

ASVET Overview

Growth and Inclusivity in ASVET

2021 - 2024



ASRC

Asylum Seeker
Resource Centre

What is ASVET?

The ASVET program is designed to acknowledge and support the aspirations, ambitions, and untapped potential of people seeking asylum and refugees.

By providing education opportunities, we aim to equip people with the skills and knowledge needed to secure employment and contribute positively to Victorian society.



ASRC
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ASVET Access and Eligibility

The **Asylum Seeker VET (ASVET)** program provides people seeking asylum and refugees an exemption from the usual citizenship and residency criteria required for Skills First-funded training in Victoria.

This means people seeking asylum and refugees can enrol at the **subsidised rate for Skills First funded courses**. It also includes the concession rate where available - **no healthcare card or additional proof of concession required**

- Foundation Studies (for example EAL, VCE)
- VET Certificate levels I to IV
- Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas
- Skill sets
- ACFE funding for pre-accredited courses

Can enrol at RTOs delivering Skills First or ACFE courses in Victoria including TAFEs and Learn Locals



ASRC

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The ASRC ASVET Team - Support Services Overview

- **Referrals and Advisory appointments** to facilitate informed decision making
- **Professional Development workshops** to build stakeholder capacity in the refugee sector.
- **The ASVET Community of Best Practice** - to facilitate peer support networks to share, knowledge, learnings and strategies that contribute to improving outcomes for people seeking asylum
- **The ASVET webpage and Helpdesk** Designed, developed to disseminate a range of appropriate information and resources for education and training providers and people seeking asylum.
- **Effective cross-sector partnership** to provide integrated services for people seeking asylum with other community organisations.

Landscape at the start of Current Contract



- Regular lockdowns
- Online learning
- Remote appointments and Dandenong site closure
- 809 referrals in 2018-2021

2021 was the commencement of our current ASVET contract. At the start we were still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to regular and frequent lockdowns. These lockdowns disrupted our normal operations, forcing us to rethink and redesign our service delivery methods. We moved to remote appointments to maintain engagement with our clients. Despite these hurdles, our commitment to our clients did not waver. From 2018 to 2021, we referred 809 clients to pursue their education career.

Trends (2018-2021)



