Journeying through VET:
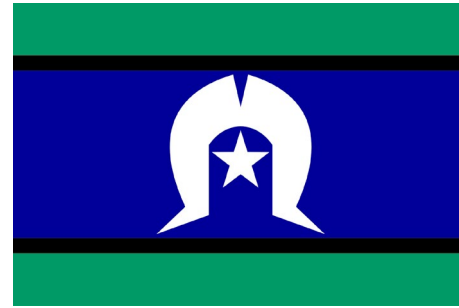## a case study of foundation skills learners

Michelle Circelli and Zhenyuan Li
2022 No Frills Conference

We were interested in….

▪ Who is doing foundation skills programs?

▪ What are their further study and employment outcomes?

▪ What does their journey through VET look like?

Our focus today…

- What are the movements of foundation skills students within the VET system? That is, what does their journey through VET look like?

- What are the completion patterns of those who undertake foundation skills programs?

Scope

Qualification level	Nationally recognised courses up to certificate II with the exception of higher-level courses that are dedicated LLND programs, such as Certificate III/IV in Spoken and Written English; Certificate III in General Education for Adults; Certificate III in EAL (English as an Additional Language)
Fields of education	1201 – General Education Programmes 1205 – Employment Skills Courses 0799 – Other Education The Course in Underpinning Skills for Industry Qualifications will also be included in the scope, although it is currently coded under FOE 0703 (Curriculum and Education Studies). It was previously coded under FOE 0799. 0203 – specifically the Certificate I/II in Information, Digital Media and Technology 0915 – specifically the Certificate I in Fundamental English for Speakers of Other Languages
Excluding secondary school students	Enrolments excluded based on the following criteria: - Data submitter is a board of study, or - Training organisation type is a school, or - Student is still enrolled in secondary school
Residency criterion	Domestic students only, that is to say, international fee-paying students were excluded.

