

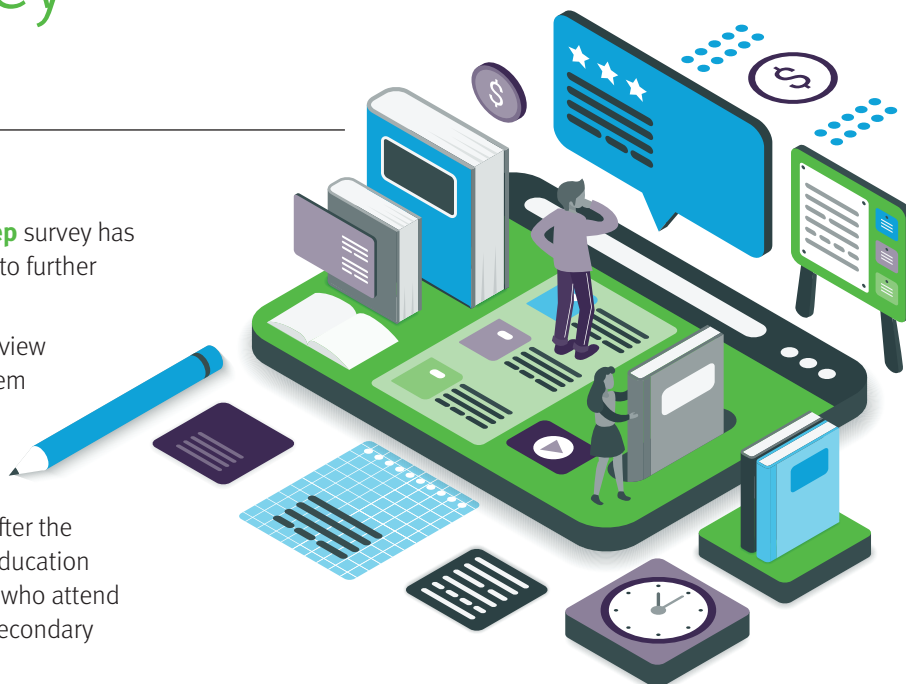
# 2021 Next Step survey

## Destinations of Year 12 completers from 2020 in Queensland

Since 2005, the Department of Education's **Next Step** survey has captured information about the journey from school to further study and employment for Year 12 completers.

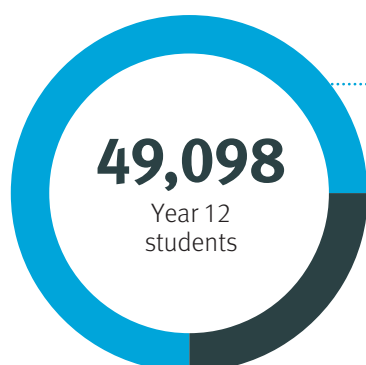
Insights gained from **Next Step** assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

The survey is conducted approximately six months after the end of the school year, timed to occur after tertiary education places for the year have been accepted. All students who attend state, Catholic and independent schools, and TAFE secondary colleges in Queensland are included.



## 2021 Next Step survey

Year 12 students from 2020 were  
included in the 2021 survey  
from Queensland schools and colleges



**36,741**  
respondents

**74.8%**  
response rate

22,084 State schools

7361 Catholic schools

7210 Independent schools

86 TAFE

## Find out more



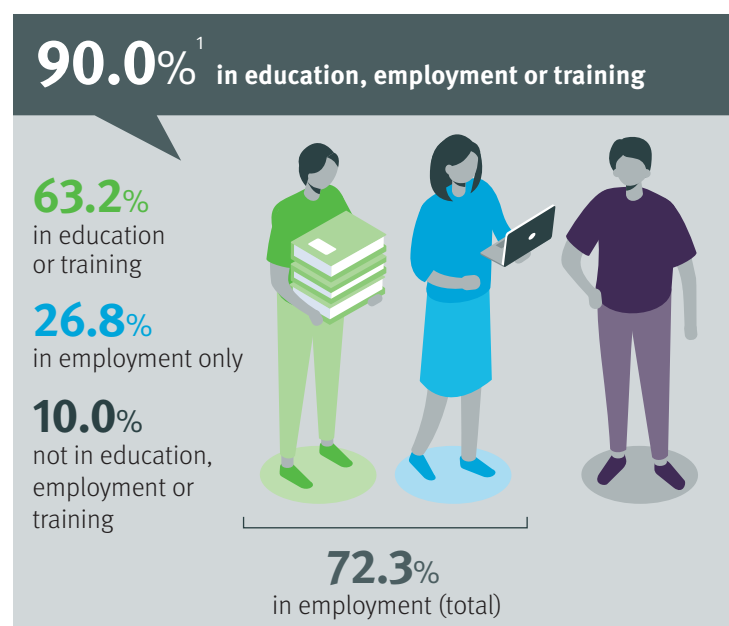
For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website [www.qld.gov.au/year12completers](http://www.qld.gov.au/year12completers)