Building and
Construction
20.4%



Nursing and
Allied Health
13.9%



Security
11.2%



Barbering and
Hairdressing
10.4%



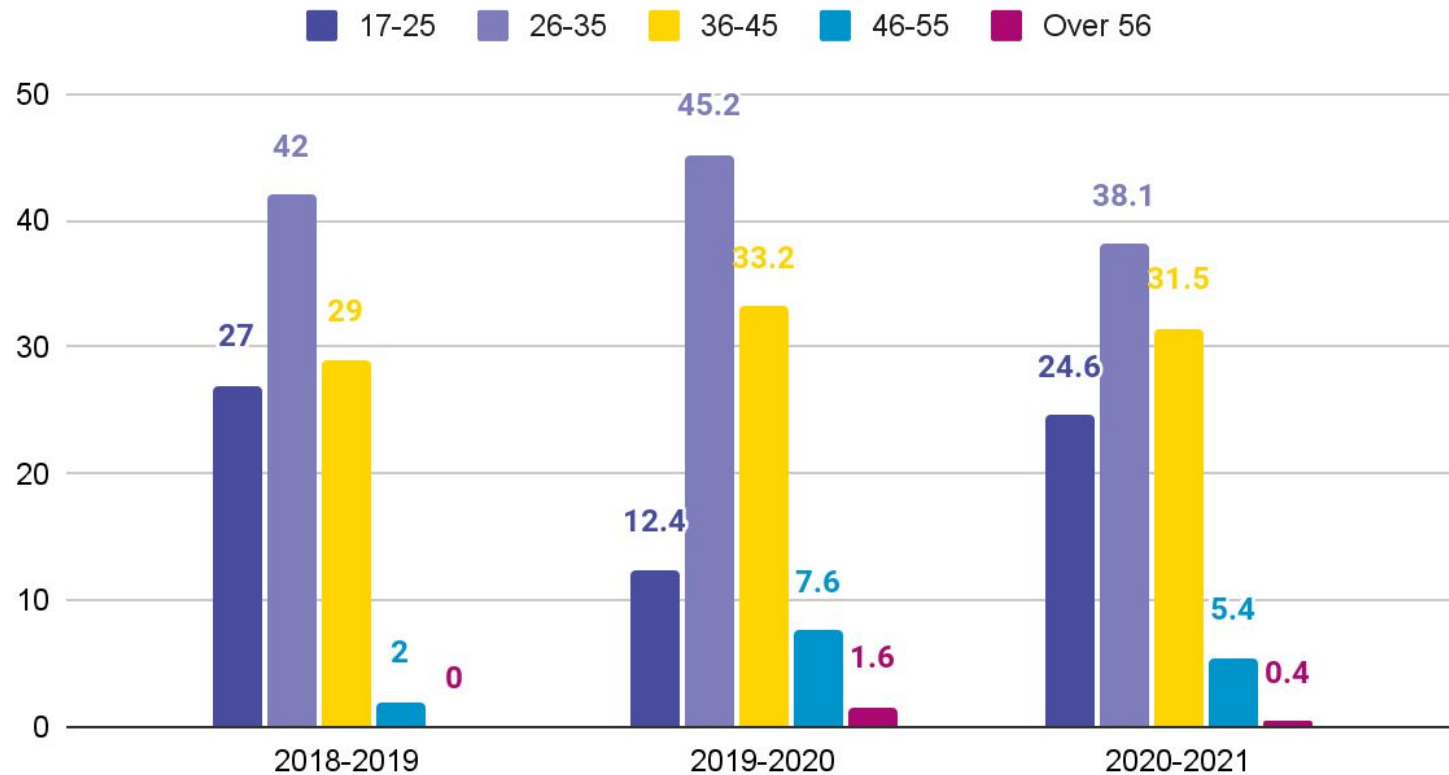
EAL
10%

Trends in 2018-2021

- **Start of Free TAFE**
- **More remote courses (COVID-19)**
- **Big build projects + demand for building and construction workers**