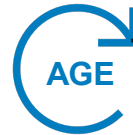# What is the journey of foundation skills learners through VET?
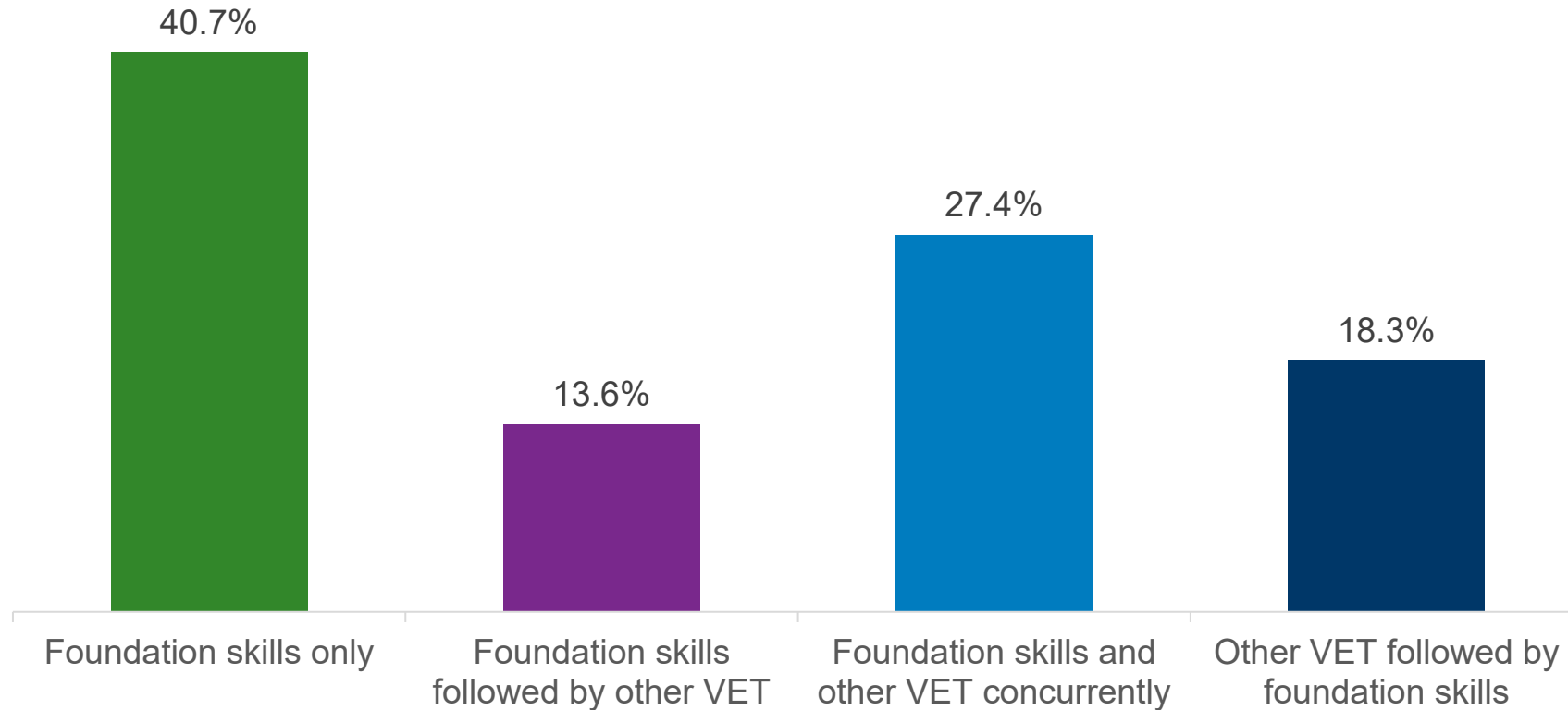
Category	Value
Foundation skills only	40.7%
Foundation skills followed by other VET	13.6%
Foundation skills and other VET concurrently	27.4%
Other VET followed by foundation skills	18.3%
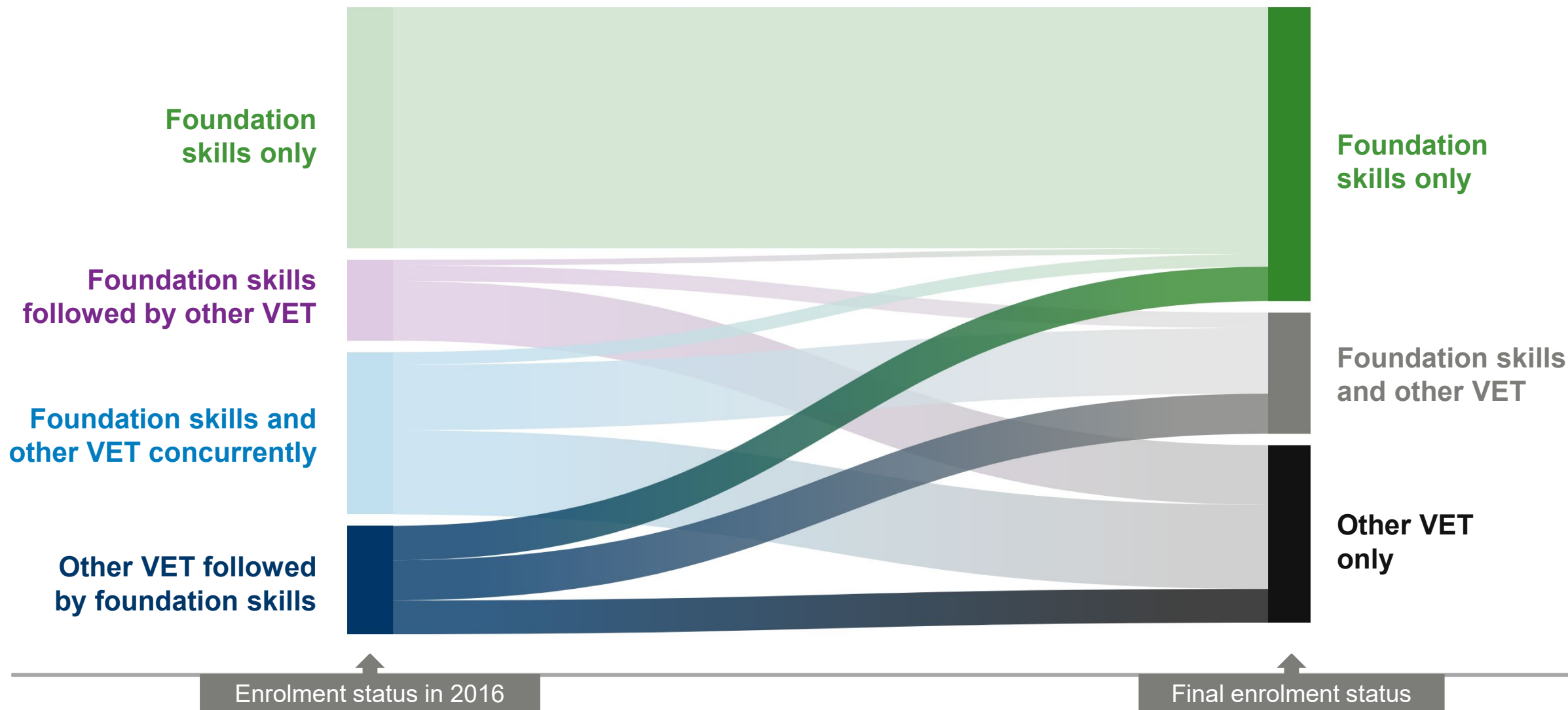
Foundation skills only

