Australian Government

VET Student Loans

VSL Six-monthly report

1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026

Contents

Introduction

This report is provided in accordance with section 103A of the *VET Student Loans (VSL) Act 2016* (the Act), which requires that:

> The Secretary must publish the following information within 42 days after the end of the period of 6 months beginning on 1 January and 1 July in each year (the reporting period):
>
> a) the number of approved course providers who operated during the reporting period.
>
> b) for each of those providers:
>
> i) the name of the provider, and
>
> ii) the value of VSL approved by the Secretary for approved courses offered by the provider during the reporting period, and
>
> iii) the number of students who undertook approved courses offered by the provider during the reporting period and whose tuition fees for the courses were paid (whether in whole or in part) using VSL, and
>
> iv) the number of such students who completed approved courses during the reporting period, and
>
> v) the amount of tuition fees charged to such students by the provider during the reporting period.
>
> c) any other information in relation to VSL prescribed under the VET Student Loans Rules 2016.

This report covers the period from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

Consistent with section 103A, the report focuses on students whose tuition fees were paid (whether in whole or in part) using a VET Student Loan within the reporting period. This report refers to these students as **VSL assisted students**.

Information relating to students who have not accessed a VET Student Loan (non-VSL-assisted students) is not included in this report.

Background: The VET Student Loans program

The VET Student Loans (VSL) program commenced on 1 January 2017, replacing the VET FEE-HELP scheme which closed to new students on 31 December 2016.

The program provides income contingent loans to eligible students to undertake training and/or approved courses at approved providers as prescribed under the Act.

The VSL program focuses on program integrity, manages risk, and promotes confidence in the regulated VET market by ensuring students are both academically suited to their course and are studying under a quality provider.

VSL offers income contingent loan support to eligible students studying approved Diploma level and above vocational education and training qualifications. In 2026, eligible students were entitled to access loans up to a capped amount of either $6,428 (band 1), $12,858 (band 2) or $19,290[1] (band 3) based on cost of delivery, though the Minister has the power to provide different (and higher) caps for particular courses (for example, aviation related courses up to $96,467).

The list of current VSL approved courses and maximum loan amount by course is available in the VET Student Loans (Courses and Loan Caps) Determination 2016[2].

Between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026, 153 providers operated as approved course providers under the VSL program (section 103A(a)). This represents a decrease from the 166 providers that operated during the first half of 2025 (as detailed in the VSL Six-monthly report 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025[3]).

Information required under section 103A of the Act

In addition to the number of providers reported under section 103A(a) of the Act, Table 1 in the Addendum sets out all the information required under section 103A(b) for each provider.

This report also sets out information and commentary on highlights for each of the matters specified in section 103A(b) for the six-month reporting period, namely:

- approved course providers
- value of VSL paid
- VSL assisted students
- completions
- tuition fees.

[1] The legislation requires that these caps are indexed on an annual basis.
[2] https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L02016
[3] https://www.dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-student-loans-statistics

Total numbers reported may not equal the sum of individual totals due to rounding and the use of unique student counts where students have undertaken study across multiple providers.

Table 1: Summary of key statistics for the period 1 January to 30 June 2026

Area	
Approved course providers	153
Value of VSL paid	$151.2m
VSL-assisted students	20,057
Course enrolments	22,629
Course enrolment completions	2,433
Tuition fees	$155.9m

