Australia: Micro-credentials supporting skills development

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National microcredentials framework

" a certification of assessed learning or competency, with a minimum volume of learning of one hour and less than an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) award qualification, that is additional, alternate, complementary to or a component part of an AQF award qualification"

Department of Education Skills and Employment, 2022, *National Microcredentials Framework, PwC November 2021,* DESE, Canberra
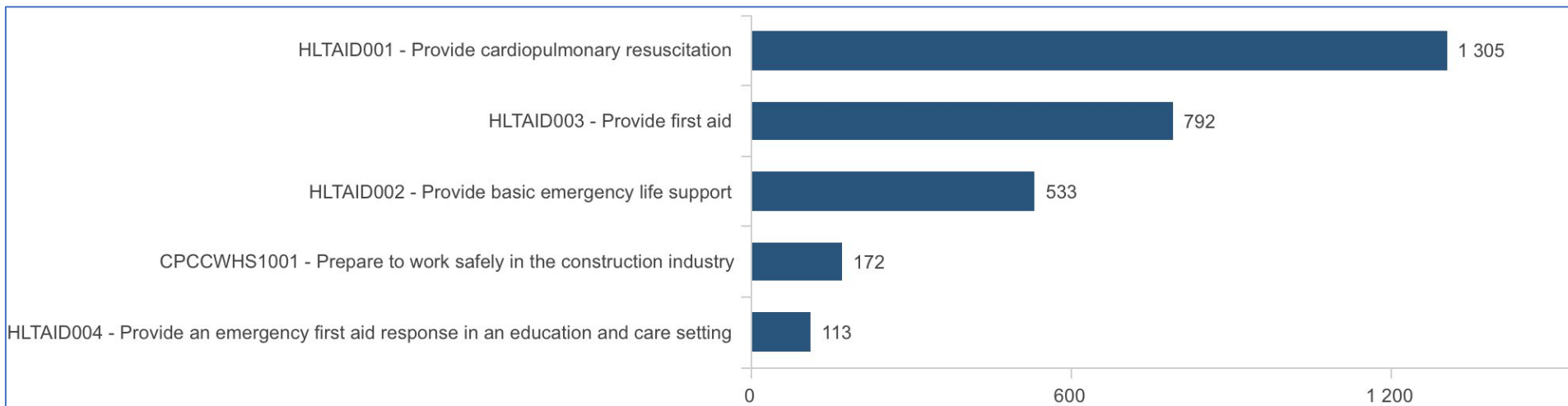
Delivery of TVET microcredentials

- 3.9 million TVET students per annum (22% of Australia's working age population)

- Australian TVET qualifications comprise of 'units of competency' – competencies are specified by industry

- Many students do not study full qualifications
    - 76% study full qualifications
    - 24% enrolled in units only or small clusters of units (skill set)

NCVER, 2021, *Total VET students and courses 2020*, NCVER, Adelaide

TVET funding & microcredentials

- 30% students in TVET are government-funded
- 70% fee-for-service (employers or individuals fund their own training)

- Microcredentials mostly fee-for-service (some variations)
  - New South Wales: 20% of government-funding allocated to microcredentials
  - Victoria: 1% of government-funding to microcredentials

- Government-owned TVET colleges: more full qualification delivery
- Private TVET providers: more microcredentials (& more fee-for-service)

NCVER, 2022, *Government-funded students and courses – January to September 2021,* NCVER, Adelaide
NCVER, 2021, *Total VET students and courses 2020*, NCVER, Adelaide

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Popular microcredentials

Figure 1: Enrolments in the Top 5 units not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program, 2020 ('000)

HLTAID001 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation — 1 305
HLTAID003 - Provide first aid — 792
HLTAID002 - Provide basic emergency life support — 533
CPCCWHS1001 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry — 172
HLTAID004 - Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting — 113

NCVER, 2021, *Total VET students and courses 2020*, NCVER, Adelaide

- Student satisfaction with TVET (2021)
  - 89% qualification completers
  - 93% short course completers
  - 93% for subject(s) only completers

- 74% of employers who use TVET system satisfied (2021)
- Satisfaction declining slightly in recent years – across all TVET courses not microcredentials specifically

NCVER, 2021, *VET student outcomes 2021*, NCVER, Adelaide
NCVER 2021, Employers' use and views of the VET system 2021, NCVER, Adelaide

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Thank you / Merci!

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