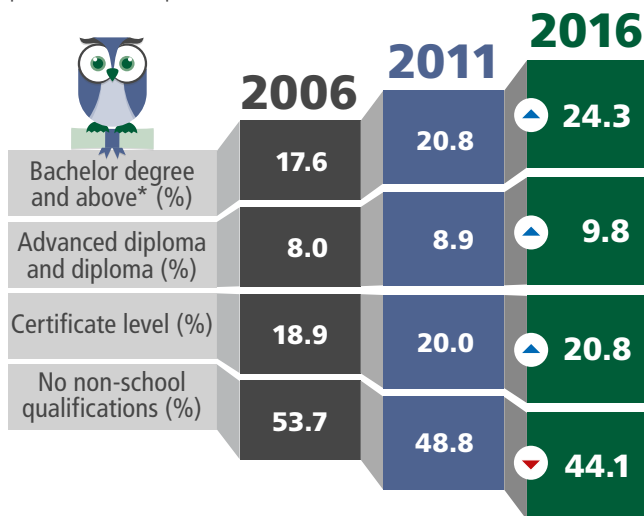


Many Australians continue their education beyond school years and complete non-school qualifications such as degrees, diplomas and certificates. This summary uses 2016 Census data to provide an overview of non-school qualifications for the population aged 15 years and over.

## Highest qualifications

The 2016 Census shows that 56% of Australians aged 15 years and over, or 9.6 million people, held a non-school qualification, up from 46% in 2006.



\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

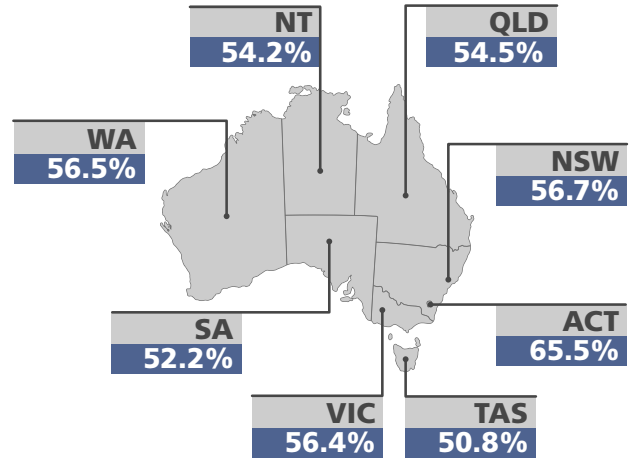
In 2016, close to one-quarter (24%) of Australians had completed a Bachelor degree or above, almost 10% had an Advanced diploma or diploma, and just under 21% had completed a Certificate level qualification. The largest growth was in Bachelor degrees or above (up from 18% in 2006). This growth is likely to continue considering one-fifth (21%) of all students in Australia were attending university in 2016, compared with 16% ten years ago.

## Qualifications across Australia

This Census is the first time more than half of the population in each state or territory has held a non-school qualification. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of people with qualifications (65%, aged 15 years and over).

Most youth and adults living in Greater capital cities in 2016 held non-school qualifications (58%), compared to 52% outside of capital cities. Almost half of those with qualifications in capital cities held a Bachelor degree or above (49%), 17% held an Advanced diploma or diploma and 32% held a Certificate level qualification. These proportions shifted significantly for people living outside capital cities – with 30% holding Bachelor degrees and above, 18% with an Advanced diploma or diploma and 50% with Certificate level qualifications.

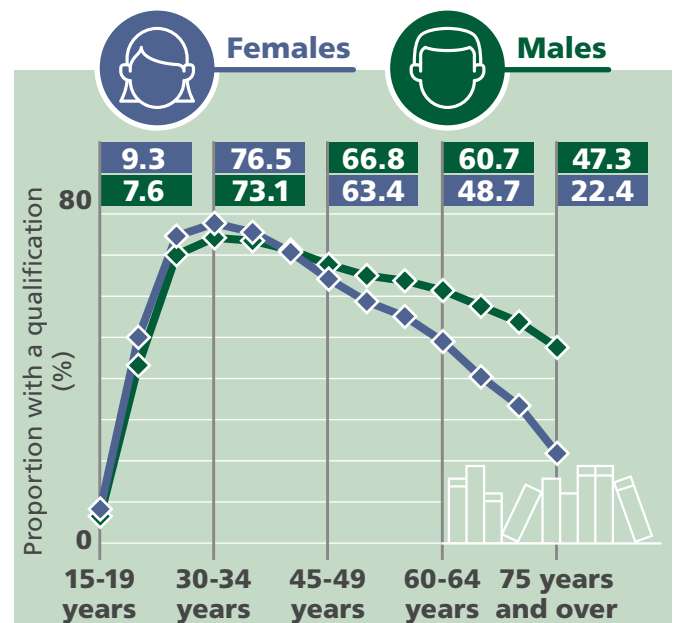
## Proportion of people with a non-school qualification



## Characteristics of people with qualifications

The gap in educational attainment between men and women has narrowed over the past ten years. In 2006, 51% of men and 42% of women reported holding a non-school qualification. In 2016, this gap was smaller: 58% of men and 54% of women.