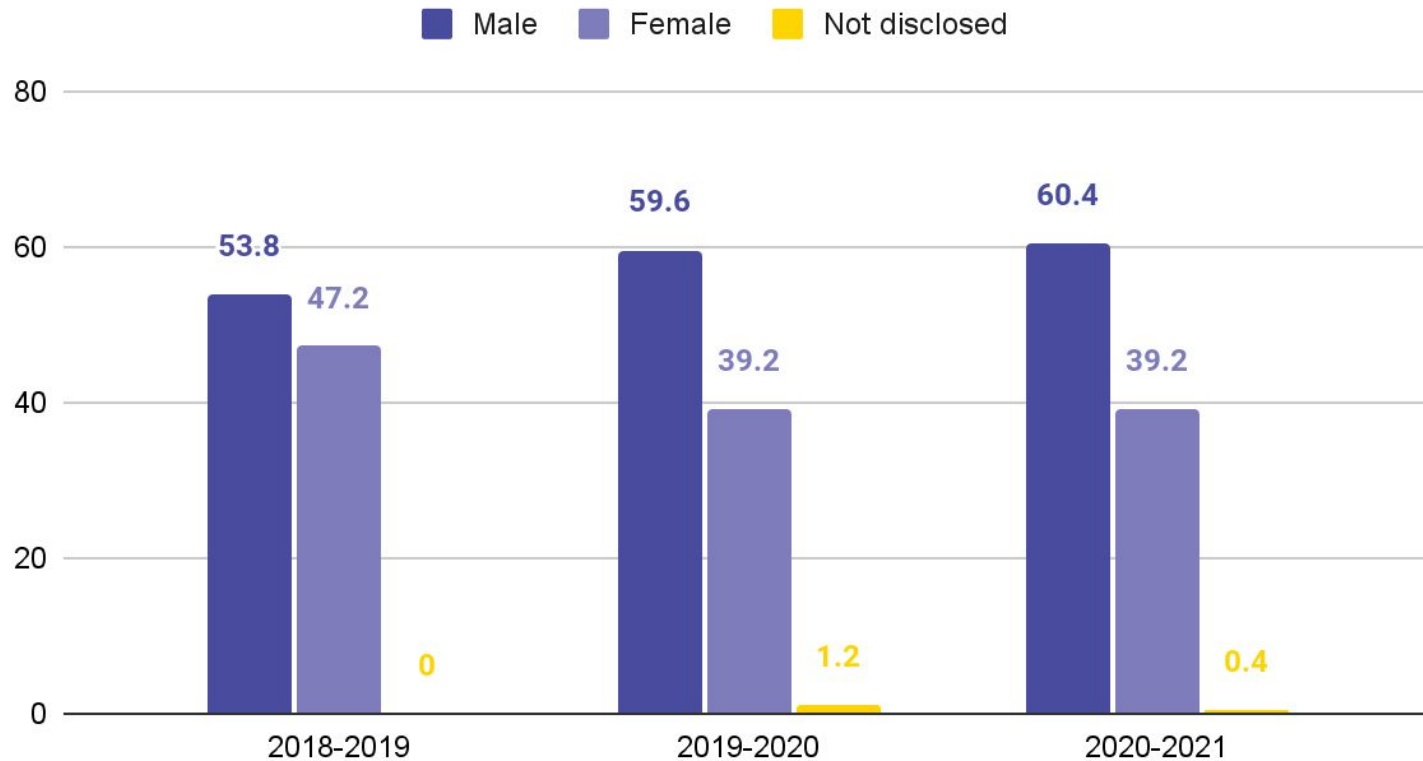
Age Demographics (2018-2021)

Age distribution 2018-2021



Gender Demographics (2018-2021)

Gender distribution 2018-2021





Evolution and Trends: 2021-2024

The Evolution and Trends that have shaped the ASVET program from 2021 to 2024. Over this period, we've seen significant shifts, and adaptations, that have defined this transformative journey.

Enhanced Reconnect Access



- **People seeking asylum became eligible for Reconnect at the beginning of 2021.**
- **Increased access and understanding for people seeking asylum.**
- **Delivered information sessions for Reconnect providers to understand and increase access for people seeking asylum attended by 35 Reconnect Providers.**

Access to Apprenticeships and Traineeships



- **People seeking asylum approved for apprenticeships and traineeships, regardless of visa length.**
- **Partnered advocacy efforts with Victorian Trades Hall council and DJSIR.**
- **Working with community organisations such as Talent Rise to improve access further, overcome barriers such as enrollment and employer subsidy.**

Collaborative Response



- **Proactive DJSIR**
- **2021: arrivals from Afghanistan with visa 449**
- **2022: arrivals from Ukraine with visa 786**
- **Worked closely with training providers and settlement services to allow quick access**

Throughout the contracted period, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry, and Regions (DJSIR) demonstrated proactive engagement. In 2021, refugees arrived from Afghanistan under visa 449, followed by arrivals from Ukraine under visa 786 in 2022. We took proactive steps to collaborate with DJSIR to include these visa types in the ASVET eligibility criteria. Our joint efforts with training providers and settlement services facilitated swift access for these arrivals, emphasizing our dedication to supporting their integration and success.

Expanded Visa Eligibility



- **July 2023 the Victorian State government announced a change to eligibility for inclusion in the ASVET program**
- **Delivered information session with over 60 attendees**

In July 2023, a notable development emerged regarding the eligibility criteria for participation in the ASVET program. The Victorian State government broadened the eligibility criteria by incorporating bridging visas A and C into the ASVET, marking a significant expansion.

Following the announcement, we arranged an information session to ensure that all stakeholders were well-informed about these adjustments. It was heartening to witness such robust engagement, with over 60 attendees actively participating in the session.

