

The Far North (State Govt) Region

Workforce Wizard Region Report

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Executive Summary

The population of the Far North (State Govt) region in June 2015 was 29,384 people (1.7 per cent of South Australia's population). Between June 2012 and June 2015 the population of the Far North (State Govt) region increased by 0.3 per cent (94 people). Over the same time period, the population of the South Australia region increased by 2.6 per cent, higher than the growth rate of the Far North (State Govt) region.

Compared to the South Australia region, the Far North (State Govt) region has higher shares of people aged 0 to 14 years, lower shares of people aged 15 to 24 years, higher shares of people aged 25 to 64 years and lower shares of people aged 65 and older. In addition, 54.7 per cent of the population in the Far North (State Govt) region were male compared to 49.5 per cent in the South Australia region.

In the March quarter 2017 there were 1,162 unemployed people in the Far North (State Govt) region, with an estimated unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent. In the South Australia region the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent, representing 58,500 unemployed people.

Residents of the Far North (State Govt) region have lower levels of school achievement compared to the South Australia region. In the Far North (State Govt) region, 37.0 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 years have completed year 12 (or equivalent), compared to 54.2 per cent in the South Australia region. There is a recognised connection between disadvantage in the work force and educational achievement; unemployment rates are often higher for those people with lower levels of qualifications, or without qualifications.

There were 2,643 people in the Far North (State Govt) region attending vocational education and training (VET) in 2015 (2.4 per cent of VET students in the South Australia region), and 109,520 people in the South Australia region. Included in the student population were students with a disability (7.9 per cent in the Far North (State Govt) region and 10.0 per cent in the South Australia region) and Indigenous students (24.8 per cent in the Far North (State Govt) region and 3.7 per cent in the South Australia region).

Population and Social Characteristics

Current Population

The population of the Far North (State Govt) region in June 2015 was 29,384 people (1.7 per cent of South Australia's population). Between June 2012 and June 2015 the population of the Far North (State Govt) region increased by 0.3 per cent (94 people). Over the same time period, the population of the South Australia region increased by 2.6 per cent, higher than the growth rate of the Far North (State Govt) region.

Table 1.1 Estimated Resident Population

Year	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	Population	Change from previous year	Population	Change from previous year
June 2013	29,448	0.5%	1,670,274	0.9%
June 2014	29,396	-0.2%	1,685,550	0.9%
June 2015	29,384	less than 0.1%	1,698,660	0.8%

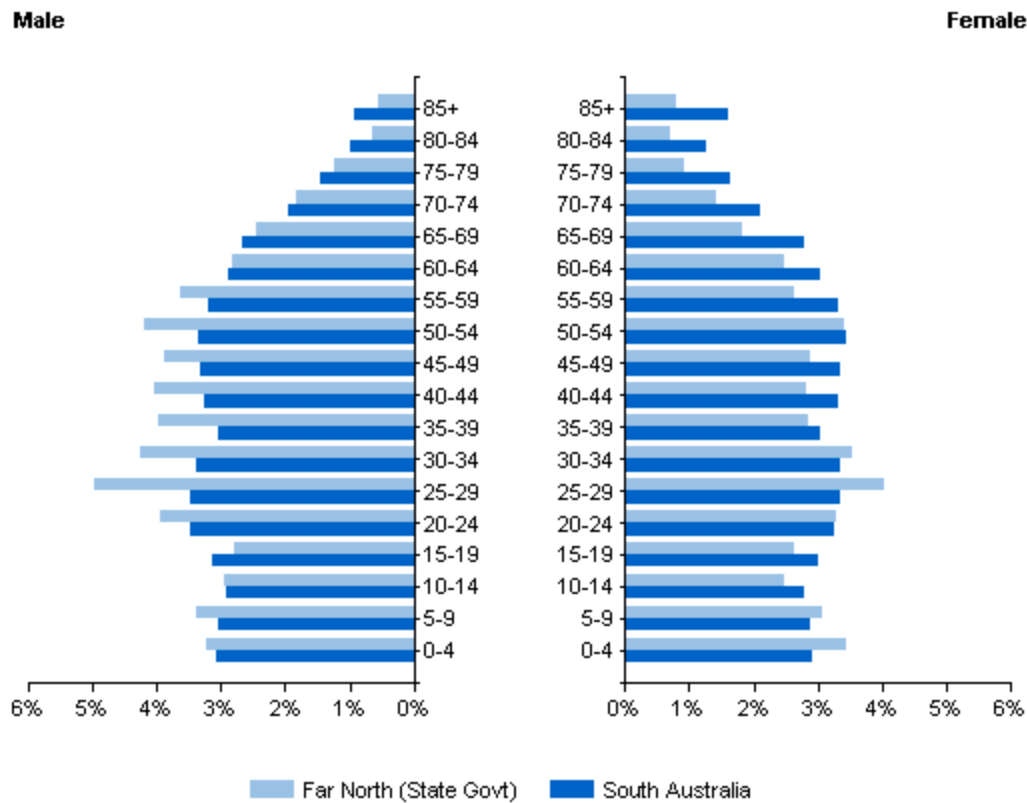
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Residential Population; Department of State Development

