholic Education Commission

<http://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/>

This site has a “research and statistics” section as well as links to the various regional Catholic Education Commissions. These sites have school directories with information on schools and, in a number of cases, links to school websites.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

My School

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Once this site becomes fully operational, it allow visitors to profile and compare almost 10,000 Australian schools in terms of NAPLAN results.

3. State Data

State Governments

State Budget Papers

New South Wales: <http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/>

Victoria: <http://www.budget.vic.gov.au/>

Queensland: <http://www.budget.qld.gov.au/>

Western Australia: <http://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/>

South Australia:

http://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/dtf/budget/publications_and_downloads/current_budget.jsp

Tasmania: <http://www.budget.tas.gov.au/>

Northern Territory: <http://www.budget.nt.gov.au/>

Australian Capital Territory:

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2009/index.htm

It is not always just funding that is reported in State Budget Papers. The Queensland Budget Papers, for example, report “performance outcomes” in relation to a number of matters such as NAPLAN results, numbers of students with disabilities, and parent satisfaction. (It should be acknowledged, however, that this data is generally not particularly useable in the form that it is presented.)

State Departments of Education

New South Wales: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/>

Victoria: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/>

Queensland: <http://education.qld.gov.au/>

Western Australia: <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/>

South Australia: <http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/>

Tasmania: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/>

Northern Territory: <http://www.det.nt.gov.au/>

Australian Capital Territory: <http://www.det.act.gov.au/>

State Department websites often contain a range of statistical data. For example, the Queensland DET site includes information on the following: statistics on school disciplinary suspensions/exclusions; enrolments for every state school in Queensland, a link to the “The Next Step” reports – annual reports on the destinations of Year 12 completers; the Departmental Annual Report that, as well as providing a Departmental Financial Statement, includes a spreadsheet (“Grants to Non-Government Bodies”) that breaks down State Government recurrent and capital grants (including grammar school endowments) to non-government schools on a school by school basis.

State Curriculum Authorities

Board of Studies NSW: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

Queensland Studies Authority: <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/>

Curriculum Council of Western Australia: <http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet>

SACE Board of South Australia: <http://www.ssabsa.sa.edu.au/>
Tasmania: Tasmanian Qualifications Authority: <http://www.tqa.tas.gov.au/>
Northern Territory Board of Studies: <http://www.det.nt.gov.au/teachers-educators/curriculum-ntbos/ntbos>
Australian Capital Territory Board of Senior Secondary Studies:
<http://www.bsss.act.edu.au/>

These sites often contain a range of statistical data. The Queensland Studies Authority, for example, has data on NAPLAN results, Year 12 subject enrolments and outcomes, and tertiary entrance scores.

State Teacher Registration Authorities

NSW Institute of Teachers: <http://www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au/>
Victorian Institute of Teaching: <http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/>
Queensland College of Teachers: <http://www.qct.edu.au/index.html>
Teachers Registration Board of South Australia: <http://www.trb.sa.edu.au/>
WA College of Teaching: <http://www.wacot.wa.edu.au/>
Teachers Registration Board of South Australia: <http://www.trb.sa.edu.au/>
Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania: <http://trb.tas.gov.au/>
Teacher Registration Board of NT: <http://www.trb.nt.gov.au/>

These sites may contain statistical data. The Queensland College of Teachers site, for example, provides statistics on the number of registered teachers, their employment status, sector of employment, qualification level and age.