

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

AUSTRALIA

Vocational qualifications: an asset for employment

If current patterns of graduation continue, a young person in Australia will have a 51% chance of completing an upper secondary level vocational qualification in his or her lifetime. Programme orientation can make a significant difference when it comes to finding a job. Upper secondary vocational education and training (VET) offers young people the chance to acquire the skills, knowledge and practical experience relevant for specialised occupations, and helps to prepare them for entry into the labour market. In Australia, graduates of upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education with a vocational orientation do particularly well in the labour market compared with their peers in other countries: 86% of 25-34 year-olds with this level of attainment were employed in 2011, the sixth highest level among OECD countries (OECD average: 79%), while employment rates for graduates from a general programme were 8 percentage points lower.

Australia is the preferred destination for many international students

The most significant feature of the tertiary education landscape in Australia is the large proportion of international students. Australia is a key destination for students from around the world, hosting more than 6% of the world's foreign students. This figure places Australia as the third most popular destination after the United States (16% of international students worldwide) and the United Kingdom (13%). One in five of the students enrolled in tertiary education in Australia in 2011 were international students, the highest proportion among all OECD countries, against an OECD average of 7%. The country receives almost 20 times more international students than the number of Australian students who choose to study in tertiary programmes abroad.

Increasing investment in education, mostly from private sources

Australia's total expenditure for all levels of education relative to GDP in 2010 was 6%, similar to the OECD average of 6%. This is despite significant increases in government investment between 2008 and 2010; Australia's spending increased by 24%, more than four times the OECD average increase of 5%. In 2010, Australia devoted about USD 10 825 per student each year at all levels from primary to tertiary education, compared with the OECD average of USD 9 313 per student.

In 2010, 74% of Australia's total expenditure on educational institutions came from public sources, which is lower than the OECD average of 84%. In fact, at 26%, Australia has the sixth largest proportion of private expenditure in the OECD for all levels of education compared with an OECD average of 16%. The share of private expenditure on pre-primary education was 44%, way above the OECD average of 18% while, at tertiary level, 54% of all spending came from private sources, again much higher than the OECD average of 32%.

Enrolment rates in pre-primary education are lower in Australia than the average for the OECD countries

Participation in early childhood education is low in Australia compared with other OECD countries. Only 13% of 3-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education programmes, an insignificant proportion when compared with the OECD average of 67%. In fact, the proportion of 3-year-olds who were enrolled in early childhood education in Australia decreased by 4 percentage points between 2005 and 2011, compared with an average increase of 4 percentage points for OECD countries. Enrolment rates for 4-year-olds (at pre-primary and primary level) are also behind the OECD average: only 67% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education programmes against an OECD average of 84%.

Australia's expenditure on pre-primary education relative to GDP is also relatively low at 0.1% versus the OECD average of 0.6%. Out of the total expenditure on early childhood education in 2010, only 56% came from public sources and 44% came from private sources, while the OECD average was of 82% for early-years expenditure coming from public sources and 18% from private sources. Nonetheless, in 2010, Australia spent USD 8 899 a year on each pre-primary student, more than the OECD average of USD 6 762.

Other findings:

- Educational attainment is high in Australia. 74% of 25-64 year-olds holds at least an upper secondary qualification (OECD average: 76%). The proportion of adults completing upper secondary education has increased significantly across generations with 84% of 25-34 year-olds holding an upper secondary qualification compared to 61% among 55-64 year-olds. Overall, tertiary attainment rates are well above the OECD average: 38% of the working age population holds a university degree (OECD average 32%). The proportion rises to 45% among 25-34 year-olds (OECD average 39%).
- Teachers' salaries are above OECD average and have risen steadily; overall they have risen by around 13% since 2000 at all education levels, although this is below the OECD average salary rise of 17%. As a proportion of the earnings of other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time workers, teachers' salaries are above the OECD average. In 2010, teachers in Australia, at all education levels, earned about 91% of the earnings of other workers of a similar age and education level, compared with an OECD average of between 80% and 89%, depending on the level of education they teach.
- In Australia, international students have a marked impact on estimated graduation rates: due to the high proportion of them, graduation rates are artificially inflated. For example, when international students are excluded from consideration, Australia's graduation rates for first-time tertiary-type A (i.e. theoretical university-based programmes) courses drop by 17 percentage points, and first-time tertiary-type B (shorter more vocationally oriented programmes) graduation rates drop by 3 percentage points.