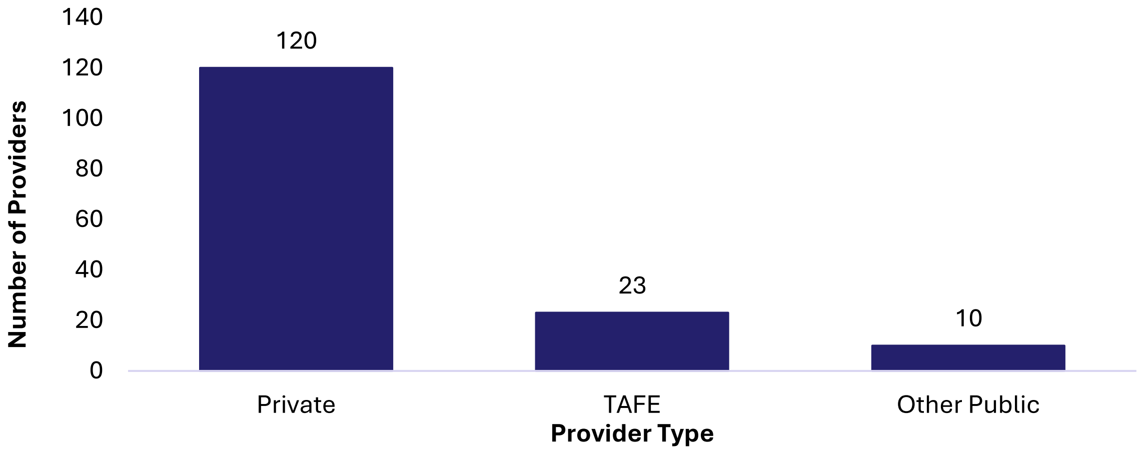
Approved course providers, the Act sections 103A(a) and103A(b)(i)

The 153 approved providers consisted of:

- 120 private providers.
- 23 TAFEs, and
- 10 other public organisations (including Table A providers)

The numbers of providers in these different categories are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Approved course providers by type

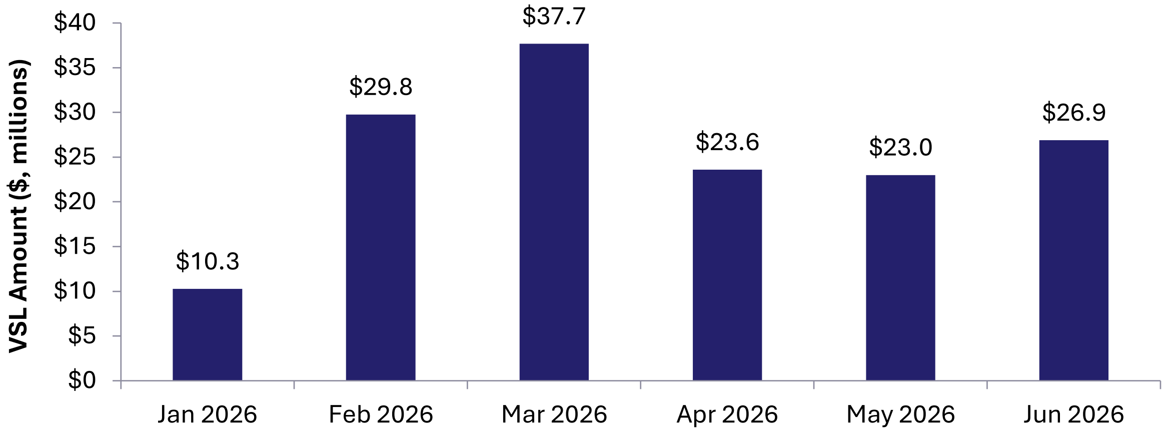


The names of each of the 153 course providers approved during the reporting period are provided in Table 1 of the Addendum. Of these providers, about 84% (129) reported students who accessed a VSL loan. The remaining Addendum tables (Tables 2-6) are specific to each of the 5 requirements under section 103A(b) of the Act and are sorted from highest to lowest.

Value of VSL (section 103A(b)(ii) of the Act)

In the reporting period, $151.2 million was paid to approved course providers for students studying eligible courses. Table 1 of the Addendum shows the breakdown by approved course provider. Figure 2 shows the value of VSL paid for study undertaken during each month[4].