Age Groups

Compared to the South Australia region, the Far North (State Govt) region has higher shares of people aged 0 to 14 years, lower shares of people aged 15 to 24 years, higher shares of people aged 25 to 64 years and lower shares of people aged 65 and older. In addition, 54.7 per cent of the population in the Far North (State Govt) region were male compared to 49.5 per cent in the South Australia region.

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Figure 1.1 Age and Sex, June 2015



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population

Key Populations

As can be seen in the following table, compared to the South Australia region, the Far North (State Govt) region has lower shares of young people, the same share of mature people, higher shares of Aboriginal people, and lower shares of people with a reported disability (i.e. aged 15 to 64 years old and requiring assistance in core activities).

Table 1.2 Key Populations

Population*	Far North (State Govt)	South Australia
	Share of Population (%)	Share of Population (%)
Youth (15-24)	12.7	12.9
Mature (45-64)	25.9	25.9
Aboriginal	19.3	1.9
Disability (15-64)	2.7	3.1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development
 * Population in age groups are based on the latest available Estimated Resident Populations (ERP) data; Aboriginal and Disability populations are based on 2011 Population Census

Aboriginal Australians

In 2011 there were 5,455 Aboriginal people counted in the Far North (State Govt) region, representing 19.3 per cent of the region's population.

The age profile of Aboriginal people in the Far North (State Govt) region was older than the South Australia region, with 50.5 per cent of Aboriginals being aged 25 years and older compared to 46.0 per cent in the South Australia region.

Table 1.3 Aboriginal Population, 2011

	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	Persons	Share (%)	Persons	Share (%)
0-14	1,639	30.0	10,549	34.7
15-24	1,061	19.5	5,896	19.4
25-44	1,621	29.7	7,927	26.0
45-64	882	16.2	4,801	15.8
65 & older	252	4.6	1,259	4.1
Total	5,455	100.0	30,432	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

The Aboriginal population in the Far North (State Govt) region increased by 396 people (or 7.8 per cent) between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, while in the South Australia region the Aboriginal population increased by 4,878 people (or 19.1 per cent).

Disability and Carers

There were 524 people in the Far North (State Govt) region in 2011 who reported they had need for assistance with self-care, mobility or communication because of a disability or long-term health condition. This represents 2.7 per cent of the total population in this region, lower than the South Australia region, where 3.1 per cent had reported disabilities (representing 32,587 people).

Table 1.4 Disability Status (Aged 15-64), 2011

	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	Population	%	Population	%
Needs assistance with core activities	524	2.7	32,587	3.1
Doesn't need assistance with core activities	16,651	86.0	973,336	92.5
Total (including not stated)	19,358	100.0	1,052,090	100.0
Providing care	1,789	9.2	127,112	12.1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

There were a further 1,789 people in the Far North (State Govt) region within the same region (9.2 per cent of the total) who were providing assistance to someone with a disability. The South Australia region had 12.1 per cent of its population (127,112 people) providing care to people with a disability.

Cultural Diversity

Australian-born people comprise 81.4 per cent of the population in the Far North (State Govt) region, higher than the equivalent group in the South Australia region, where 73.3 per cent of the population is Australian-born.