**Queensland  
Government**

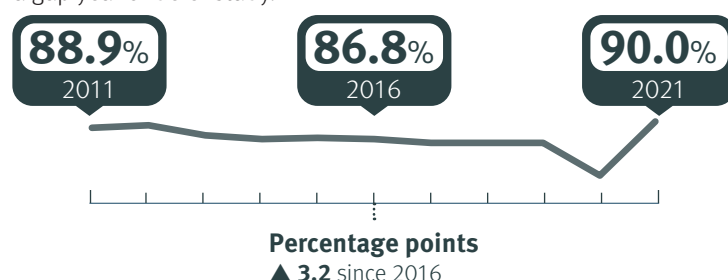
# Post-school engagement

## Engagement in education, employment or training



All Year 12 completers were assigned to a **main destination**. This categorisation system prioritises education related destinations over other destinations. Those who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination.

In 2021 engagement was almost 10 percentage points higher than in 2020. This was driven by marked increases in the proportion of Year 12 completers who were in employment only or in apprenticeships and traineeships. This indicates improved economic conditions supported by targeted government stimulus and recovery packages. The data also shows a greater reluctance amongst graduates to take a gap year or defer study.



## Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

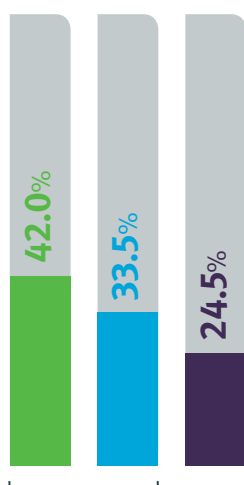


in employment only



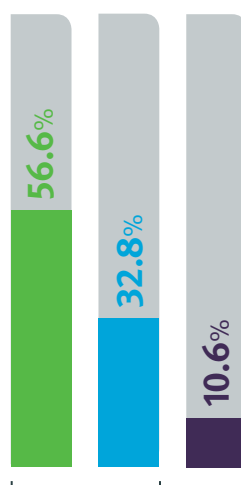
not in education, employment or training

### Indigenous



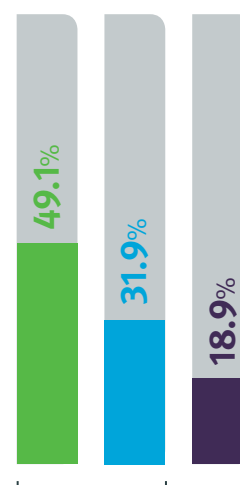
**75.5%**  
of 1704  
**Indigenous** respondents<sup>2</sup>  
were engaged

### Regional and Remote



**89.4%**  
of 12,372  
**regional and remote**  
respondents<sup>3</sup> were engaged

### Disadvantaged



**81.1%**  
of 5294  
respondents from  
**disadvantaged** areas<sup>4</sup>  
were engaged

<sup>1</sup> Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point

<sup>2</sup> Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (60.0%)

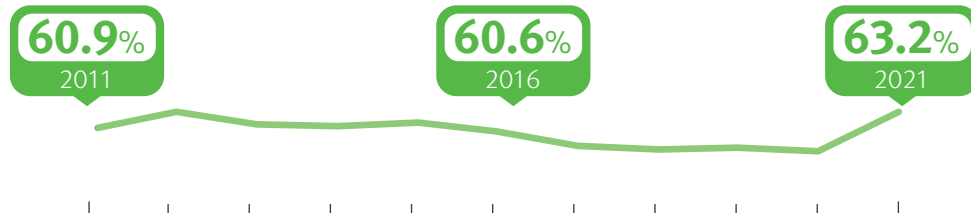
<sup>3</sup> Students who were not living in a 'Major Cities' category area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure

<sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

# Main destination

## In education or training

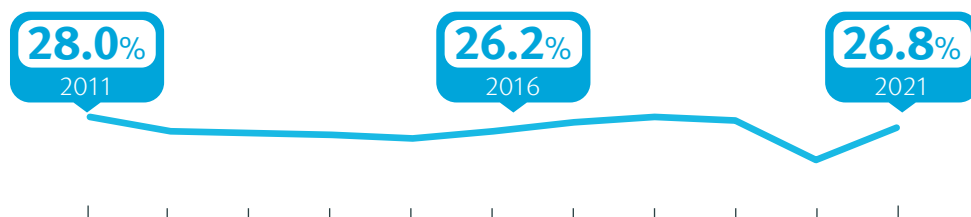
Percentage point change



**Bachelor Degree** study remains high and is the most popular destination for Year 12 completers. All education and training categories increased since 2020 with a marked increase in apprenticeships and traineeships. This corresponds with targeted government support and stimulus in areas such as construction as well as a decline in the proportion of graduates choosing to take a gap year or deferring study.

<b>Bachelor Degree</b>	41.2%
▲ 1.5 since 2016	
<b>VET Certificate</b>	10.9%
▼ 1.3 since 2016	
<b>Apprenticeship</b>	8.0%
▲ 1.7 since 2016	
<b>Traineeship</b>	3.1%
▲ 0.6 since 2016	

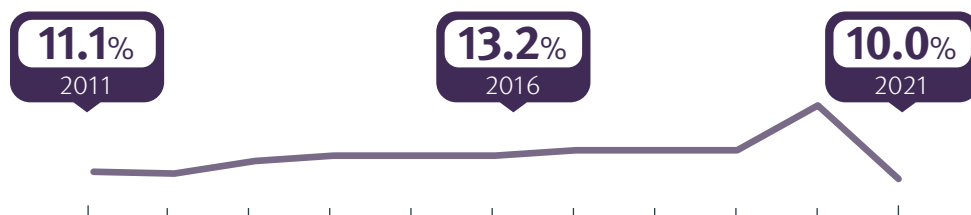
## In employment only



The increase in the proportion of Year 12 completers in employment indicates that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy is less severe on young people than it was a year ago. Those in employment only have almost recovered from pre-pandemic levels (27.7% in 2019).

<b>Full-time employment</b>	9.2%
▲ 0.7 since 2016	
<b>Part-time employment</b>	17.7%
▼ 0.1 since 2016	

## Are not in education, employment or training



<b>Seeking work</b>	7.4%
▼ 3.3 since 2016	
<b>Not in the labour force, education or training</b>	2.6%
▲ 0.2 since 2016	

The proportion of Year 12 completers who were not in education, employment or training but who deferred a place at university or were taking a gap year declined by 4.1 percentage points to 36.6%. A further 8.4% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

### Females

**91.8%** engaged in work or study



**More likely than males** to be undertaking Bachelor Degree study  
**47.5% compared to 34.4%**

### Males

**88.1%** engaged in work or study



**More likely than females** to be undertaking employment-based training as an apprentice  
**14.4% compared to 2.2%**

Destination:

# Education and training

**63.2%**  
23,211  
of Year 12 completers  
continuing in education  
or training

▲ 2.6 since 2016



## Where are they studying?

▲ Percentage point change



University

**68.6%**

▲ 1.2 since 2016

TAFE

**17.1%**

▲ 0.5 since 2016

Private training provider

**8.9%**

▼ 1.7 since 2016

Other institution

**5.4%**

▲ 0.1 since 2016

## In education or training

Females

**66.2%**

More likely than  
**males** to study in the  
fields of Health or  
Society and Culture

Males

**59.9%**

More likely than  
**females** to study in the  
field of Engineering and  
Related Technologies

## What are they studying?<sup>5,6</sup>



Health

**18.6%**  
4313

1724

Nursing

638

Rehabilitation Therapies

252

Pharmacy



Society and Culture

**18.5%**  
4300

1159

Behavioural Science

919

Law

699

Human Welfare

Engineering and  
Related Technologies**15.8%**  
3657

860

Electrical &amp; Electronic

552

Mechanical &amp; Industrial

484

Automotive

Management  
and Commerce**13.4%**  
3117

1889

Business &amp; Management

429

Sales &amp; Marketing

333

Banking &amp; Finance

## How are they studying?



enrolled in a double degree

**16.8%**

studying full-time

**73.7%**

combining study with paid employment

**72.0%**

<sup>5</sup> Field of study categories are based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (broad, narrow and detailed).