Figure 2: Value of VSL paid for study undertaken in each month

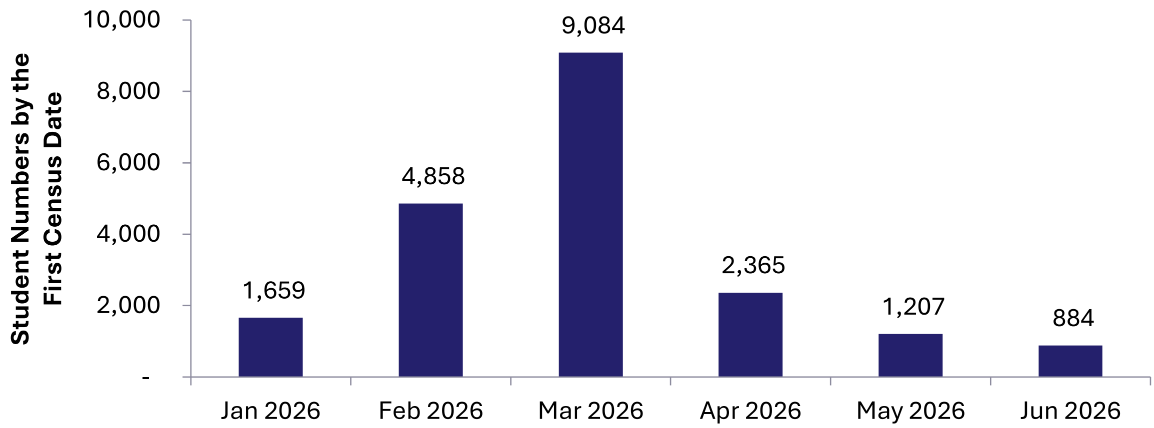


Monthly figures have been rounded and may not equal the total amount paid in the reporting period.

VSL-assisted students (section 103A(b)(iii) of the Act)

During the reporting period, 20,057 students accessed the VSL program, as listed in the Addendum (Table 1). Figure 3 below shows the student distribution by their first census date.

Figure 3: VSL-assisted student numbers by the first census date in the reporting period



[4] Study undertaken during each month is defined as a part of the course where the census day is in that month, regardless of when payment was made.

It should be noted that some students may have had a VSL assisted unit of study in more than one month. This would occur, for example, if a student accessed a VET Student Loan for more than one part of a course, or for more than one course. These students are only represented for the earliest unit of study census date in the reporting period.

Completions (section 103A(b)(iv) of the Act)

There were 2,168 students recorded as have completed at least one course between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026, see the Addendum (Table 1). This report only includes students who have had a census date within the reporting period where the study was paid for with a VET Student Loan, and the course was completed in the reporting period.

VSL legislation requires courses to be reported across at least three 'parts' (referred to as 'parts of the course' in the VET Student Loans Rules 2016). These are reported as units of study. Thus, reporting on unit of study completion rates provides an alternative way of presenting information on VSL students' progression through their courses, and these are included in the Addendum (Table 1). VSL providers are required to report unit of study outcomes in a timely manner [5].

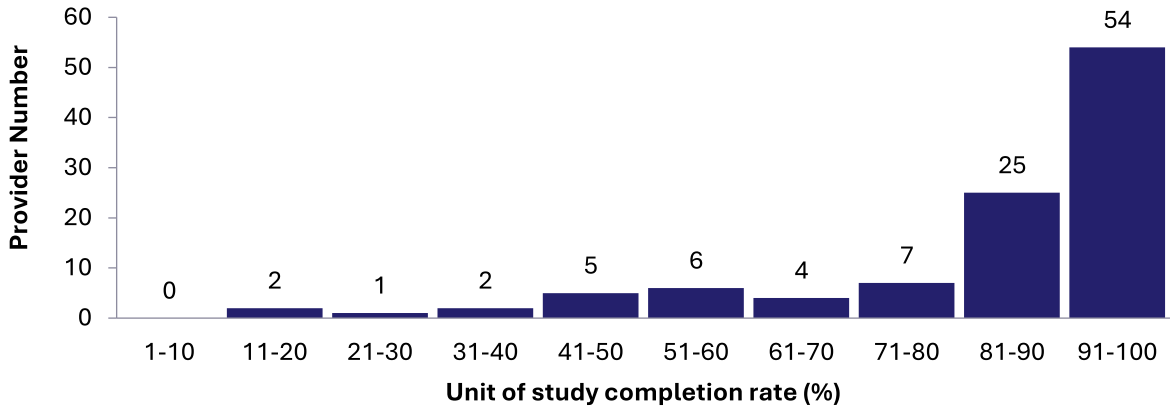
The unit of study completion rate is the proportion of units of study successfully *passed* as a share of the *total units of study undertaken*. This calculation uses the Equivalent Full Time Student Load (EFTSL) rather than the number of students or unit enrolments. Ongoing units of study are excluded from the completion rate calculation. Units of study includes units that providers reported VSL students to have withdrawn from, failed, or successfully completed.