In 2016, a larger proportion of women (67%) in the younger age group of 20–34 years held non-school qualifications than men (62%), contributing to the narrowing of the gap between both sexes. This was particularly evident for women aged 20–24 years, where 50% held non-school qualifications compared with 43% of men.



Levels of educational attainment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have increased in the ten years since 2006. Whereas one-quarter (25%) of the population aged 15 years and over held a non-school qualification in 2006, this increased to well over one-third (37%) in 2016.

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

People born overseas were more likely to have a non-school qualification (60%) than those born in Australia (54%). Almost eight in ten Australians (79.3%) who were born in India held a non-school qualification, with those born in Bangladesh coming a close second (78.7%).

Top Five			2016
Country of birth			With non-school qualifications (%)
1		India	79.3
2		Bangladesh	78.7
3		Brazil	77.5
4		Zimbabwe	77.2
5		Canada	76.3

\* Countries are the 50 most common responses reported in the 2016 Census.

### Qualifications, employment and income

Of people aged 20–64 years with a non-school qualification, 81% were employed, compared with 63% of those with no qualification. Almost 80% of people with a Certificate level qualification or an Advanced diploma and diploma were employed, increasing to 83% of those with a Bachelor degree and above.

#### Employment and income by qualification level – people aged 20-64 years

Level of qualification	Employed (%)	Personal income (median weekly)
 <b>Bachelor degree and above*</b>	83.4 	\$1,436 
<b>Advanced diploma and diploma level</b>	79.6 	\$1,083 
<b>Certificate level</b>	79.9 	\$1,017 
<b>No non-school qualifications</b>	63.0 	\$836 

\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

Qualified people had higher incomes. Of the employed population aged 20–64 years, those with non-school qualifications had higher median personal incomes than

those without qualifications. In 2016, people with Bachelor degrees and above earned \$600 more each week than those with no qualifications, on average.

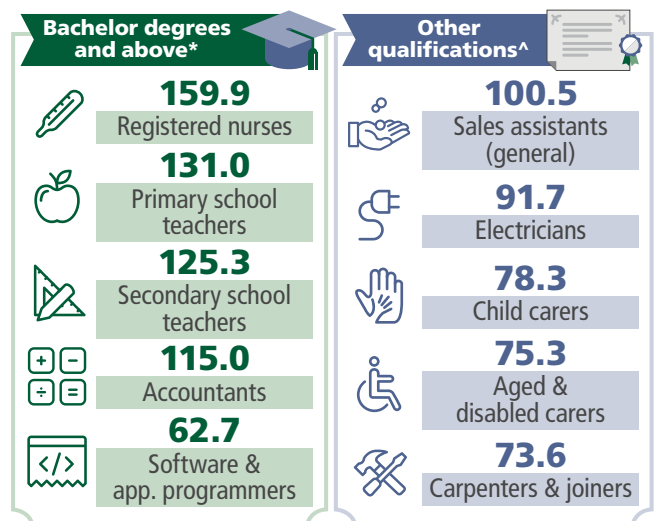
### Qualifications and occupation

Highly qualified people were more likely to be employed in professional occupations.

The most common occupations in 2016 for people with a Bachelor degree or above were Registered nurses and Primary and Secondary school teachers. Men with a Bachelor degree or above were more likely to be Accountants (56,000) or Software applications programmers (51,600), whereas women were more likely to be Registered nurses (141,700) or Primary school teachers (111,700).

For those with other non-school qualifications, the most common occupations were Sales assistants, Electricians and Child carers. Men with other qualifications were more likely to be Electricians (90,700) or Carpenters and joiners (73,200), whereas women were more likely to be Child carers (75,900) or Sales assistants (67,800).

#### Top 5 Occupations (aged 20-64, count '000)



\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

^Includes advanced diplomas, diplomas and certificate-level qualifications.

Qualifications often play a critical role when determining the minimum level of knowledge, skills and competence required for a job and can be specific to a person's occupation. For example, of all qualified and employed Registered nurses aged 20–64 years, 94% held their highest non-school qualification in a health related field. Fields of study were more varied for qualified Aged and disabled carers – 61% held their highest qualification in Society and culture, 15% in Health and 8% in a Management and commerce related field.

Notes: Population with a qualification excludes all people with a 'Not stated' value for Non-school qualification: level of education. This excludes 225,460 people who reported a field of study but not a level of education, as well as other 'Not stated' responses. Excludes overseas visitors.

Source: All visual representations are based on data collected in the 2016 Census. For definitions of the terms used above, see the *Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0). For more information about 2016 Census data release and products, go to [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census). This data summary was released as part of *Reflecting Australia: Stories from the Census, 2016* (cat. no. 2071.0).