



transforming
DVA

DVA Education Schemes

Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES)

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS)

Background

Established in 1921 as the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, today there are two Education Schemes:

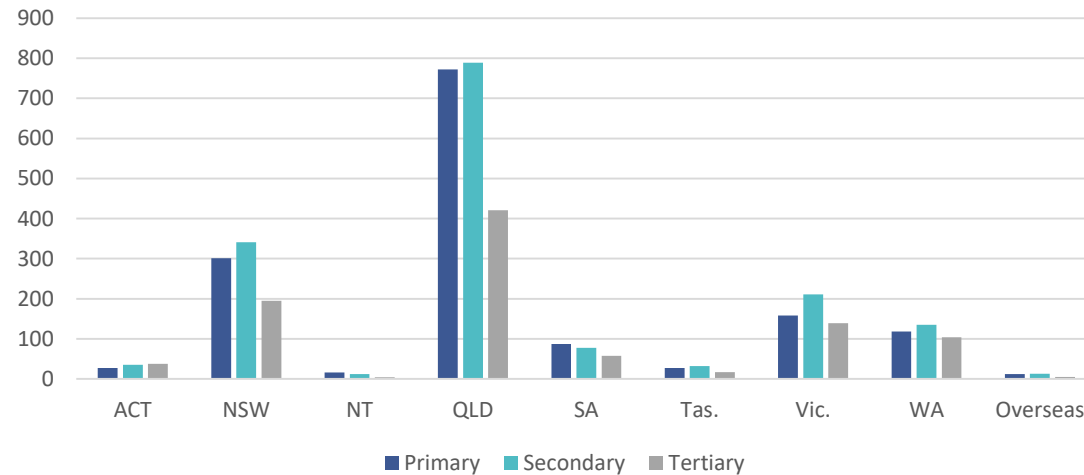
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) which operates under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and
- the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS) which operates under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

Total Students in the Education Schemes Program – 4,145 (up from 4,021 in Q3 2022)

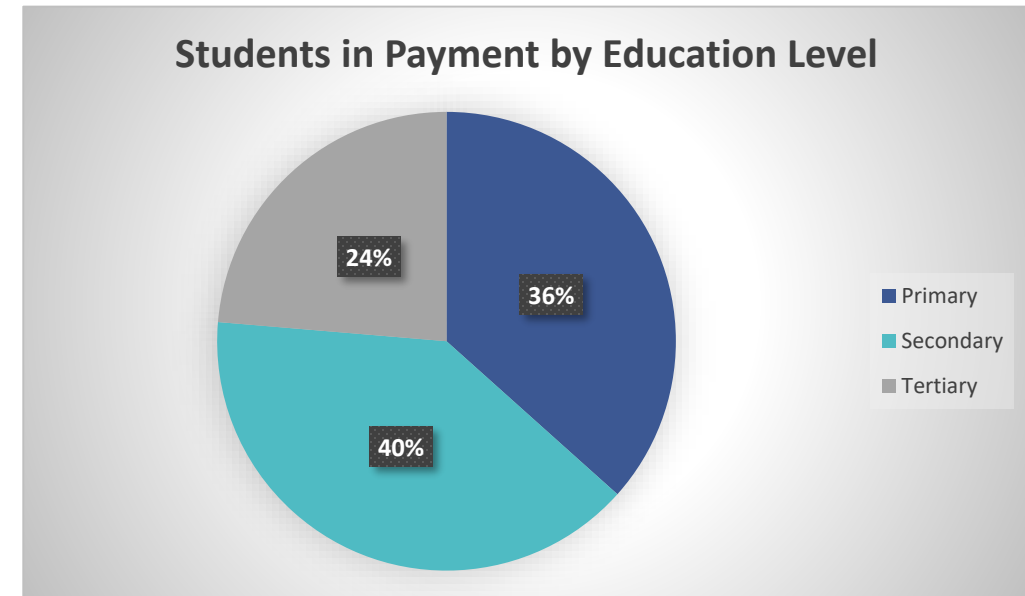
1,775 (-11 from Q3)
Veterans Children Education
Scheme students (VEA)

2,370 (+135 from Q3)
Military Rehabilitation and
Compensation Education and
Training Scheme students (MRCA)

Students in Payment by State & Education Level – Q4, 2022



Students in Payment by Education Level



Eligibility

VCES (under the VEA)

An eligible child is someone who is:

- under 25 years old and undertaking full-time education or training; and
- the child of a veteran who is receiving a disability pension:
 - at the special rate (known as T&PI);
 - at the extreme disablement adjustment (EDA) rate;
 - at an increased rate because of multiple amputations, or multiple amputations and blindness; or
- the child of a veteran whose death was war or defence caused.
- A student who is the child or dependant of a Vietnam veteran but who does not qualify under any of the above criteria may be eligible in certain circumstances.

MRCAETS (under MRCA)

An eligible child is someone who is:

- under 25 years old and undertaking full-time education or training; and
- a dependant of a veteran who:
 - is eligible, or was at some point, for the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP);
 - 80 or more impairment points; or
 - whose death was related to service.

What assistance is available?

- Education Allowance
- Rent Assistance
- Tertiary Start-up and Relocation Scholarships
- Fares Allowance (for post secondary students living away from home)
- Additional Tuition
- Special Assistance
- Guidance and Counselling
- Income Support Bonus
- Energy Supplement



Education Allowance

- Financial assistance towards the cost of an eligible child's education.
- Allowances are paid annually for students in primary school, and fortnightly for students in secondary education and above.
- For students in primary and secondary education, payments are made to the person entitled to be paid Family Tax Benefit (FTB) on the student's behalf. Students in post-secondary education may be paid the benefit directly.
- Allowances are paid at the Living at Home, Living Away from Home, Homeless, and Double Orphan (under VEA) rates.



Tertiary Start-up and Relocation Scholarships

- The Student Start-up Scholarship is intended to assist students to cover up-front higher education fees including text book and equipment fees. Tertiary students undertaking an approved scholarship course* through an Australian university may qualify for this bi-annual payment.
- The Relocation Scholarship is intended to assist students with the costs of establishing accommodation in their new place of study. Tertiary students living away from home to undertake an approved scholarship course through an Australian university may qualify for this annual payment.

**Typically undergraduate courses through most Australian universities*



Additional Tuition

- May be granted where it is established that a discrepancy exists between the student's intellectual potential and actual academic achievement.
- Funding of up to \$3500 is granted for a calendar year. A claim is required should there be a need to continue tuition in subsequent years.
- Funds are paid directly to tuition providers.



Special Assistance

- Special assistance is meant for times where there are exceptional circumstances hindering a child's academic progress.
- Funding up to \$3000 may be granted for educational psychological assessments, autism spectrum disorder assessments, assistive technology, etc.
- It is generally paid to a service provider or a supplier of equipment required to assist the student.



Shared Care

- Where there are shared care arrangements in place for the children on the Education Schemes, the Education Allowance is paid according to the percentage of care recorded by Services Australia for the purposes of calculating Family Tax Benefit.
- The Education Scheme instruments require DVA [by law](#) (Part 3.3) to pay the allowance to the person who is entitled to be paid Family Tax Benefit, and, in practical terms, multiple people may have entitlement to be paid a proportion of the Family Tax Benefit.



Contact us

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For more information: <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/support-families/get-student-support/education-schemes>