Questions can be directed to:

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Key Facts for Australia in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Australia		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Educational Access and Output						
	Enrolment rates	2011	2005	2011	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	13%	17%	67%	64%	33 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	67%	53%	84%	79%	30 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		12 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	26%	41%	26%	34%	14 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	36%	31%	44%	44%	29 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	38%	27%	31%	22%	10 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	45%		39%		12 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	45%	31%	39%	26%	11 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	30%	19%	24%	15%	10 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	m	m	19%	16%	m
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	96%	59%	60%	48%	2 of 36
	Graduation rates	2010	2000	2011	2000	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	m	m	83%	76%	m
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime***	50%	36%	39%	28%	m
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes						
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	5.9%	5.5%	12.6%	8.8%	29 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.8%	2.7%	7.3%	4.9%	31 of 36
	Tertiary	2.8%	2.2%	4.8%	3.3%	30 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	5.8%	5.7%	12.2%	9.5%	31 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.9%	3.4%	8.0%	5.7%	27 of 35
	Tertiary	3.1%	2.3%	5.1%	3.6%	30 of 36
	Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	135		157		27 of 33
	Men	144		162		24 of 33
	Women	148		161		24 of 33
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	81		76		10 of 33
	Men	85		77		5 of 33
	Women	85		74		3 of 33
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained	2011	2008	2011	2008	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	15.3%	14.6%	15.8%	14.4%	16 of 34
	Upper secondary	10.2%	9.1%	16.2%	13.6%	28 of 34
	Tertiary	8.9%	6.9%	13.3%	10.6%	24 of 34

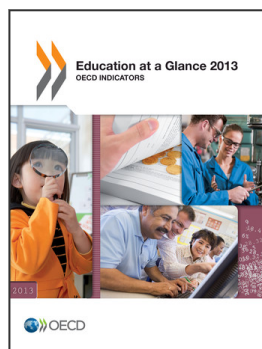
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Table	Indicator	Australia		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Financial Investment in Education						
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2010		2010		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	8899 USD		6762 USD		5 of 32
	Primary education	9463 USD		7974 USD		9 of 34
	Secondary education	10350 USD		9014 USD		12 of 34
	Tertiary education	15142 USD		13528 USD		13 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	6.1%	5.2%	6.3%	5.4%	19 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15.2%	14.3%	13.0%	12.6%	8 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	m		17.9%		3 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	15.3%	16.3%	8.5%	7.1%	5 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	53.5%	50.1%	31.6%	22.6%	6 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	25.9%	25.9%	16.4%	12.1%	6 of 29
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14 students per teacher		m
	Primary education	16 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		20 of 35
	Secondary education	12 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		22 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	6674 hours		4717 hours		3 of 31
	Lower secondary education	4035 hours		3034 hours		6 of 31
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2011	2000	2011	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	885 hours		994 hours		18 of 29
	Primary education	873 hours	882 hours	790 hours	780 hours	9 of 31
	Lower secondary education	811 hours	811 hours	709 hours	697 hours	5 of 30
	Upper secondary education	802 hours	803 hours	664 hours	628 hours	4 of 31
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)	2011	2008	2011	2008	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	112	109	120	120	12 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	114	110	116	116	10 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	114	110	117	118	8 of 22
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2011		2011		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.91		0.80		6 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.92		0.82		9 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.91		0.85		10 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.91		0.89		11 of 27

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

*** 2011 figures on graduation rates for tertiary education are not yet available.



From:

Education at a Glance 2013

OECD Indicators

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2013-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Australia", in *Education at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2013-36-en>

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