

Post-school Education and Training in South Africa

Pathways, qualifications, and organisations making up the system

What is the NQF?

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Act No. 58 of 1995 provided the development and implementation of the National Qualification Framework (NQF). The aim of the NQF is to create a single system, which maps out all education and training provision in the country. This includes basic education, higher education, vocational training, and occupational training. As shown in the figure, *Pathways through South Africa's National Qualification Framework*, the framework is designed to ensure that any potential learner has a point of entry into the system and a pathway to follow, regardless of their current level of educational attainment.

What are the components of the NQF?

There are 10 levels to the NQF. These 10 levels are divided into 3 sub-frameworks: (1) General and Further Education and Training Qualifications sub-framework, (2) Higher Education Qualifications sub-framework, and (3) Occupational Qualifications sub-framework.

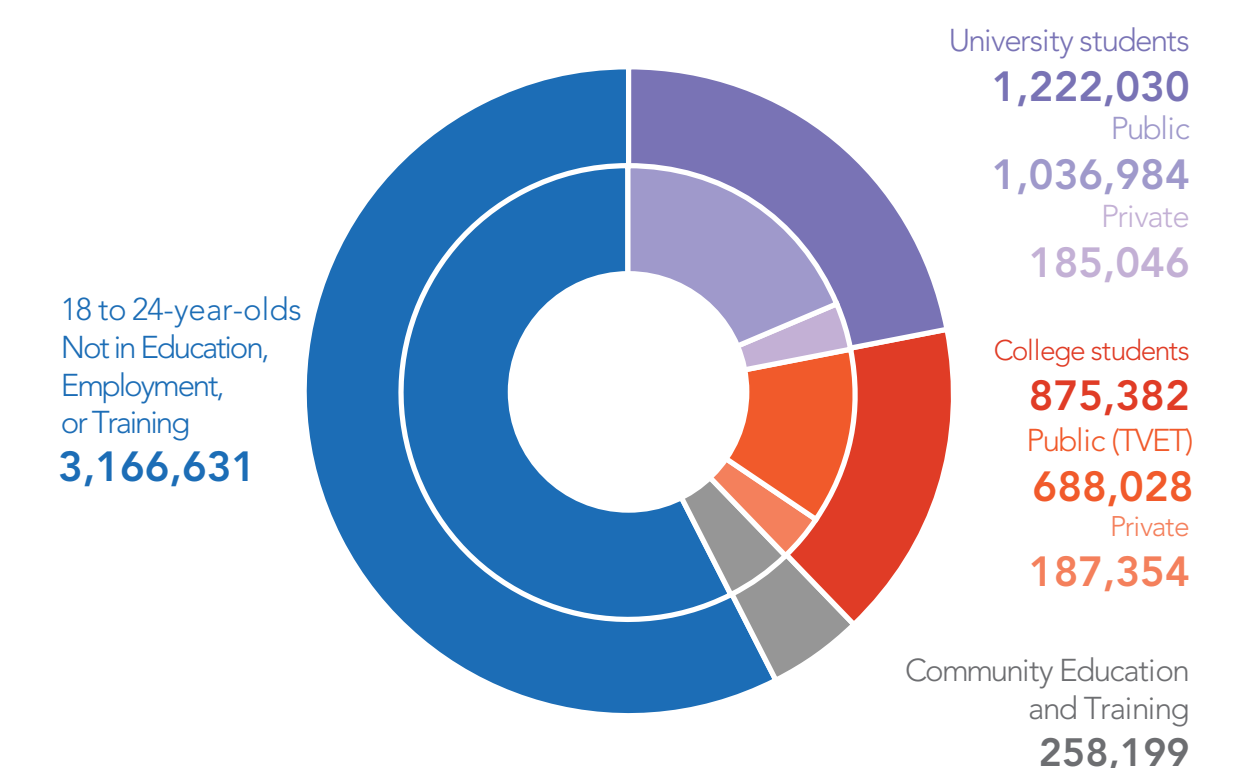
Who are the providers of NQF aligned qualifications?

Each sub-framework has its own set of education and training institutions who act as the providers of qualifications aligned with the NQF. These institutions include schools (grade R to 12), public universities, private universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, private colleges, Community Education and Training (CET) colleges, and Skills Development Providers (SDPs).

