



Australian Government

Australian Education International

Continuing Education in Australia

**Presentation to the 2009 China Annual
Conference on International Education**

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Overview of Australia



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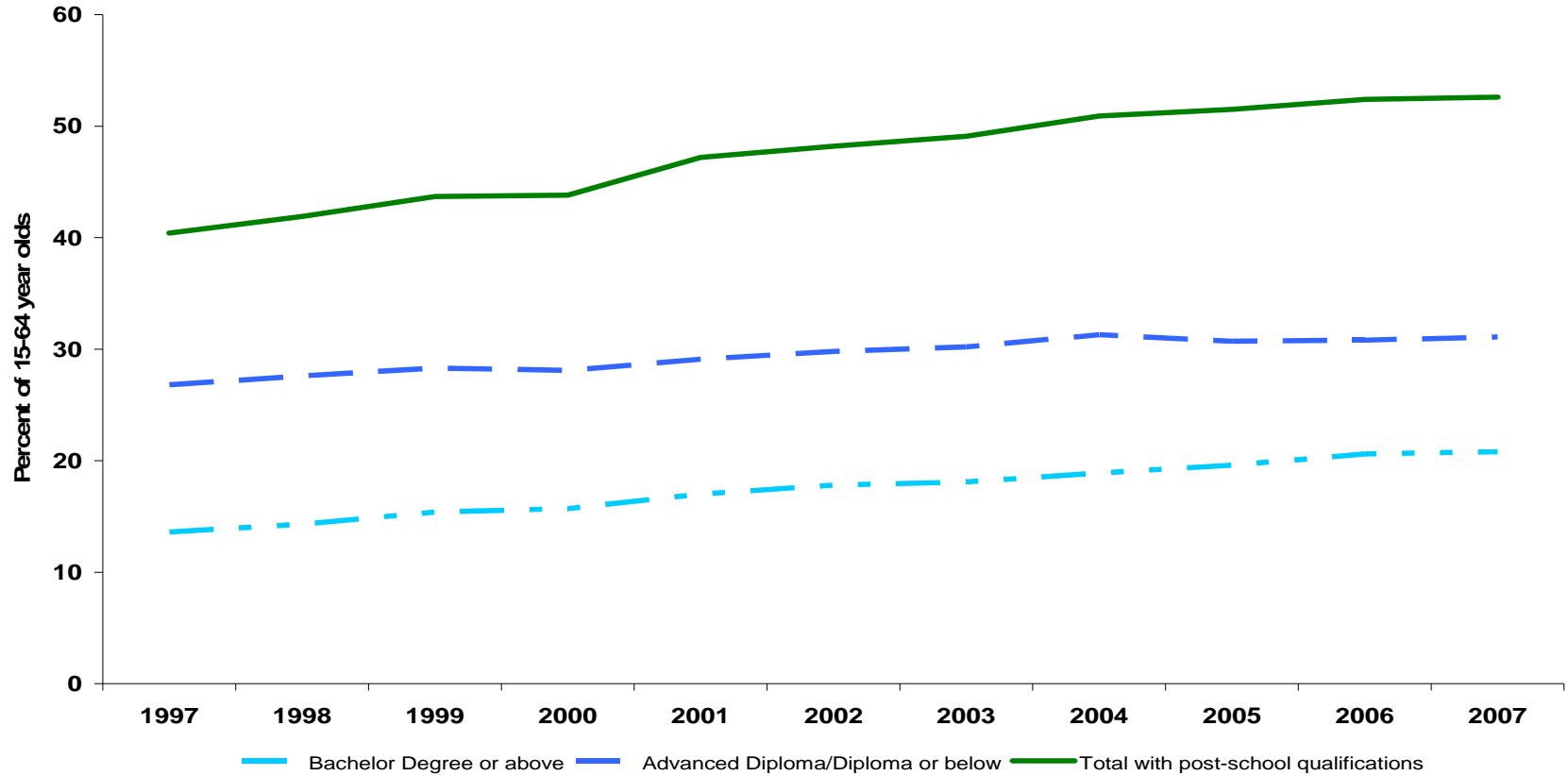


