



# VET in Independent Schools

*Take a fresh look*



The Association of  
**Independent Schools**  
of New South Wales



## *Margery Evans*

Chief Executive,  
The Association of  
Independent Schools of NSW

The role of Vocational, Education and Training (VET) courses in preparing students for the workforce is expanding, particularly in NSW Independent schools where VET is a thriving component of their secondary school offering.

Since 2015, enrolments in VET courses in NSW Independent schools have more than quadrupled to over 7,000 senior secondary students.

Some 5,600 students are studying a VET subject in one of the 140 Independent schools that belong to AISNSW's Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

This growth reflects the Independent sector's commitment to providing high-quality skills education delivered by qualified VET teachers using industry-standard facilities and practices.

AISNSW RTO provides industry-standard teacher training and robust support for schools in compliance and quality control.

The RTO and schools work together to go beyond compliance and strive for excellence in VET. Together, they make an important contribution in shaping the future of VET delivery and addressing skills shortages in NSW.

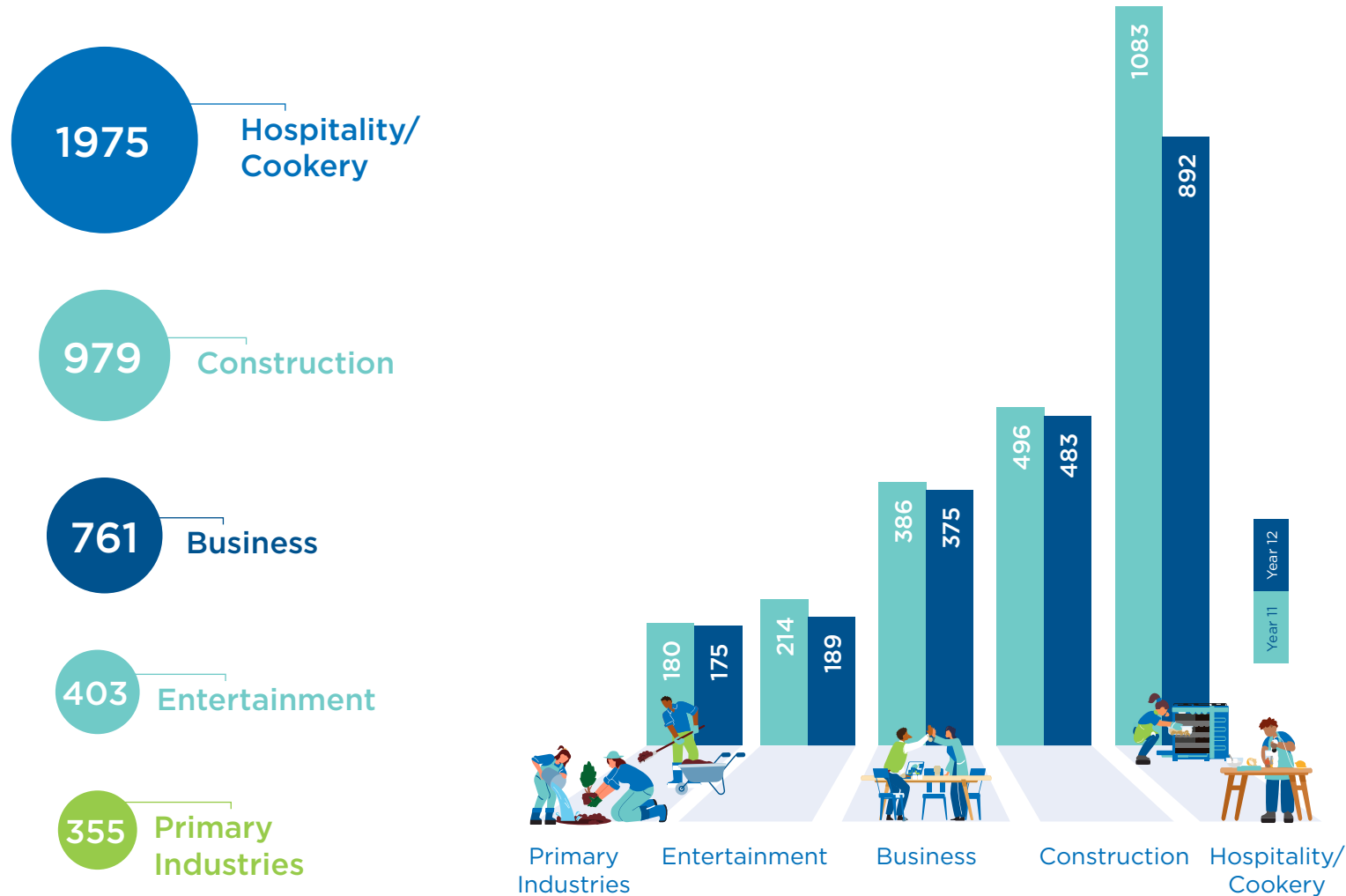
Independent schools embrace VET programs that cater to the diverse educational needs of their students.

