



Commencement Trends in Health and Community Services

Health and Community Services* is the ninth largest field of study, by commencements, for international students studying in Australia. This snapshot examines the trends in AEI data** for commencements in this field of study for higher education and the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sectors for the period year-to-date (YTD) September 2007. Comparisons against previous years also relate to YTD September.

As at YTD September 2007, while comprising just over 2% of all commencements, Health and Community Services had the strongest rate of growth (61%) across all fields of study. Commencements in this field trebled from 2002 to 2007. While commencements doubled in higher education (to 1,424) they increased four-fold in VET (to 3,892).

Nationality

Eight of the top ten nationalities in Health and Community Services were from Asia with India accounting for over a third (35%) of commencements. China, Malaysia, Korea and Japan contributed another 34% of students while the remaining third was divided among an additional 85 markets.

Commencements from India increased four-fold in YTD September and forty-fold between 2002 and 2007. While commencements from Japan led the field of study until 2005 they were surpassed by India in 2006. In 2007 commencements from both Japan and Hong Kong declined.

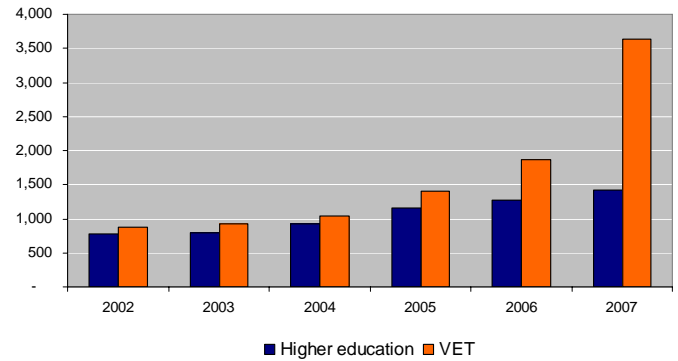
Between 2002 and 2007 commencements in Health and Community Services more than trebled in size, due largely to the strong increase from India in YTD September 2007. Between 2002 and 2007 commencements from China and Malaysia trebled while commencements from Pakistan increased ten-fold.

The Top 10 source nationalities have remained largely unchanged from 2002 to 2007 with the US and Thailand replaced by India and Pakistan.

Commencements in Health and Community Services by Top 10 nationalities

Nationality	YTD Sep 2006	YTD Sep 2007	Growth
India	435	1,788	311%
China	236	278	18%
Malaysia	153	250	63%
Korea	202	249	23%
Japan	306	242	-21%
Singapore	175	197	13%
United Kingdom	169	163	-4%
Pakistan	28	125	346%
Canada	114	118	4%
Hong Kong	139	112	-19%
Total (all nationalities)	3,153	5,071	61%

Commencements in Health and Community Services, by Sector, YTD September 2002 to 2007



States

Almost three-quarters of students commenced studies in either Victoria (40%) or New South Wales (31%). In Victoria, four in five commencing students (1593) studied a VET course. In New South Wales, three quarters of commencing students (1160) studied a VET course. Between 2002 and 2007 VET commencements in New South Wales tripled from while those in Victoria increased two-hundred fold.

Provider type

Between 2002 and 2007 the percentage of overall commencements in non-government providers increased from 43% to 53%. In contrast to commencements nearly doubling in 2007 in VET in both government (to 1,029) and non-government providers (to 2,603), commencements in higher education grew at 11% (to 1,349) and 28% (to 77) respectively.

Level of study

Over half (52%) of commencements in Health and Community Services were at the Diploma level in 2007, with commencements in this field of study increasing 150% from 2006. A further 14% were at the Bachelor Degree level with 10% at Masters Degree (Coursework) level.

Commencements in Health and Community Services by Level of Study

Level of Study	YTD Sep 2006	YTD Sep 2007	Growth
Diploma	1,039	2,599	150%
Bachelor Degree	695	695	0%
Masters Degree (Coursework)	369	484	31%
Certificate III	307	430	40%
Certificate IV	277	379	37%
Advanced Diploma	224	197	-12%
Doctoral Degree	88	137	56%
Graduate Diploma	87	77	-11%
Total (all levels of study)	3,153	5,071	61%

* Health and Community Services includes community welfare, children's services and public health among others.

** AEI data relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.