Which national departments govern education and training provision in South Africa?

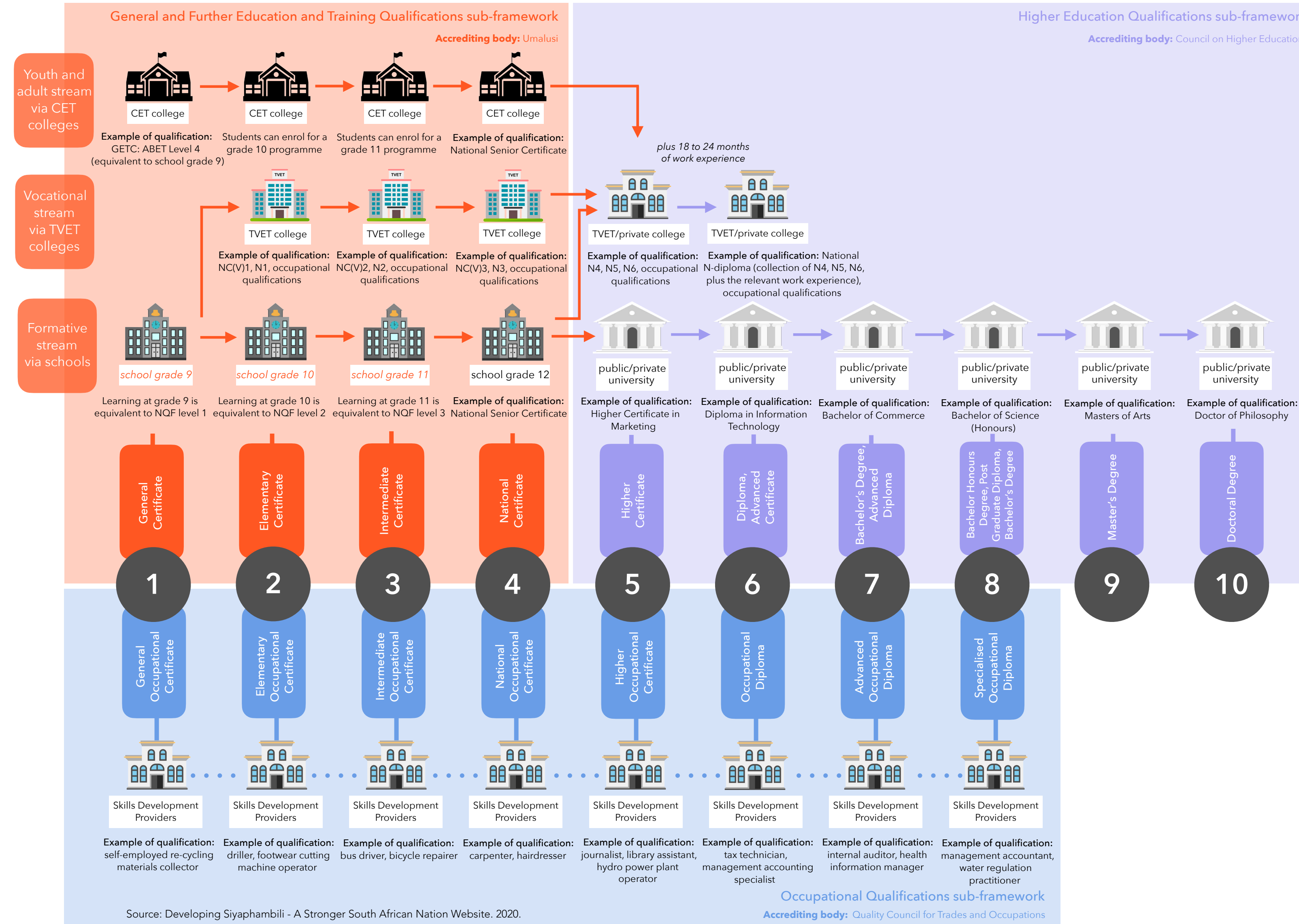
The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) are the two national departments responsible for governing education and training provision in the country. DBE is responsible for education provision in the school system, and DHET for education provision outside of the school system.

Number enrolled by institution type for 2018



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training, 2020. Statistics on Post School Education and Training in South Africa: 2018. CET figure is 2017 data. NEET figure calculated from General Household Survey 2018 data, authors own calculation.

Pathways through South Africa's National Qualification Framework



Source: Developing Siyaphambili - A Stronger South African Nation Website, 2020.

What is Post-school Education and Training (PSET) and which national department does it fall under?

PSET refers to learning that takes place outside of basic education - where basic education refers to all learning from grade R to 12. PSET in South Africa, therefore, consists of all education and training provision for those who have completed school, those who did not complete their schooling, and those who never attended school.¹ The DHET, formed in 2009, is responsible for bringing together all PSET institutions.

Which institutions make up PSET?

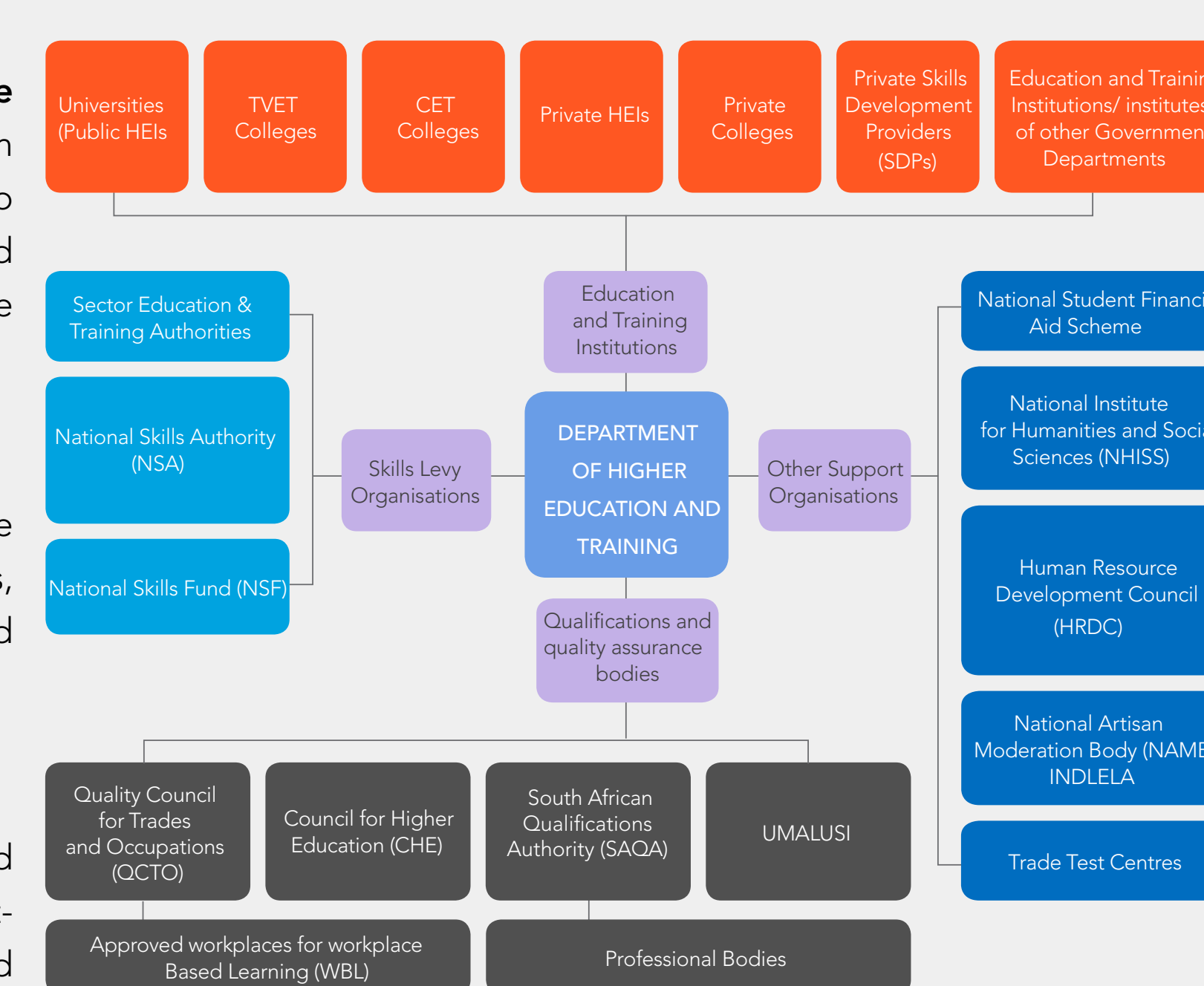
PSET is made up of a diverse range of institutions and institutional types. More specifically, the PSET system includes: (1) education and training institutions, (2) skills levy organisations, (3) qualifications and quality assurance bodies, and (4) other support organisations.

What is the PSET system trying to achieve?

All of these institutions in the PSET system work together as a single and coordinated system to expand equitable access, improve the quality of post-school learning, and build a stronger relationship between education and training institutions and the workplace.

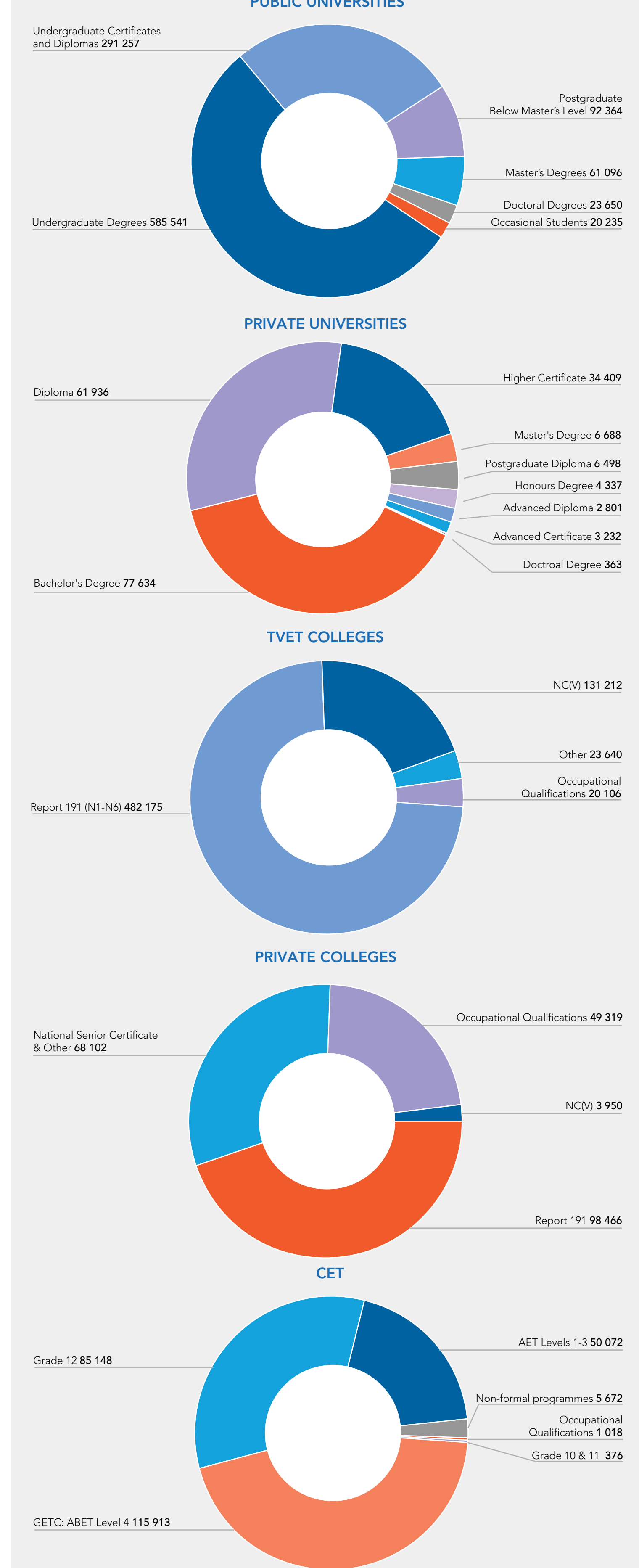
1 Department of Higher Education and Training, 2013. White Paper for Post-school Education and Training.

The Post-school Education and Training (PSET) system



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training, 2019. Post-school Education and Training Monitor: Macro-indicator trends.

Distribution of learners enrolled by qualification type for 2018



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training, 2020. Statistics on Post School Education and Training in South Africa: 2018. CET figure is 2017 data.