Foundation skills followed by other VET

1. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
2. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
3. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
4. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
5. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER
6. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
7. LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
8. LLND/EMP, then OTHER
9. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
10. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
11. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
12. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
13. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
14. LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER

## Foundation skills and other VET concurrently

1. LLND/EMP/OTHER
2. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
3. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
4. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
5. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER
6. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
7. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
8. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
9. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER
10. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
11. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
12. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
13. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
14. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
15. LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER

Other VET followed by foundation skills

1. OTHER, then LLND/EMP
2. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
3. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
4. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER
5. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
6. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
7. OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
8. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
9. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP
10. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then LLND/EMP/OTHER
11. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then LLND/EMP, then OTHER
12. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER
13. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP
14. OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER, then OTHER, then LLND/EMP/OTHER

Completions, by end 2019…

■ Around 53% had completed a nationally recognised program (LLND or employment skills or other VET)

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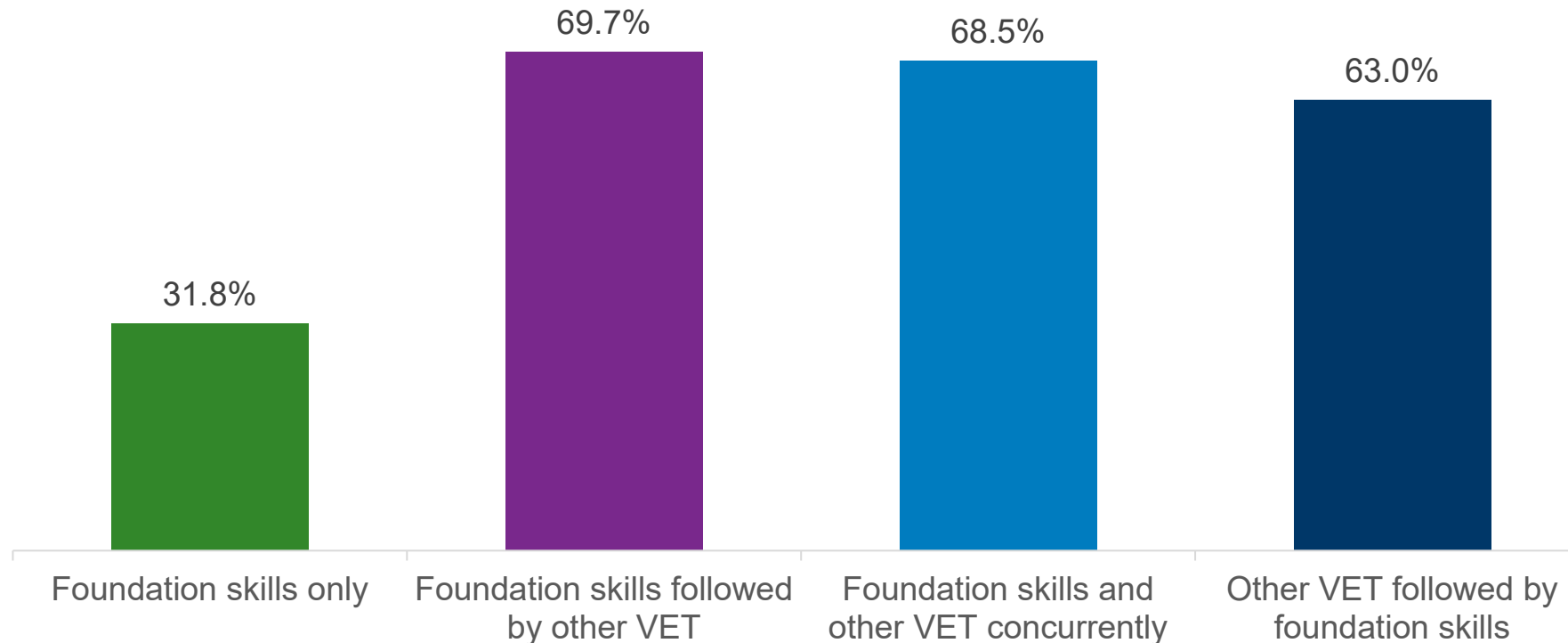
Key take-aways…

- The journey through VET for foundation skills learners is often complex.

- Learners who enrol in foundation skills programs *in some combination* with other VET programs **are more likely to complete** *any* **nationally recognised VET program** than those who *only* enrol in foundation skills programs.

- Many reasons why learners enrol in foundation skills programs: understanding their underlying intention or motivation for enrolling must also be considered when gauging a program's success or otherwise.

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