In 2011, there were 658 residents in the Far North (State Govt) region who had arrived in Australia in the previous five years (2.3 per cent of the total population). Of those new arrivals, the largest group were from South Africa, with New Zealand being the second most common birthplace. The largest groups of recent arrivals in the South Australia region were from India followed by England.

Table 1.5 Recent Arrivals, 2006 to 2011

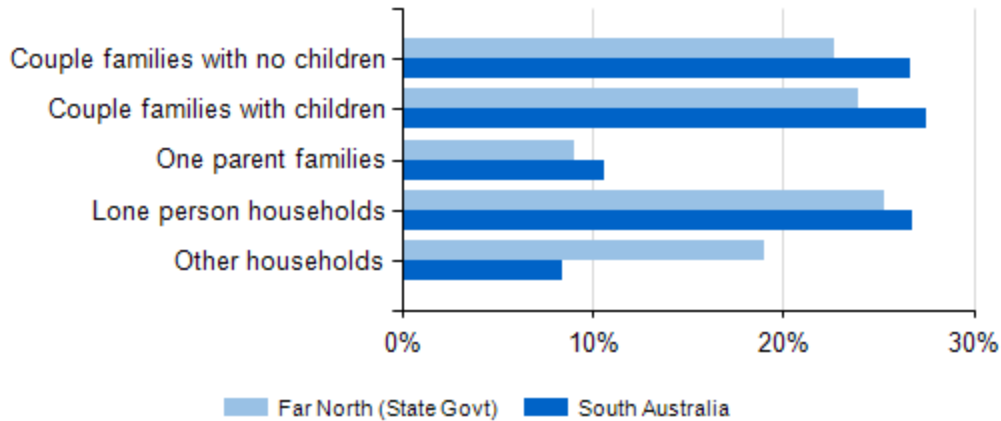
Birthplace	Far North (State Govt)		Birthplace	South Australia	
	No. of People	% of new arrivals		No. of People	% of new arrivals
South Africa	99	15.0	India	13,249	17.0
New Zealand	75	11.4	England	10,266	13.2
England	74	11.2	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	9,886	12.7
India	70	10.6	Philippines	3,635	4.7
Philippines	54	8.2	Malaysia	2,849	3.7
Total (Including all Other Countries)	658	100.0	Total (Including all Other Countries)	77,988	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

Families and Households

At the time of the 2011 Census, compared to the South Australia region, the Far North (State Govt) region had lower shares of couple families with no children, couple families with children, one parent families and lone person households.

Figure 1.2 Household Types, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

Projected Population

The population in the Far North (State Govt) region is forecast to grow by 1,173 people (4.0 per cent) from 2011 to 2026. By comparison, the South Australia region is projected to grow by 227,101 people (13.9 per cent) over the same period.

Table 1.6 Population Projection

Year	Far North (State Govt)			South Australia		
	Population	Number	%	Population	Number	%
2011	29,142	-	-	1,639,614	-	-
2016	29,603	461	1.6	1,715,299	75,685	4.6
2021	29,833	230	0.8	1,791,767	76,468	4.5
2026	30,315	482	1.6	1,866,715	74,948	4.2

Source: Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure; Department of State Development

One of the major issues for the future is the possibility of labour shortages due to an ageing population. Population projections based on the core working age population (15 to 64 years) show the working age population in the Far North (State Govt) region will decline by 135 people (0.7 per cent) between 2011 and 2026. Over the same period, the working age population of the South Australia region is forecast to grow by 66,437 people (6.1 per cent).

Table 1.7 Population Projection - 15-64 years

Year	Far North (State Govt)			South Australia		
	Population	Number	%	Population	Number	%
2011	19,992	-	-	1,087,362	-	-
2016	20,104	112	0.6	1,107,895	20,533	1.9
2021	19,866	-238	-1.2	1,129,698	21,803	2.0
2026	19,857	-9	0.0	1,153,799	24,101	2.1