Education Qualifications



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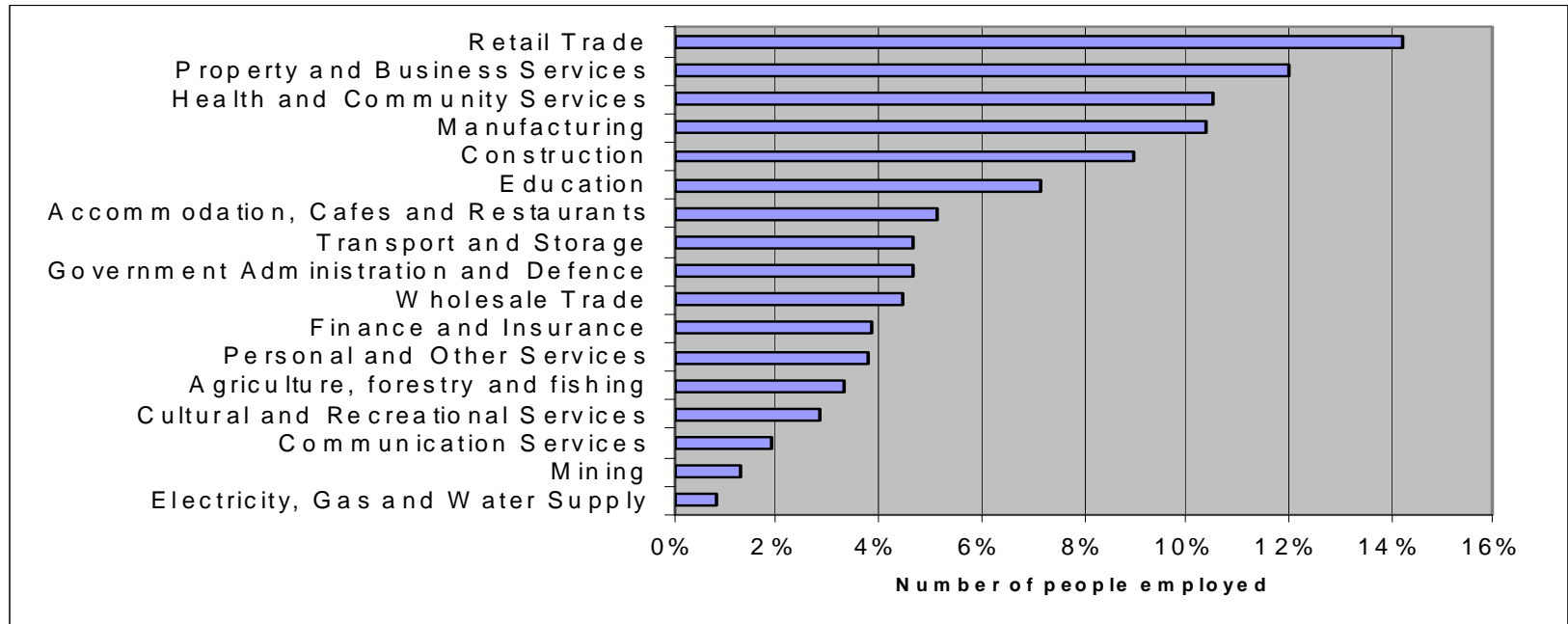




- Our population will grow from 21 million to around 35 million;
- The median age will increase from 36 years to 46 - 50 years;
- By 2051, life expectancy will increase from 77 years to 84 years for males and 82 years for females to 87 years;
- The proportion of people aged 65 years will increase from 13% in 2002 to 27% - 30% by 2051;
- The proportion of people aged 85 years and over will increase from 1.4 per cent of the population in 2002 to between 6 per cent and 9 per cent in 2051.
- Growth in the traditional workforce will slow to zero.



- Australia's demographic changes intersect with another major dynamic in our economy – a shift from an agricultural and manufacturing base towards a services oriented economy.