This publication illustrates some of the successful programs in a range of Independent schools where courses are characterised by innovation, inclusivity and collaboration.

These vocational courses address current industry needs and prepare students for future accomplishments in a competitive job market.



# VET Course Enrolments



Top 5 VET courses by Independent school enrolments 2024,  
Total number of enrolments

Top 5 VET courses by Independent school enrolments 2024,  
Year 11 & Year 12





# *The Key Alliance*

*Shaping the future by  
expanding options for students*

Seven Independent schools from the Nepean, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions have joined forces to give their HSC students greater VET subject choice, flexibility, opportunities, and better access to industry standard facilities.

The schools are: Penrith Christian School, Wycliffe Christian School, St Paul's Grammar School, Nepean Christian School, The Lakes Christian College, Kuyper Christian School and Norwest Christian College.

Penrith Christian School is the lead school of the Key Alliance Trade Training Centre.

Each school transports their students to each 'Delivery School', expanding the choices available for every student and making more efficient use of facilities.

The Key Alliance is a great example of innovation in VET delivery.





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## Mona Moon

### **VET Coordinator,**

St Paul's Grammar School, Cranebrook

At St Paul's Grammar School, we deliver the Certificate II in Hospitality in association with the Key Alliance, a model that allows students in other Independent schools in Penrith and the Blue Mountains to access courses that are unavailable to them in their home school. One of the advantages of being part of the Key Alliance is that we have access, through the AISNSW RTO, to a VET consultant who supports us in our day to day work and keeps us up to date with any legislative requirements.



# Case Study 1 – The King’s School

A staunch advocate for vocational education, The King’s School in North Parramatta currently delivers Certificate II in Construction Pathways, Certificate III in Business and Certificate II in Agriculture.

Construction was introduced after a request from several alumni company CEOs. The response has been overwhelming, with six construction classes for senior secondary students in operation.

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We realise at The King’s School, being a fully comprehensive school, that it is essential to provide curriculum offerings that meet the needs of all of our students following different intentional post school pathways. Whether that be an HSC pathway, an International Baccalaureate pathway or a VET pathway, we are offering multiple options for success.

*Jacqueline Camilleri, Deputy Head (Academics),  
The King’s School*

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Offering VET pathways provides opportunities for our students to thrive and build confidence outside of the more traditional HSC subjects. It allows our students to leave school with potentially multiple qualifications, opening doors to many careers options post-school.

*Jayden Taccori, VET Compliance Officer,  
The King’s School*

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Year 12 student Charlie Lans has a passion for building and construction. Charlie has discovered

genuine fulfillment through developing new skills, seeing draft plans come to life and learning to work collaboratively within a team. From pouring concrete slabs to constructing tiny houses, witnessing projects come to fruition has instilled in Charlie a deep sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

“All of the theoretical content I learn in class is engaging and relevant to the practical projects we complete.”

Charlie says learning to design safe work method statements, computer-aided drawings, cutting lists and calculations in theory lessons, then putting it all into practice, is fun and interesting.

“As a country boarder it was fantastic to complete my mandatory construction work placement back home in my local community. This has landed me an apprenticeship post-school with a high-end building company specialising in bespoke homes. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to study this course at school.”

Charlie aspires to undertake further vocational training post-school, obtain his builder’s license and specialise in log cabin homes.

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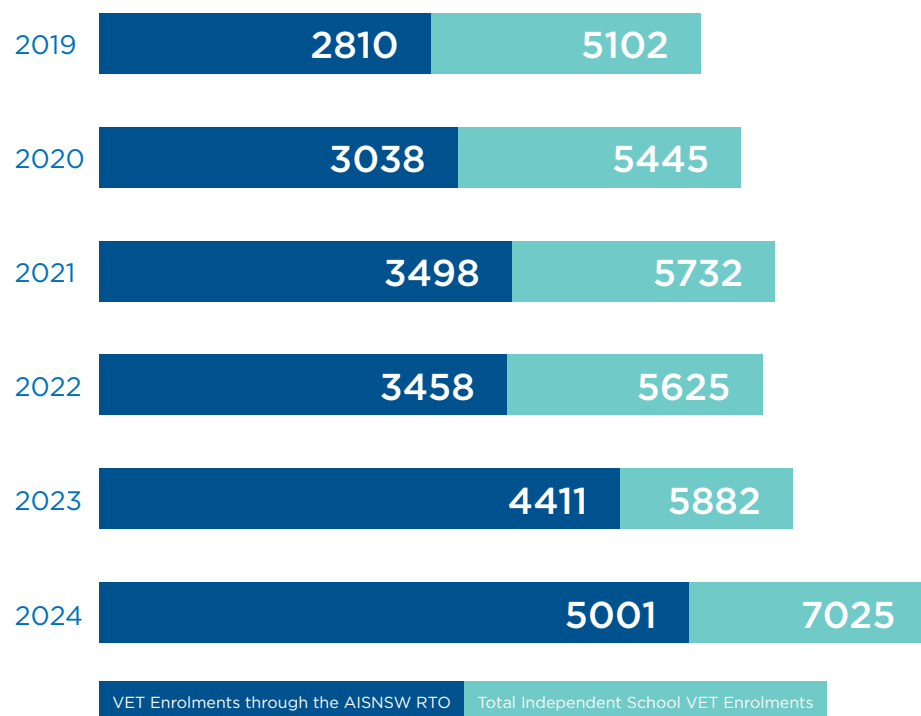
Alice and I are delighted that The King’s School offers VET courses that really engage so many young men during their senior secondary years. The Certificate II course in Construction Pathways captured Charlie’s interest and enthusiasm. We are grateful for the trained staff who are equally passionate about delivering courses that will help meet our state’s current skill shortages.