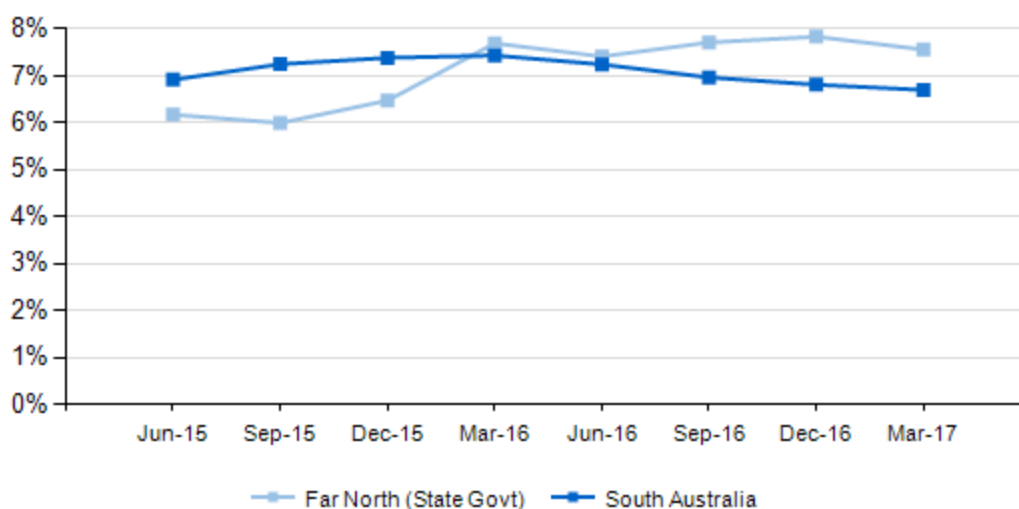
Source: Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure; Department of State Development

Labour Force

Employment and Unemployment

In the March quarter 2017 there were 1,162 unemployed people in the Far North (State Govt) region, with an estimated unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent. In the South Australia region the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent, representing 58,500 unemployed people.

Figure 2.1 Unemployment Rate Estimates



Source: Department of Employment; Small Area Labour Market Series; Department of State Development

There were 14,212 people employed in the Far North (State Govt) region in March 2017, a 4.2 per cent decrease from the previous year. Over the same period, the South Australia region experienced an increase in employment of 1.1 per cent (9,200 people).

Note: The Department of Employment does not provide total employment figures in their Small Area Labour Markets publication. As an indication of employment at the regional level, DSD calculates total employment by subtracting the total number of unemployed people from the total number of people in the labour force. The Department of Employment advises against this calculation for methodological reasons.

Key Populations

Table 2.1 shows unemployment rates and labour force participation rates for various key populations in the Far North (State Govt) region and the South Australia region. In general, the Far North (State Govt) region experiences lower unemployment rates and higher participation rates compared to the South Australia region

Table 2.1 Unemployment and Labour Force Participation Rates, 2011

	Unemployment Rates		Participation Rates	
	Far North (State Govt)	South Australia	Far North (State Govt)	South Australia
	%	%	%	%
Males	5.6	6.0	70.3	68.3
Females	4.5	5.5	61.5	57.4
Youth (15-24) Full-Time	10.6	13.7	38.7	28.6
Mature (45-64)	3.3	3.6	67.6	70.3
Aboriginal	16.7	18.0	40.9	46.6
People With Disabilities (15-64)	6.0	13.5	19.3	19.5
Total	5.1	5.7	66.2	62.7

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

Occupations

As counted at the 2011 Population Census, the Far North (State Govt) region had large proportions of residents employed as Technicians & Trades Workers and Professionals while the largest occupation groups in the South Australia region were Professionals and Clerical & Administrative Workers.

Figure 2.2 Employment by Occupation, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

