



# The nextstep report 2005

on the destinations of  
Year 12 school leavers  
in Queensland



**Queensland  
Government**

Department of  
Education and the Arts



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# Foreword



Queensland's school students of today will become the leaders and innovators of the *Smart State* of tomorrow.

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 this transition to adult life.

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

The survey, conducted in April–June 2005, was designed to gain a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school leavers.

Almost 24 000 young people from 405 government, 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).

Those that went on to some form of education or training usually combined it with part-time employment, while

the most common reason given for not studying was to have a break and consider one's options.

The survey will be repeated each year with Year 12 school leavers, and will be complemented by a longitudinal survey that will track the longer-term destinations of a sample of these young people.

The information from these surveys will then be used to look at ways of improving services available for young people.

I would like to thank 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 who has an interest in the transitions of young people from school to further education, training and employment.

Rod Welford MP  
Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts



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## Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	OESR	Office of Economic and Statistical Research
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework	OGS	Office of the Government Statistician
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing	OP	Overall Position (indicator of academic performance ranking used for university entrance)
CPCSE	Certificate of Post-Compulsory School Education	PT	Part-time
ETRF	Education and Training Reforms for the Future	QCE	Queensland Certificate of Education
FP	Field Position	QSA	Queensland Studies Authority
FT	Full-time	SAT	School-based apprenticeship and traineeship
LBOTE	Language Background Other Than English (this term is now used nationally in preference to NESB)	SD	Statistical division
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs	SES	Socioeconomic status
NILF	Not In the Labour Force	SSD	Statistical sub-division
		TAFE	Technical and Further Education
		VET	Vocational Education and Training