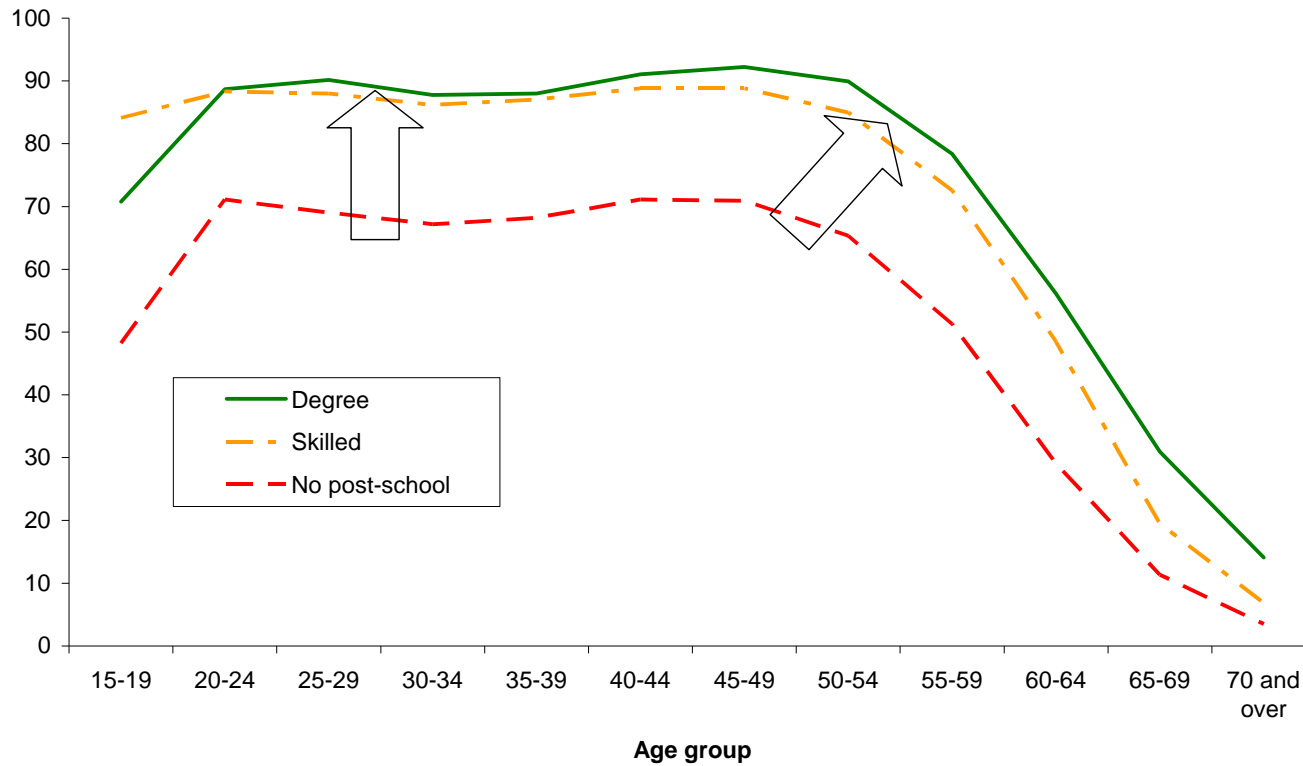
Educational Attainment



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Participation in the labour force by age and level of education and training

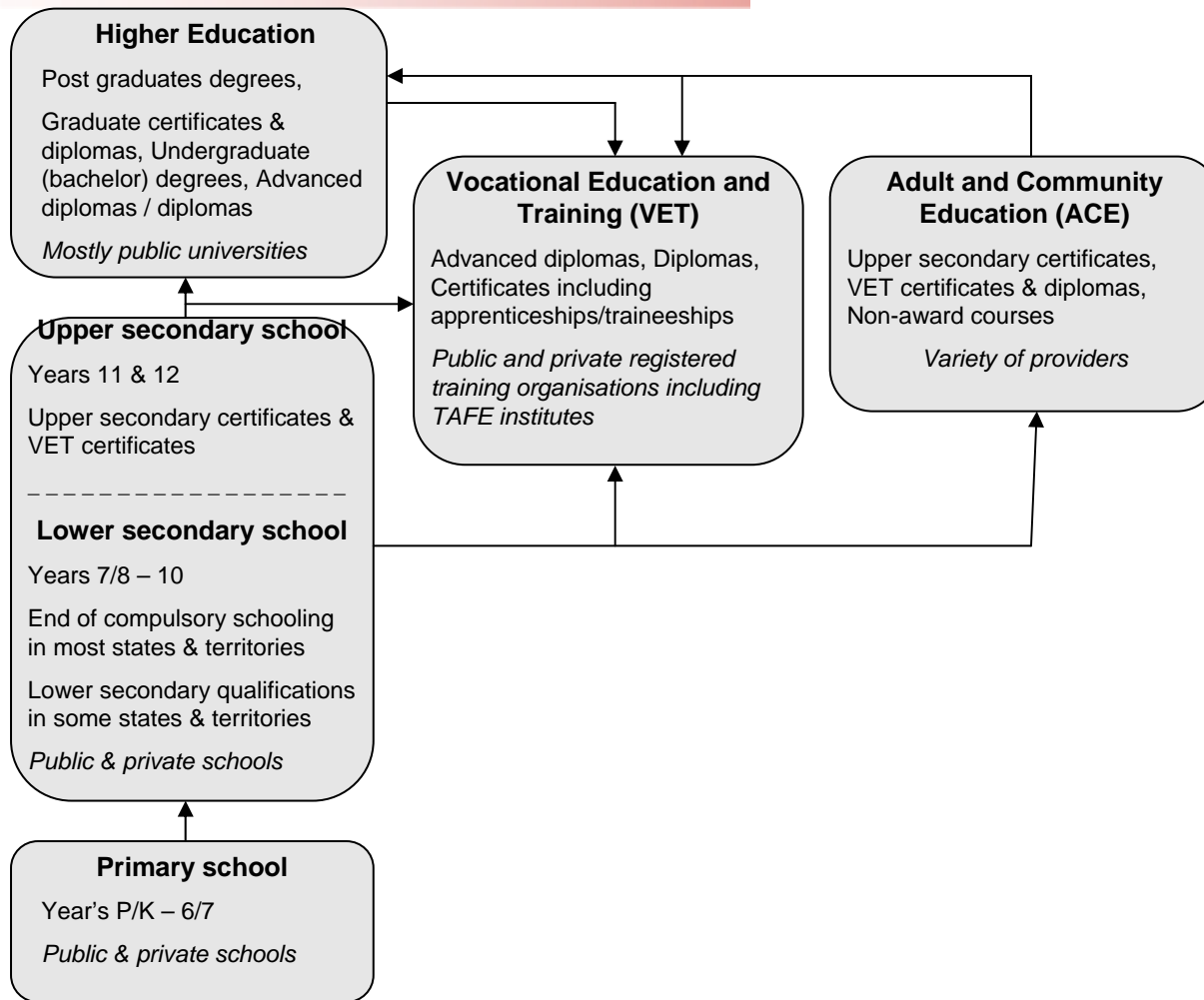


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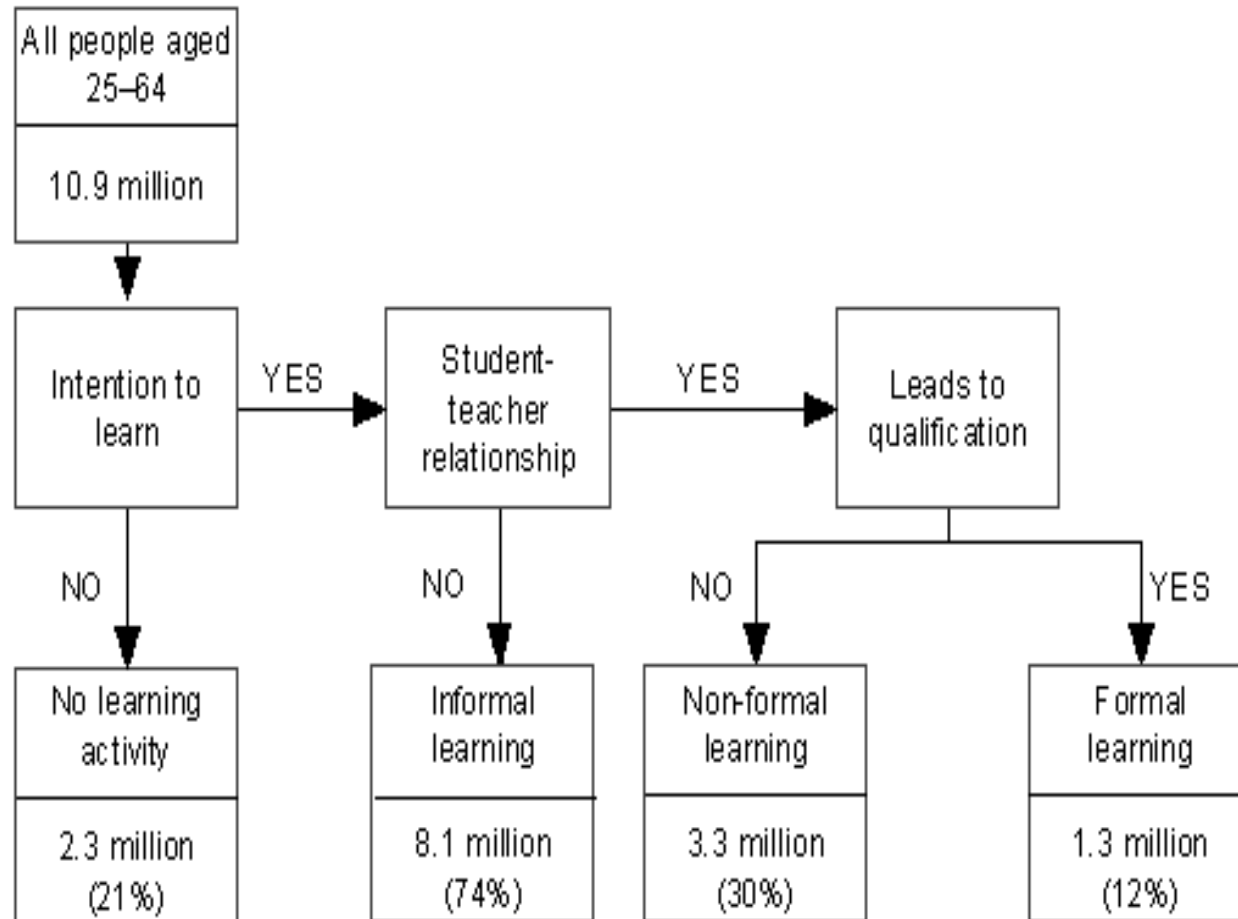


Adult Learning Survey



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- Groups that have a relative disadvantage in accessing higher education are:
 - people from a low socio-economic background;
 - people from a regional or remote background;
 - people with a disability; and
 - people from a non-English speaking background.
- The most common barriers to further education were reported to be:
 - that respondents were too busy with work, at home or with leisure activities (reported by 44% of people who wished to participate but were not able to do so); and
 - that training was too expensive or unaffordable (18%).



- Responding to economic and demographic changes;
- Adjusting to advances in information and communication technology –re-skill existing older workers and retrain adults returning to the workforce;
- Fostering the development of language, literacy and numeracy skills and self-confidence of adults, particularly those from non-English speaking backgrounds;
- Streamlining skills development through approaches such as recognition of prior learning; and
- Increasing participation in formal and non-formal learning by engaging the disengaged to increase social inclusion.



- A new organisation, *Skills Australia* will:
 - analyse Australia's current and emerging skills needs;
 - inform Australia's workforce development needs;
 - provide the Government with recommendations on current and future skills needs; and
 - coordinate with relevant state bodies and authorities on priorities for responses to skills needs.





- A key aim of the Government's policies for **higher education** is to raise the aspirations of students who would previously never have considered going to university.
- The 2009-10 Budget provided AUD437 million to reach the target of students from disadvantaged backgrounds representing 20% of undergraduate enrolments by 2020.
- Increasing the completion rates of students from disadvantaged backgrounds will also be important to achieving the target of 40% of all 25-34 year olds achieving a bachelor degree or above by 2025.
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds will also directly benefit from the Government's reforms to income support and scholarship arrangements.



- In August 2009, the Australian Government invested AUD96 million investment across 150 projects to improve teaching and learning across the **community education and training sector**.
- The funding will help support training and jobs by providing up to \$1.5 million per project for community education organisations to build new training infrastructure and upgrade their existing facilities.
- The new and upgraded infrastructure will support and improve training in employability, literacy and numeracy skills and help 'second chance' learners to get work or further training.



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Thank you!

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