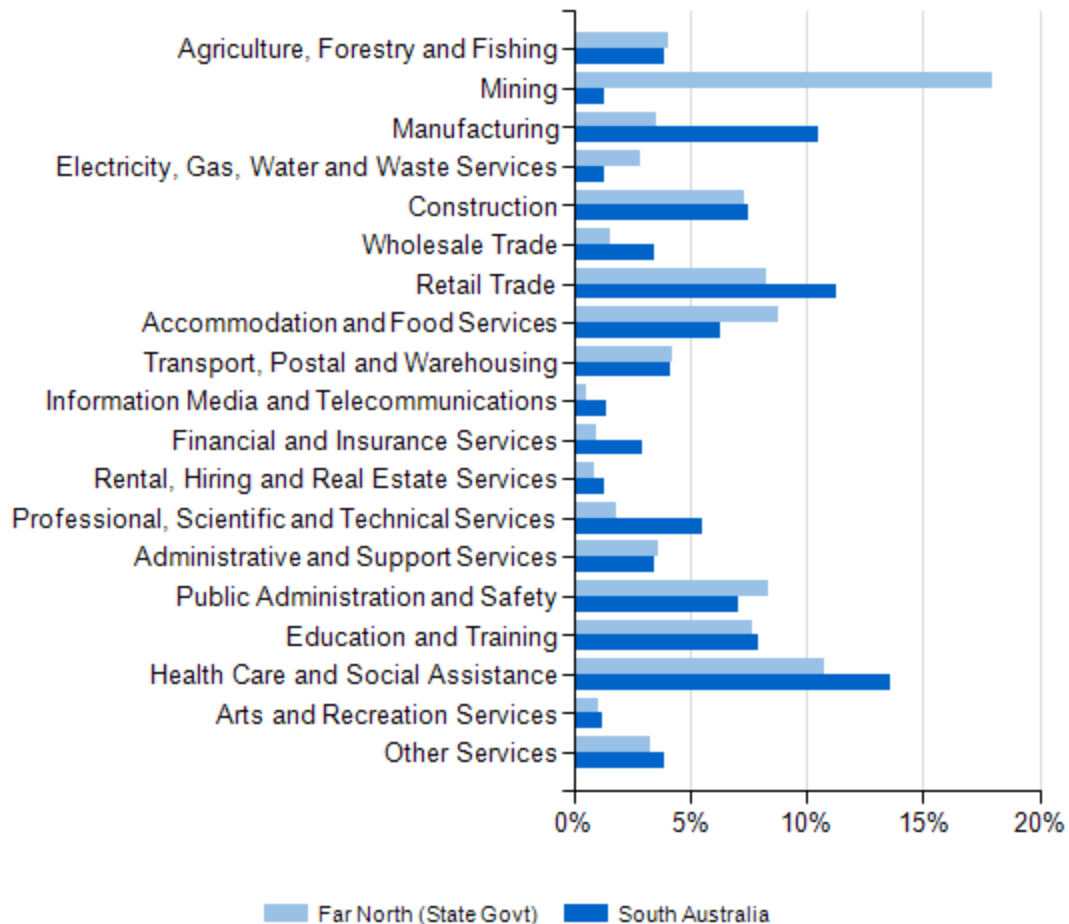
Between 2006 and 2011, the largest increase in employment in the Far North (State Govt) region occurred in people working as Technicians & Trades Workers, while the largest decrease occurred in Labourers. Over the same time period, the largest increase in employment in the South Australia region occurred in people working as Professionals, while the largest decrease occurred in Labourers.

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Industry

As counted at the 2011 Population Census, the Far North (State Govt) region had large proportions of residents employed in Mining and Health Care & Social Assistance while the largest industry groups in the South Australia region were Health Care & Social Assistance and Retail Trade.

Figure 2.3 Employment by Industry, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

Between 2006 and 2011, the largest increase in employment in the Far North (State Govt) region occurred in people working in Mining, while the largest decrease occurred in Public Administration & Safety. Over the same time period, the largest increase in employment in the South Australia region occurred in people working in Health Care & Social Assistance, while the largest decrease occurred in Manufacturing.

Overall employment in the Far North (State Govt) region increased by 8.4 per cent (989 jobs) between 2006 and 2011, while employment in the South Australia region increased by 7.2 per cent (49,458 jobs).

Apprentices and Trainees

The Far North (State Govt) region saw a decrease in the number of apprentices and trainees starting a contract of training in 2015. There were 147 apprentices and trainees in the region starting a contract of training in 2015 (1.4 per cent of all commencements in the South Australia region), a decrease of -20.5 per cent (-38 people) from the previous year. By comparison, the South Australia region recorded a decrease of -11.4 per cent (-1,311 people) over the same period.

