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# nextstep 2009

A report on the  
destinations of Year 12  
completers from 2008  
in Queensland





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destinations of Year 12  
completers from 2008  
in Queensland**

Department of **Education and Training**

**Queensland the Smart State**



## Acknowledgments

The *Next Step* team gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the members of the *Next Step* survey reference group and the organisations they represent:

Independent Schools Queensland

Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Education Queensland

Queensland Studies Authority

Queensland University of Technology

Queensland Secondary Principals' Association

Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools of Queensland

Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (Qld branch)

Department of Education and Training

Office of the Government Statistician

The *Next Step* team also acknowledges the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Melbourne for its review and endorsement of this report.

The *Next Step* team extends its sincere thanks to the many thousands of Queensland Year 12 graduates who gave up their time to complete surveys and participate in telephone interviews.

This research is funded by the Queensland Government.

# Foreword



Today's Queensland school students will become tomorrow's leaders and innovators.

The choices that Year 12 graduates make about their future are vital, and it's important to know how well schools are preparing them to make the transition to adult life.

To help answer this, the Queensland Government commissioned the fifth annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12.

The survey, conducted in March–May 2009, was designed to gain a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland's 2008 Year 12 graduates.

Almost 35 000 young people from state, Catholic and independent schools and TAFE secondary colleges completed the survey.

Results showed that the majority of young Queenslanders are moving from school into constructive study and work activities, in keeping with the 'learning or earning' objective of the Government's Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF).

This report details the findings from the 2009 *Next Step* survey. The information from these surveys is used to look at ways of improving services available for young people.

My thanks to the young Queenslanders who completed the survey and the researchers and school system personnel who made it possible.

I commend this report to you as a valuable source of information for anyone with an interest in the transitions of young people from school to further education, training and employment.



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## Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics — the central statistical authority for the Australian Government. The ABS provides the official national source of statistics for use by the government and the community.
AQF	The Australian Qualifications Framework (commonly known as the AQF) is a unified system of national qualifications in schools, vocational education and training (TAFEs and private providers) and the higher education sector (mainly universities).
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia — measures remoteness in terms of access along the road network from 11 340 populated localities to four categories of services centres.
ASGC	The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical geographical classification, defined by the ABS, which is used in the collection and dissemination of official statistics. The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography and thereby enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.
CATI	Computer-assisted telephone interviewing — a type of telephone interviewing in which the interviewer keys answers to questions as they are received onto a data entry keyboard.
Casual work	Casual workers do not have permanency or paid leave entitlements (such as sick leave and holiday leave). They usually receive a higher rate of pay to compensate for this.
DET	Department of Education and Training.
ETRF	Education and Training Reforms for the Future is a Queensland Government policy direction for the future of all stages of education (preschool through to senior schooling), vocational education and training, and employment.
FT	Full-time.
Full-time work	The ABS definition of an employed person who usually works 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).
IBD	The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a two-year international curriculum resulting in a qualification that is widely recognised by the world's leading universities. In order to be awarded the IBD, a student must meet defined standards and conditions set out by the International Baccalaureate Organisation. For further information regarding IBDs go to The International Baccalaureate Organisation website: <a href="http://www.ibo.org/diploma/">www.ibo.org/diploma/</a>
Indigenous	Refers to people who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
LBOTE	Language background other than English is now used nationally in preference to 'non-English speaking background' (NESB). For the purpose of this report, international visa students have been excluded from this category.
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs — a body comprising state, territory, Commonwealth and New

Zealand Ministers with responsibility for the portfolios of education, employment, training and youth affairs, with Papua New Guinea and Norfolk Island having observer status. MCEETYA's areas of responsibility include all sectors of education, training, employment and youth affairs.



MCEETYA zones	A geographic classification based on type of population centre, size of population and ARIA score.
NILF	Not in the labour force — refers to people who are not working and not looking for work.
OGS	Office of the Government Statistician — the Queensland Government's lead statistical agency, which regularly conducts surveys with individuals, households and businesses to collect official statistics about issues of interest to government and to people in Queensland.
OP	Overall positions provide a statewide ranking of students based on achievement in Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) subjects studied for the Queensland Certificate of Education. To receive an OP, students must study a certain number and pattern of QSA subjects, complete Year 12, and sit for the Queensland Core Skills Test.
PT	Part-time.
Part-time Work	The ABS definition of an employed person who usually works less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).
QCE	Queensland Certificate of Education — Queensland's senior school qualification, which is awarded to eligible students usually at the end of Year 12. The QCE recognises broad learning options and offers flexibility in what, where and when learning occurs. For further information regarding the QCE, go to the Queensland Studies Authority website <a href="http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au">www.qsa.qld.edu.au</a>
QCIA	Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement — this certificate recognises the schooling achievements of students who have impairments or difficulties in learning. Before 2008, the certificate was known as the Certificate of Post-Compulsory School Education. For further information regarding the QCIA, go to the Queensland Studies Authority website <a href="http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au">www.qsa.qld.edu.au</a>
QSA	Queensland Studies Authority — the Queensland agency responsible for syllabus development, assessment and the transition to tertiary education and post-school destinations for Queensland students from preschool to Year 12.
Regional Queensland	Includes all ABS Statistical Divisions except Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton. See Appendix 2, Figure A2A.
SAT	School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow high school students — typically those in Years 11 and 12 — to undertake a training qualification and work with an employer as a paid employee while studying for their senior statement.
SD	Statistical Division — an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) defined area which represents a large, general purpose, regional type geographic area. SDs represent relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic



units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas have been developed as a way of assessing socioeconomic status across the population. SEIFA enable areas in Australia to be ranked according to four different indexes. One of these is the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSED). IRSED scores provide a method of determining and comparing levels of social and economic disadvantage in given areas at a given point in time.
SES	Socioeconomic status — a relative position in the community determined by occupation, income and amount of education.
South-East Queensland	Includes the ABS Statistical Divisions of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton. See Appendix 2, Figure A2B.
TAFE	Technical and Further Education — a publicly funded post-secondary organisation that provides a range of technical and vocational education and training courses and other programs.
VET	Vocational education and training — post-compulsory education and training, excluding degree and higher level programs delivered by further education institutions, which provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. VET also includes programs which provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs.