



Education System in Australia

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Abstract

Among developed countries, Australia has a structured, flexible and high-quality education system. This research aims to analyze the education system in Australia, which includes education levels, the national curriculum, and the role of the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education. This research uses a literature study method with a descriptive-analytical approach, by collecting data from various academic and educational policy sources. The results show that the Australian education system consists of five main levels: primary, secondary, vocational, higher education, and non-formal education and vocational training. The national curriculum is developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority with clear achievement standards, flexibility and a student-centered orientation. In addition, the system provides structured academic and professional pathways and plays a role in providing industry-based vocational training. Australia is also one of the top destinations for international students due to its high educational standards. Consequently, the Australian education system emphasizes flexibility, practical skills and high academic quality. The diverse education structure allows students to choose a learning path according to their interests and potential, making Australia one of the countries with the best education system.

INTRODUCTION

Australia is one of the developed countries with uniqueness and diversity in many ways such as culture, population, society, economy, climate, geography, and history (Juita & Wardhani, 2021; Nadia Nauli et al., 2024; Oktaviani & Amra, 2024; Pamulaan, 2025; Pana et al., 2015). Geographically, Australia is located between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean with an area of approximately 7,686,850 km² and has a population of more than 20 million.

Basically, Australia is a superpower in the Pacific, where it is very important for it to play its role in the region. As a country that has significant economic development, high quality in various fields such as education and training institutions, has advanced infrastructure and is one of the countries with the highest use of technology in the world (Ilham et al., 2025; Michie, 2019; Sofiani et al., 2025). Australia had become the leading developed country in the South Pacific region by the time Britain granted independence to its former colony and withdrew in the 1970s.

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Australian schooling begins with kindergarten and continues from grade 1 to grade 12 (Dewi et al., 2023; Isri, 2015). Basically, the education system in Australia can be classified into five strata (levels), namely: a. Primary School; kindergarten to grade 6 or grade 7, b. Secondary or High School; grade 7 or 8 to grade 10, c. Vocational Education and Training and senior high school/senior secondary school/college; grade 11 to grade 12, d. Higher Education (University). Higher Education (University)

Australia is also one of the world's leading providers of education and training for international students, including English language training. More than 400,000 students from around 200 countries receive an Australian education every year. Courses are offered both in Australia and overseas.

METHODS

The research was conducted using the literature method, also known as literature study (Akmal et al., 2024; Engkizar et al., 2023, 2024; Guspita et al., 2025; Istiqamah et al., 2024; Mustafa et al., 2025; Wati et al., 2025). This method involves collecting data from various sources such as books, scientific journals, theses, and other sources available online (The focus of this research is on the education system raised by using written data. This research is a descriptive analysis, in which the author systematically explains the material and provides explanations to make it easier for readers to understand. After carefully collecting information about the quotes or theories of the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education education system in Australia, we analyze the various sources that have been included in this article to draw conclusions (Engkizar et al., 2021, 2025; Febriani et al., 2023).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

History of Australia

Geographically, the continent of Australia was once joined to Asia, but over millions of years the bond dissolved and the 'Great Southern Land', along with its plants and animals, formed its own way into its own natural niches, protecting it from the flesh-eating predators that could have encroached on the chain of islands that now separates Australia from the Asian continent. However, all traces of the ancient bridge did not disappear completely. It would only take a 100-foot shift in the ocean floor to rejoin Australia with Papua New Guinea (Anita & Chairunisa Muh.Said, 2025; Rezni et al., 2024; Wijayanti, 2015).

Primary School, kindergarten to grade 6 or 7. Secondary or High School, grade 7 or 8 to grade 10. Vocational Education and Training and Senior High School or Senior Secondary School. Collage, consisting of grade 11 to grade 12. Higher Education (University).

In Australia, state and territory governments are responsible for primary and secondary school education and for preparing the curriculum. However, the need to prepare a national school curriculum was agreed by all state and territory governments in 2008. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority was established by the Australian Parliament with the enactment of the Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008. One of the functions of the Assessment and Reporting Authority is to prepare a national school curriculum with content and achievement standards (Australian Curriculum). The Assessment and Reporting Authority also seeks to incorporate other strategic directions as identified in the Melbourne Declaration.

Philosophically, the Australian curriculum is designed to develop successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. The philosophical basis of the Australian curriculum is expressed in the objectives of the

Melbourne Declaration. The Assessment and Reporting Authority (2012) sets out the structure of the Australian Curriculum equally for eight learning areas (subjects): English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Arts, Technology and Languages. The structure of the curriculum document is the same for Primary Education the structure is different for Years 11 and 12 (Senior Secondary School).

According to the Assessment and Reporting Authority, achievement standards and content descriptions are essential elements of learning areas or subjects in the curriculum. The achievement standards for each subject describe learning by learners for their respective grade levels. The focus of achievement standards is for the development of teaching-learning programs by teachers. Teachers can monitor learner learning and assess learner progress and achievement with the use of work samples. Content descriptions describe the content taught by teachers and learned by learners. Content descriptions include knowledge, understanding and skills for the respective grade level. There are also elaborated content options for teachers to decide which content to use for teaching.

Education Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education Australian Qualifications Framework

Australia's education system is flexibly structured and standardized through the Australian Qualifications Framework, a national framework that governs and integrates the various levels of education from primary to tertiary. Introduced in 1995, the Australian Qualifications Framework serves to ensure that the education system in Australia has continuity, allowing students to transition from one level of education to another with a more structured pathway that is recognized both nationally and internationally (Bahri et al., 2024; Wheelahan, 2011).

The Australian Qualifications Framework consists of ten levels of qualifications, covering vocational education certificates, diplomas, to doctoral degrees. At the entry level, the Australian Qualifications Framework provides Certificates I-IV, which are usually obtained through vocational education such as Technical and Further Education Next, there are Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas, which are options for students who want to acquire specific skills before entering the workforce or continuing to higher academic levels. Meanwhile, higher levels include Bachelor Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Masters, and Doctorates, which are generally obtained through universities and other higher education institutions.

The main advantage of the Australian Qualifications Framework is its ability to provide flexibility for students to switch education pathways according to their interests and needs. In addition, the Australian Qualifications Framework ensures that education standards in Australia remain high and are widely recognized, both domestically and internationally. With the Australian Qualifications Framework, individuals who have obtained certain qualifications can continue their education to a higher level or directly enter the workforce with the appropriate competencies.

The third theme is spiritual activities. According to informants, this spiritual activity aims to develop character religion, and curiosity. An example of this spiritual activity is the cult which is held every night, and also attending lecture studies such as Islam pedia, tasqif. This spiritual activity will increase student knowledge and can also increase piety, so character religious will be attached to the student's personality. This theme was conveyed by informants as excerpts from the below:

Technical and Further Education

In addition to the academic pathways available at universities, Australia also has a vocational education system known as Technical and Further Education. Technical and Further Education is an education and training system managed by the government in various states and territories, with the main objective of equipping students with practical skills that can be directly applied in the world of work. The

programs offered by Technical and Further Education cover a wide range of fields such as business, information technology, hospitality, healthcare, construction, and creative arts.

Technical and Further Education institutions offer a range of vocational education qualifications recognized under the Australian Qualifications Framework, from Certificate I-IV, Diploma, to Advanced Diploma. These programs are more oriented towards industry needs and often include practical-based training, internships or hands-on work experience. This makes Technical and Further Education graduates better prepared to enter the workforce compared to graduates from pure academic pathways. In addition, the Technical and Further Education system also allows students to continue their education to university level through credit recognition schemes, so they don't have to start their studies from scratch.

One of the main advantages of Technical and Further Education is the more affordable fees compared to universities, as well as more flexible learning methods, including part-time classes and online-based courses. This makes Technical and Further Education an attractive option for those who want to acquire specific skills in a shorter period of time compared to the academic route at university.

Comparison between the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education

The Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education have complementary roles in the Australian education system. The Australian Qualifications Framework serves as a national framework that links all levels of qualifications, ensuring that individuals can easily move from one level of education to another. The Australian Qualifications Framework covers a wide range of education levels, from vocational certificates to doctoral degrees, giving students the flexibility to choose the education pathway that best suits their needs. This shows that togetherness and character education have a reciprocal relationship.

Technical and Further Education, on the other hand, focuses more on vocational education and practical training, aiming to equip students with industry-relevant skills. Programs in Technical and Further Education are designed to be more applicable and allow graduates to enter the workforce directly. However, through the Australian Qualifications Framework system, Technical and Further Education graduates can also continue their education to university level if they want a higher academic qualification.

The main difference between the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education lies in the focus and purpose of education. The Australian Qualifications Framework covers both academic and vocational pathways, while Technical and Further Education focuses more on mastering employability skills. In addition, tuition fees at Technical and Further Education are lower compared to universities, making it a more affordable option for those looking to gain skills in a shorter period of time. However, Technical and Further Education also has limitations, especially in terms of access to higher academic degrees, although the Australian Qualifications Framework credit recognition system helps to address this.

The education system in Australia is designed to provide flexibility and accessibility for students in determining the education pathway that suits their needs. The Australian Qualifications Framework serves as a national framework that integrates different levels of education, allowing for easy transition between academic and vocational education. Technical and Further Education, on the other hand, offers more employability-oriented vocational education, with shorter and more affordable programs than universities.

While the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education have differences in approach and purpose, they complement each other in

ensuring that Australian education graduates have competencies that match the needs of industry and the global job market. With the Australian Qualifications Framework Technical and Further Education graduates also have the opportunity to pursue higher education, creating a more inclusive and adaptive system. Therefore, the Australian education system, with the integration of the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education, is considered one of the best education systems in the world, as it is able to produce a skilled and highly competitive workforce.

CONCLUSION

The education system in Australia is one of the most advanced and structured in the world, with an approach that balances academic education and practical skills. Education in Australia consists of several main levels, namely primary, secondary, vocational education and training and higher education. With a national curriculum developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, the education system is designed to shape individuals who are successful, confident, creative and knowledgeable in various fields of study. The Australian government also pays great attention to vocational education through the Australian Qualifications Framework and Technical and Further Education. These two systems play a role in preparing graduates with skills that match industry needs, thereby increasing the competitiveness of the Australian workforce at the global level. In addition, Australia is recognized as one of the top destinations for international students due to its high education standards, adequate facilities and innovative learning environment. A flexible and competency-based system, education in Australia allows learners to choose the pathway that best suits their interests and talents. This provides great opportunities for individuals to develop their full potential. In addition, inclusive and multicultural education policies reflect the diversity of Australian society, which enriches the learning experience for students. Overall, Australia's education system offers various advantages that can serve as a reference for other countries, including Indonesia. With an approach that emphasizes quality, innovation and practical skills, Australia has built an education system that not only prepares individuals for the world of work, but also encourages them to become active, critical-thinking citizens who contribute to social and economic progress.

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