*Charlie’s parents, Mike and Alice Lans*

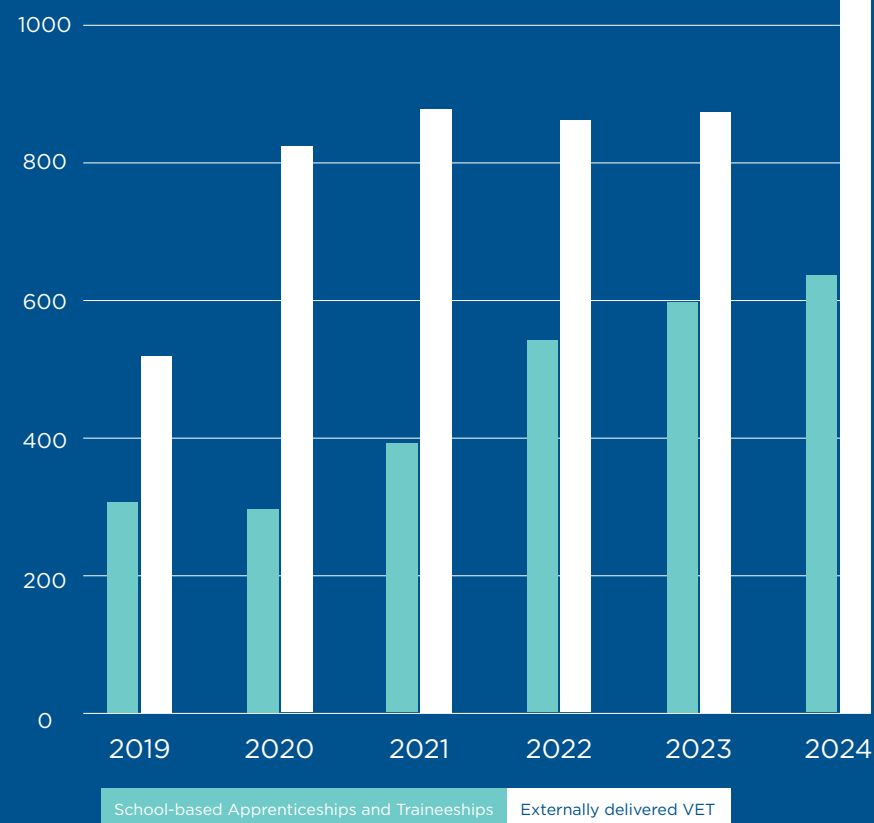
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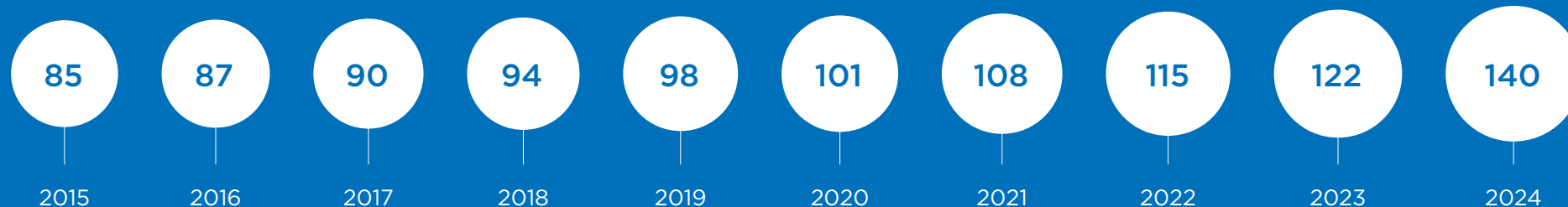
# VET Courses



*AISNSW RTO Student Enrolments*



*AISNSW RTO EVET & SBATs*



*AISNSW RTO Schools 2015 - 2024*





## Case Study 2 – St Lucy's School



**David Raphael**  
Principal,  
St Lucy's School

Here at St Lucy's, we want to ensure further educational pathways and employment choices by providing our students with a variety of opportunities to develop skills. Our priority is that all students, regardless of their disability, have the right to participate successfully in programs that will support growth in skills and community life.