<sup>6</sup> Both fields of study are counted where students are enrolled in a double degree in different study fields.

Destination:

# Employment (total)

**72.3%**  
26,580  
of Year 12 completers  
were in paid employment  
▲ 9.7 since 2016



## Which industries are they working in?

◆ Percentage point change



**Accommodation  
& Food Services**

**33.5%**

▼ 1.1 since 2016



**Retail Trade**

**23.4%**

▼ 2.0 since 2016



**Construction**

**8.9%**

▲ 0.9 since 2016



**Health Care  
& Social  
Assistance**

**6.0%**

▲ 1.6 since 2016



**Education &  
Training**

**4.3%**

▲ 0.7 since 2016

## In paid employment

**Females**

**73.7%**



**More likely than  
males** to be working  
as Sales Workers or  
Community and Personal  
Service Workers

**Males**

**70.9%**



**More likely than  
females** to be working  
as Technician and Trades  
Workers or Labourers

## What jobs are they doing?<sup>8</sup>



**Sales Workers**

**33.5%**  
8912

▼ 3.4 since 2016

**5971** Sales Assistants & Salespersons  
**2799** Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers  
**57** Sales Support Workers



**Community and  
Personal Service  
Workers**

**20.1%**  
5340

▲ 1.6 since 2016

**3014** Hospitality Workers  
**717** Sports & Fitness Workers  
**664** Child Carers



**Labourers**

**17.3%**  
4591

▼ 0.1 since 2016

**1764** Food Preparation Assistants  
**562** Construction & Mining Labourers  
**468** Farm, Forestry & Garden Workers



**Technicians and  
Trades Workers**

**14.1%**  
3755

▼ 1.4 since 2016

**519** Food Trades Workers  
**513** Electricians  
**488** Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners

## How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

**66.4%**



working **full-time**

**27.8%**



**combining work** with **further study**

**62.9%**

<sup>7</sup> This section examines the labour market outcomes for all Year 12 completers. The 72.3% figure includes 26.8% who were only working and 45.5% who were both working and studying. Those who were working and studying are reported as studying for their main destination.

<sup>8</sup> Occupation categories are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (major and minor groups).

Destination:

# Not in education, employment or training

**10.0%**  
3668

of Year 12 completers  
were not in education,  
employment or training

▼ 3.2 since 2016

## Main reason not studying

Percentage point change



Undecided and  
considering  
options

**14.8%**

▼ 0.1 since 2016



Looking for work,  
apprenticeship  
or traineeship

**12.5%**

▼ 2.2 since 2016



Not interested/  
already finished  
study

**11.3%**

▲ 1.8 since 2016



Disability

**9.9%**

▲ 4.9 since 2016



Waiting for  
course/training  
to begin

**8.8%**

▲ 1.6 since 2016

## Not in education, training or employment

Females

**8.2%**



More likely than  
males to take a gap  
year but intend to  
study in the future

Males

**11.9%**



More likely than  
females to prioritise  
getting a job or  
apprenticeship over  
further study

## Worked since leaving school



**27.2%**  
999

### Main reason left previous job

**239** Seasonal/temporary job

**109** Was laid off/sacked

**216** Not satisfied with the job

**102** Moved location

## Taking a gap year



**35.6%**  
1304

### Post-gap priority

**390** University study

**249** Work

**313** Other study

**178** Undecided

## Received a QTAC offer to study



**11.8%**  
434

### Response to offer

**216** Deferred

**66** Waiting to start

**87** Withdrew from course

**61** Declined

## Not seeking work



**25.8%**  
946

### Main reason not seeking work

**389** Disability or health

**103** Future study commitment

**111** Waiting for job to start

**70** Don't feel ready for work

## Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**

**74.2%**  
2722



Deferred a university offer

**5.9%**  
216



Are **waiting for employment or study to commence**

**13.0%**  
477

i

**23.8%** of job seekers believe that the main reason they have been unsuccessful in getting a job is due to **lack of experience, skills or qualifications** and a further **15.8%** say that there are **not enough jobs available**.