ASVET Program Achievements

Current Contract



- **1,467 Education advisory appointments**
- **514 referrals to different RTOs**
- **3 ASVET Professional Development (PD) workshops**
- **2 ASVET Community of Best Practice (CoBP) conferences**
- **1 ASVET expanded eligibility information session**

Trends (2021-2023)



Community services
(including aged and
disability care)
23.6%



EAL
22.3%



Nursing and
Allied Health
16.2%



Security
12.2%

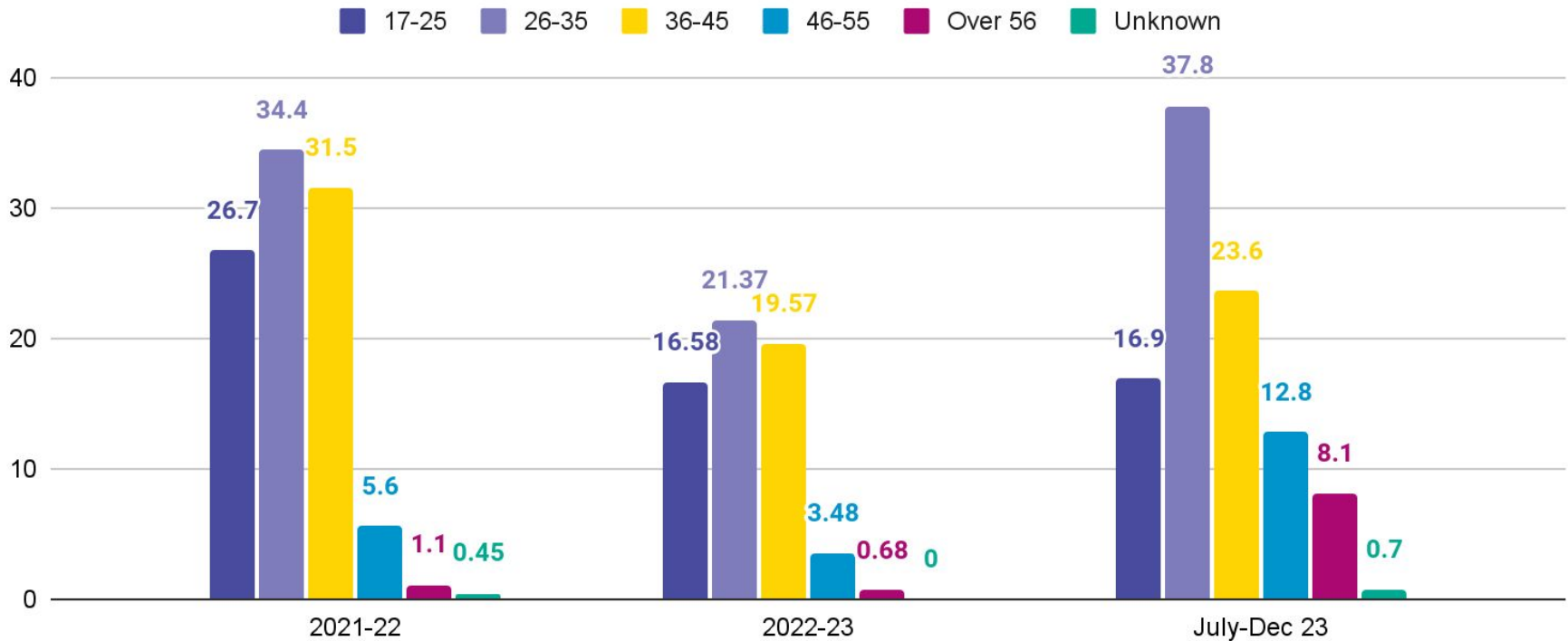


Building and
Construction
6.0%

- Sharp rise in community services and EAL
- More in-person classes available
- Expansion of Free TAFE