Table 2.2 Commencing Apprentices and Trainees by Industry, 2015

	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	Persons	Share (%)	Persons	Share (%)
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	2	1.4	171	1.7
Mining	15	10.2	132	1.3
Manufacturing	6	4.1	1,218	11.9
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	5	3.4	61	0.6
Construction	17	11.6	1,302	12.8
Wholesale Trade	0	0.0	137	1.3
Retail Trade	16	10.9	2,055	20.2
Accommodation	18	12.2	1,285	12.6
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	1	0.7	166	1.6
Information Media & Telecommunication	0	0.0	67	0.7
Financial & Insurance Services	3	2.0	195	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	1	0.7	87	0.9
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0	0.0	114	1.1
Administrative & Support Services	37	25.2	1,532	15.0
Public Administration & Safety	2	1.4	259	2.5
Education & Training	3	2.0	344	3.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	5	3.4	262	2.6
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.0	136	1.3
Other Services	14	9.5	671	6.6
Total	147	100.0	10,194	100.0

Source: NCVET, Apprentice and Trainee Collection (Unpublished data); Department of State Development

Administrative & Support Services was the largest employer of new apprentices and trainees in the Far North (State Govt) region in 2015, accounting for 25.2 per cent of all new apprentices and trainees in the region. The largest employing sector in the South Australia region was Retail Trade (with 20.2 per cent).

People beginning an apprenticeship or traineeship in both the Far North (State Govt) region and the South Australia region were more likely to be aged between 15 and 24 years, with 70.7 per cent and 72.6 per cent of all new apprentices and trainees being aged between 15 and 24 years in the respective regions.

Education and Training

School Achievements and Qualifications

Residents of the Far North (State Govt) region have lower levels of school achievement compared to the South Australia region. In the Far North (State Govt) region, 37.0 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 years have completed year 12 (or equivalent), compared to 54.2 per cent in the South Australia region.

Table 3.1 Highest Year of School Completed*, 2011

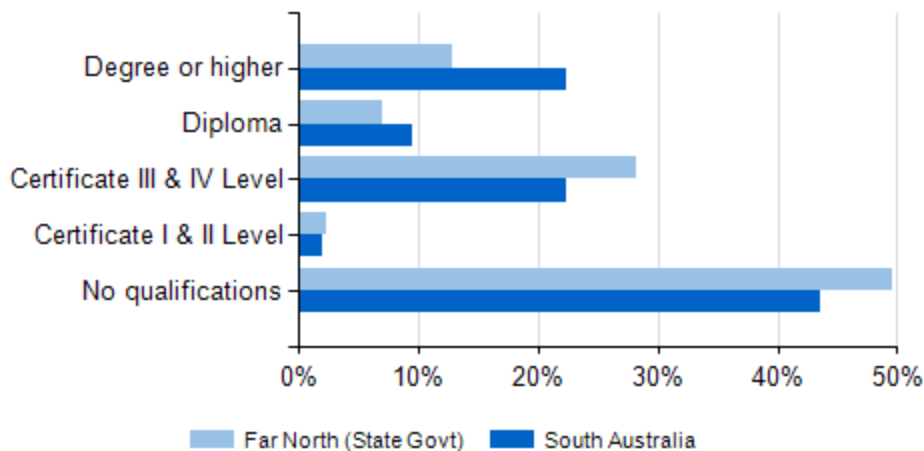
Level of Schooling	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Year 12	5,831	37.0	498,415	54.2
Year 11	4,157	26.4	197,372	21.4
Year 10 or below	5,623	35.7	219,063	23.8
Did not go to school	161	1.0	5,335	0.6
Total Population	15,772	100.0	920,185	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

* For those people aged 15 to 64 years who have left school

As can be seen in figure 3.1, the share of the Far North (State Govt) region labour force with Certificate III or higher qualifications was lower than that of the South Australia region, with 48.2 per cent in the Far North (State Govt) region compared to 54.4 per cent.

Figure 3.1 Highest Non-School Qualification, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

The most common qualification in the Far North (State Govt) region was Certificate III & IV qualification (with 28.2 per cent), while in the South Australia region it was Degree or higher qualification (with 22.4 per cent). The Far North (State Govt) region had higher proportions of people without qualifications than in the South Australia region; 49.5 per cent of the labour force in the Far North (State Govt) region had no post-school qualifications, compared to 43.6 per cent in the South Australia region.

There is a recognised connection between disadvantage in the work force and educational achievement; unemployment rates are often higher for those people with lower levels of qualifications, or without qualifications.