St Lucy's School in Wahroonga offers:

- Certificate I in Workplace Skills
- Certificate I in Active Volunteering and
- Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways.

VET is valuable for our students as it provides them with the opportunity to gain workplace skills in a practical manner where they can demonstrate their competence in different ways. As educators, we are always striving to provide our students with authentic learning experiences so that the learning becomes meaningful.

Coles Supermarkets has really supported us in making that possible. We have been able to use our St Lucy's Coles Supermarkets store to support the delivery of all three courses.

VET offers our students an accessible form of professional training. For some students, traditional subjects do not allow or cater for their diverse interests and needs, nor do they provide the opportunity for the students to gain industry specific skills to better prepare them for the future.

VET allows our students to develop a broad range of skills and knowledge. The practical nature of the courses we have on offer help eliminate those barriers our students may face in more academic orientated courses. This is especially evident in the Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways course where students can demonstrate their understanding and newly acquired skills through a variety of practical projects. The VET courses we offer open up pathways to a variety of future options for our students as opposed to just one career pathway.



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Sarah Eyb

**Agriculture teacher and Coordinator,**  
Agricultural Centre of Excellence

Orange Anglican Grammar School established its Agricultural Centre of Excellence Academy in 2022. While all secondary students participate in Agriculture lessons as part of the curriculum, the academy provides co-curricular opportunities for students who wish to deepen their understanding of, and involvement in, agriculture outside the classroom. We're now offering Certificate II in Agriculture with a focus on animal production. We work to set up our students for a sector that's right on their doorstep in regional NSW. The school continues to expand the ACE academy via genuine industry partnerships and Vocational Education and Training.

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Wade Peatman

**General Manager,**  
Gilmardyke Pastoral Company

We operate 20,000 acres across five holdings in the Central West. We are in a partnership with Orange Anglican Grammar School under which we take on school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs). I felt it was important to be involved in the SBAT program. Young people in agriculture without a rural background struggle to get a start in the industry and I can see that it's going to be a big problem moving forward for young people. The SBAT program has been a big success to this point. Working with the school and the AISNSW RTO, we developed a training program that helped our first trainee complete what he needed and it fitted in with what we were doing on the farm.

## Case Study 3 – Orange Anglican Grammar School

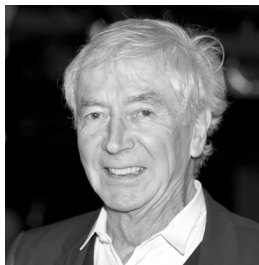


Orange Anglican Grammar School





# Supporting VET in Independent schools



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**Brian Wexham**

**Chief Executive,**  
SkillsOne Television

**Chair,**  
National Skills Week

To meet the current skills demand, it is essential all components of the VET sector are contributing and collaborating at the highest level. AISNSW, through their RTO, is supporting Independent schools in NSW to do just that. There are over 7,000 students in Independent schools who are completing VET qualifications as part of their HSC, 620 of whom are doing school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. The AISRTO ensures that the VET learning environment reflects standards that mirror industry practice, enabling VET students from Independent schools to be job-ready. It is clear that Independent schools aim to go beyond compliance and actively strive for excellence in vocational education, which is ultimately for the benefit of the individual, industry, the NSW economy and Australia. These initiatives are also assisting in dispelling some of the myths around VET.



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**Natalie Turmine**

**Chief Executive Officer,**  
Service and Creative Skills Australia (SaCSA)

Australia's VET sector must deliver exceptional outcomes for everyone involved—employers, workers, learners, trainers, and educators. The professional learning and support provided to Independent schools and their VET teachers play a vital role in preparing students for real-world industry experience. AISNSW's RTO offers a range of courses aligned with SaCSA's areas of focus, and we recognise the value they bring to the employers in the industries we support: Arts, Personal Services, Retail, Tourism, and Hospitality.





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**Bradley Chitty**  
**Principal,**  
GOAL College

GOAL College is the only school in NSW authorised by NESA to deliver the Certificate III in Sports, Aquatics and Recreation. We work with the AISNSW RTO and our sport industry ambassadors such as Kennedy Cherrington and our partners, such as the South Sydney Rabbitohs, to ensure we are well positioned to deliver this unique qualification. We are incredibly proud of the outcomes that we achieve as a result of that vocational qualification; around 45 per cent of our students go on to work and/or study in sport and recreation directly after leaving school.





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