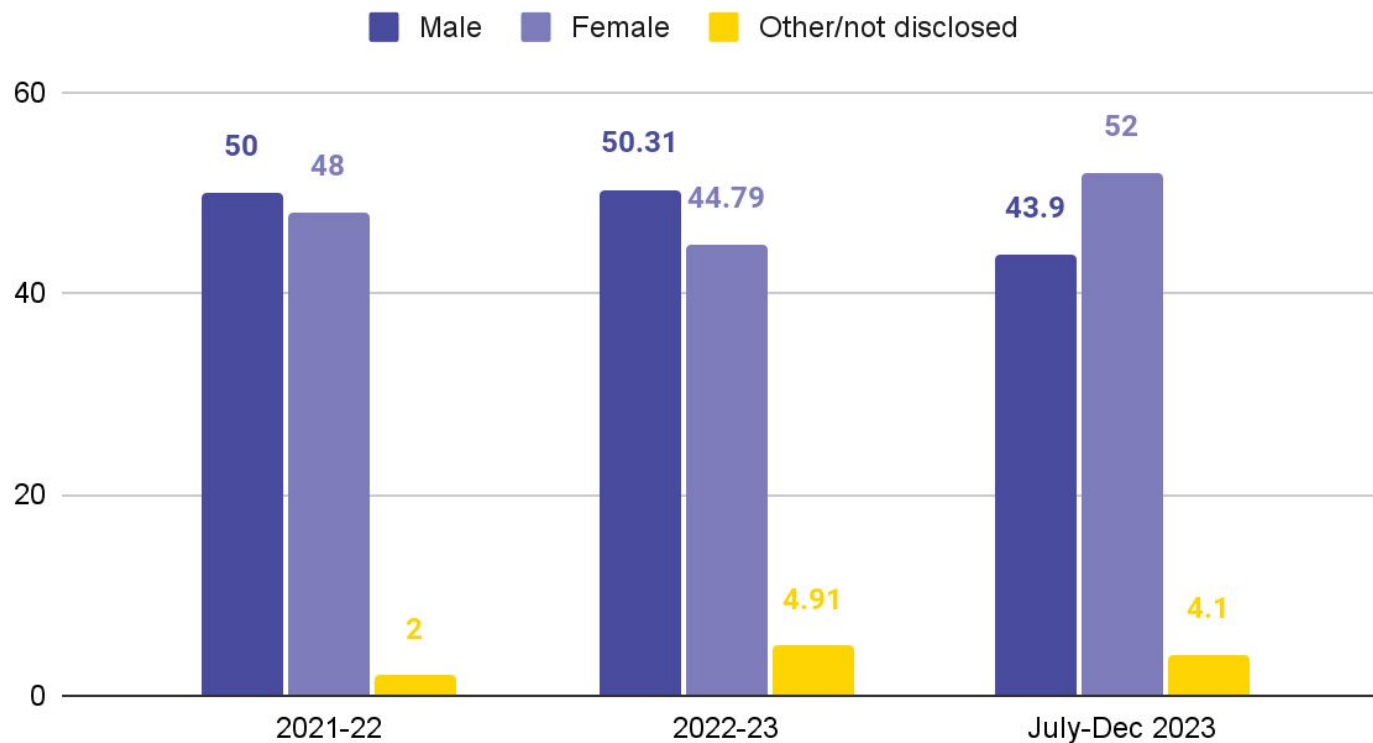
Age Demographics (2021-23)

Age Distribution 2021-2023



Gender Demographics (2021-23)

Gender distribution 2021-2024



Future Outlook



- **Further access for people seeking asylum - with new cohort an expansion comes new communication, understanding and strategy**
- **Focus on regional areas**
- **More Earn and learn opportunities for people seeking asylum in traineeships and apprenticeships**
- **Peer support program with ASVET alumni to share their experiences**

Contact us



Available by phone and email Monday to Friday 9-5

Call: 03 9273 9807

Email: education@asrc.org.au

Office hours

Dandenong Office - Refugee Resource Hub

- **Tuesday, Thursday**

Foosetracy Office - Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**



Thank you!

www.asrc.org.au/vet