The labour force participation rate for those people in the Far North (State Govt) region without Certificate III or higher qualifications was 58.2 per cent compared to 84.9 per cent for people with Certificate III or higher qualifications. In the South Australia region people without Certificate III or higher qualifications had a labour force participation rate of 53.3 per cent compared to 77.6 per cent

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for people with.

Table 3.2 Labour Force Status of People Without Qualifications, 2011

Labour Force Status	Far North (State Govt)	South Australia
	Persons	Persons
Employed	6,142	316,397
Unemployed	475	27,402
Labour Force	6,617	343,799
Total	11,373	645,050
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	8.0%
Participation Rate	58.2%	53.3%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; Department of State Development

The unemployment rate for people without Certificate III or higher qualifications in the Far North (State Govt) region was 7.2 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent of people with compared to the South Australia region with an unemployment rate of 8.0 per cent for people without and 3.8 per cent for people with Certificate III or higher qualifications.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

There were 2,643 people in the Far North (State Govt) region attending vocational education and training (VET) in 2015 (2.4 per cent of VET students in the South Australia region), and 109,520 people in the South Australia region. Included in the student population were students with a disability (7.9 per cent in the Far North (State Govt) region and 10.0 per cent in the South Australia region) and Indigenous students (24.8 per cent in the Far North (State Govt) region and 3.7 per cent in the South Australia region).

Table 3.3 VET Students, Key Populations, 2015

Level of Schooling	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous	656	24.8	4,039	3.7
Disability	208	7.9	10,916	10.0
Youth (15-24 years)	870	32.9	37,889	34.6
Mature (45 years or older)	579	21.9	25,685	23.5
Total Students	2,643	100.0	109,520	100.0

Source: NCVET, National VET Provider Collection (Unpublished data); Department of State Development

As can be seen in the following table, 53.5 per cent of all VET students in the Far North (State Govt) region have left school and are employed, compared to 56.0 per cent of VET students in the South Australia region. The Far North (State Govt) region has higher proportions of VET students who are still at school (6.7 per cent) compared to the South Australia region (5.0 per cent).

Table 3.4 VET Students, School and Employment Status, 2015

	Far North (State Govt)		South Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Still at school	177	6.7	5,481	5.0
Left School				
Employed part-time	387	17.0	22,794	22.9
Employed Total	1,413	62.0	61,331	61.5
Unemployed	401	17.6	24,676	24.7
Not in labour force	152	6.7	9,165	9.2
Total Left School	2,279	100.0	99,749	100.0
Total Students (incl. school and employment not known)	2,643	100.0	109,520	100.0

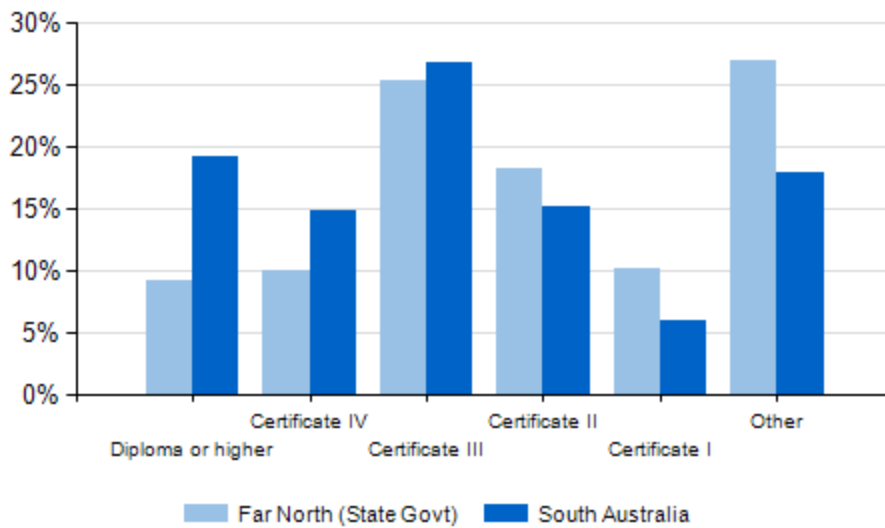
Source: NCVET, National VET Provider Collection (Unpublished data); Department of State Development

The unemployment rate of the VET students in the Far North (State Govt) region who had left school was 22.1 per cent, lower the South Australia region figure of 28.7 per cent. Of employed VET students in the Far North (State Govt) region, 27.4 per cent were employed part-time, while in the South Australia region 37.2 per cent of employed VET students were working part-time.

