

Outcomes from enabling courses

Oanh Phan & Katrina Ball
National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd

Enabling courses can play an important role for those unsure of career choice on entry or re-entry to the labour market or for people who are preparing for a major career change. They can also assist some people to acquire important basic skills that allow them to lead more independent lives and participate in social and community activities.

The term ‘enabling courses’ is used to describe lower level, preparatory and pre-vocational courses. These courses cover a wide range of learning areas including remedial education (e.g. literacy and numeracy), bridging courses, diploma entrance courses, pre-certificate courses and general employment preparation courses.

National VET statistics show that a high proportion of students coming from various target equity groups are undertaking studies in enabling courses in the social skills, literacy and numeracy area of learning. In addition, these courses are also undertaken by students from other disadvantaged or marginalised groups such as the unemployed, people from regions of high unemployment and those on low incomes.

There is concern that some students from target equity groups and those from disadvantaged or marginalised groups tend to move from one enabling course to another. It is questioned whether this group of students will progress onto a higher level of education or training program or achieve job advancement. Students who are unable to acquire and update their skills are less able to compete in the labour market.

This paper provides detailed information about students who enrolled in enabling courses and their rate of successful completion of these courses. The outcomes of students who have been surveyed in the ‘Student Outcomes’ six months after they have completed their enabling courses will also be provided. In addition, students who have undertaken enabling courses were tracked in subsequent years throughout the VET system. The level of course that these students enrolled in was monitored to determine if these students have enrolled in a higher level course.

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Contact details:

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
252 Kensington Road
Leabrook SA 5068

Ph: 08 83338471 Fax: 08 83319211
Email: oanh@ncver.edu.au