The overall unit of study completion rate for VSL assisted students was 84.5% for study undertaken in the reporting period and is included in the addendum (Table 1). This is slightly lower than the unit of study completion rate of 85.1% reported for the same reporting period of 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.

Figure 4 shows unit of study completion rate distribution in the reporting period. Of the 153 VSL approved providers,129 providers reported students who participated in at least one unit of study. Of these 129 providers, 106 reported at least one completed unit of study, with 86 providers (81%) reporting unit of study completion rates above 70%.

[5] Providers are to report unit of study outcome to the Tertiary Collection of Student Information (TCSI)

Figure 4: VSL-assisted student unit of study completion rates

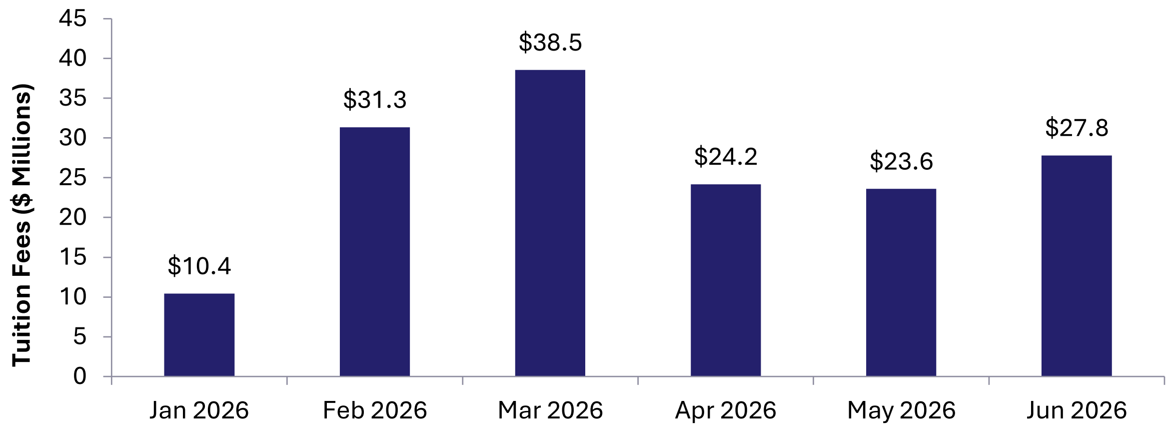


Tuition fees (section 103A(b)(v) of the Act)

During the reporting period, VSL assisted students were charged a total of around $155.9 million in course tuition fees, as detailed in the Addendum (Table 1). These students paid around $4.9 million of their tuition fees up front in addition to the amounts paid in VSL.

Figure 5 provides the monthly breakdown of tuition fees charged to VSL assisted students in the reporting period. Tuition fees charged peaked in March 2026, commensurate with the peaks in value of loans paid for study undertaken and student numbers.

Figure 5: Tuition fees charged to VSL-assisted students by month



Monthly figures have been rounded and may not equal the total amount paid in the reporting period.

Additional VSL provider and course information

The Addendum (Tables 1 to 6) provides the details of VSL data listed in the report for the reporting period.

In terms of student numbers, 6 of the top 10 providers were public providers, as detailed in Table 2 of the Addendum. Four of the top 10 providers based on the value of VSL loans paid were public providers (including TAFEs and universities), see Table 3 of the Addendum. The top 10 providers in terms of student numbers and loans paid remained broadly the same when compared to the same reporting period in 2025.

Nine of the top 10 courses in terms of enrolments remained unchanged from the same reporting period in 2025, see Table 4 of the Addendum. Diploma of Leadership and Management replaced Diploma of Counselling in the top 10 courses during the reporting period in 2026.

Diploma of Beauty Therapy remained the highest ranked course in terms of enrolments, ahead of Diploma of Nursing. Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence - Aeroplane) continued to attract the highest value of VSL loans paid (see Tables 4 and 5 of the Addendum).

Additional information on approved course providers and the eligible courses they offered, is available in Table 6 of the Addendum.

Note, that some students enrolled in multiple courses, so the enrolment count (22,629) is greater than the student count (20,057).

Addendum: List of Tables – January to June 2026