The most common level of study for VET students in the Far North (State Govt) region was at the Certificate III level (25.4 per cent of VET students), while in the South Australia region was at the Certificate III level (26.8 per cent of VET students).

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Figure 3.2 VET Students by Level of Study, 2015

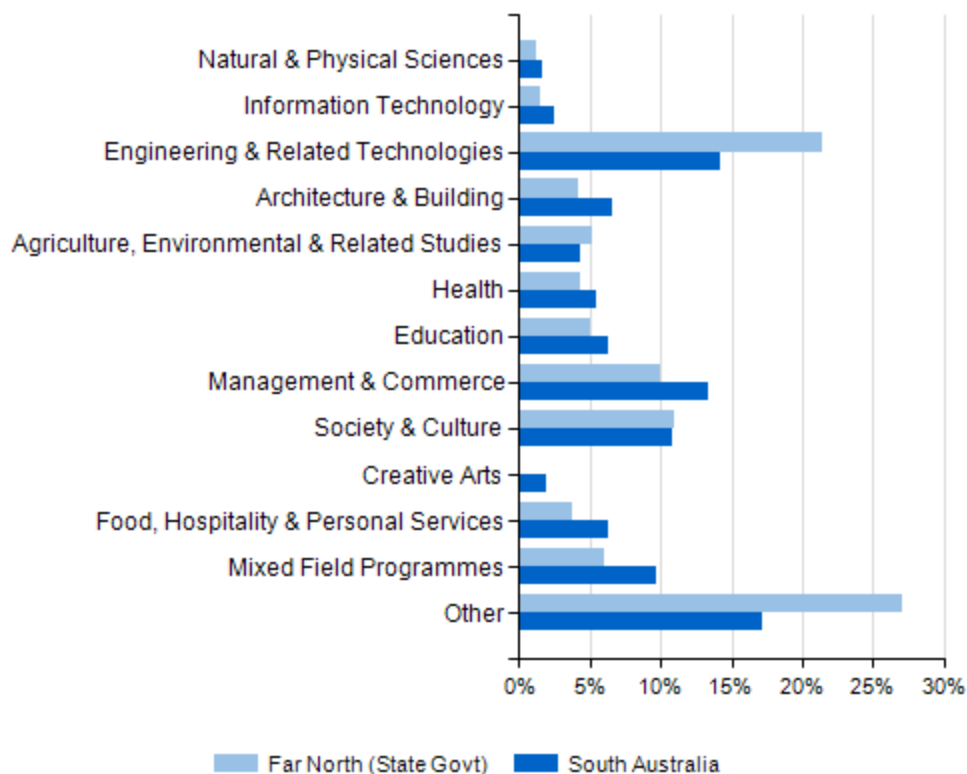


Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection (Unpublished data); Department of State Development

Compared to the South Australia region, the Far North (State Govt) region has higher shares of VET students at Certificate II levels and lower shares of VET students at Diploma or higher, Certificate IV and Certificate III levels.

Students studying in Engineering & Related Technologies were the largest group of VET students in the Far North (State Govt) region in 2015, with Society & Culture rating next. In the Far North (State Govt) region the largest groups of students were also studying Engineering & Related Technologies, with Management & Commerce rating next highest.

Figure 3.3 VET Students by Field of Education, 2015



Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection (Unpublished data); Department of State Development

Additional Information

Selected Regions

435059389 - Unincorporated Whyalla

435159459 - Unincorporated Pirie

435201830 - Flinders Ranges (DC)

435206090 - Port Augusta (C)

435209529 - Unincorporated Flinders Ranges

435250250 - Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC)

435251330 - Coober Pedy (DC)

435256970 - Roxby Downs (M)

435259589 - Unincorporated Far North

Notes

1. The regions included in this document are based on the Australian Standard Geographic Classification regions for South Australia. For more information please see [Australian Standard Geographic Classification regions for South Australia](#).
2. All data contained in this report is for South Australia (unless otherwise stated).
3. Census data is self-reported by individuals and as a result may produce unexpected outcomes.

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