



The nextstep Survey 2005

on the destinations of
Year 12 school leavers

Regional Report

Mackay



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Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the members of the reference group and the organisations they represent:

The Association of Independent Schools of Queensland

Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Education Queensland

Queensland Studies Authority

Department of Employment and Training

Queensland Secondary Principals' Association

Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools of Queensland

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

Officers of the Department of Education and the Arts coordinated the project, designed the questionnaire, boosted the response rate through marketing the survey and arranging outreach to Indigenous young people, and assisted throughout the fieldwork and preparation of the report.

The authors also acknowledge the extensive role played by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, which conducted the fieldwork and prepared the data file for analysis.

We also extend our 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 Department of Education and the Arts, Queensland.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The objectives of the Next Step survey were to collect information on the post-school destinations of Year 12 students in Queensland in order to assist:

- Parents and the wider public to know the achievements of students and to appreciate the range of options available to students
- Schools to review and plan their services for students, especially in the senior years of schooling
- School systems to review their education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment
- Training bodies, universities, business and industry, local government and regional planners to plan their services.

METHODOLOGY

The Next Step Destination Survey 2005 was conducted by the Office of the Government Statistician (OGS) on behalf of the Department of Education and the Arts. Data were analysed and written up for this report by the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Melbourne.

The survey targeted 39 458 students who completed Year 12 in Queensland in 2004. Young people were surveyed five months after completing Year 12. On completion of the survey, a total of 23 650 completed surveys were received, representing a response rate of 59.9%. Of the responses, 11 010 were completed by returned mail, 1 286 through the website, and 11 354 by telephone.

Regional reports are based on statistical divisions and subdivisions used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The response rate for this region was 60.7 per cent.

Students were allocated to this region on the basis of the location of the school they attended in 2004. This data is shown in the Appendix (Table AA).

MAIN FINDINGS FOR MACKAY (800 respondents)

Destinations (table 2)

- 64.5 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 in Mackay in 2004 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.
- The most likely destination was university (25.6 per cent), followed by campus-based VET programs (9.3 per cent).
- The vast majority of University students were studying full-time (96.6 per cent).
- About seven in ten VET students were studying full-time (70.2 per cent).
- 29.6 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (16.8 per cent) or trainee (12.8 per cent).
- 35.8 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (28.1 per cent), looking for work (5.9 per cent) or neither in the labour force nor studying (1.8 per cent).

Sex differences in education and training destinations (table 2)

- Females were much more likely than males to enter university (32.2 per cent compared with 17.9 per cent of males), and females and males were approximately equally likely to enrol in campus-based VET programs.
- Males were much more likely than females to commence an apprenticeship (33.4 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent) whereas females were more likely to commence a traineeship (16.4 per cent compared with 8.4 per cent).
- Females were somewhat more likely than males to be in employment, in either full-time or part-time/casual jobs (32.9 per cent compared with 22.2 per cent).

Studying and working (table 3)

- About one in three university and higher level VET students combined study with part-time/casual employment (39.5 per cent and 25.8 per cent respectively).
- Respondents who were not in study were more likely to be in full-time jobs than in part-time/casual employment (47.0 per cent and 31.6 per cent respectively).

Field of study (table 5)

- Three fields of study - Management and Commerce, Health and Society and Culture - accounted for more than half of all student destinations (54.1 per cent) while, Engineering and Related Technologies, Education and Natural and Physical Sciences accounted for a further 28.2 per cent of enrolments.
- Females were much more likely to enter study in Management and Commerce, Health, Society and Culture and Education.
- Males significantly outnumbered females in Engineering and Related Technologies, Information Technology and Architecture and Building courses.

Earning

- Including apprentices and trainees, 46.4 per cent of the respondents were full-time workers. (table 2)
- Among respondents not in education or training, females were more likely than males to be working in part-time/casual jobs (37.3 per cent compared with 23.3 per cent). (table 6)
- The survey also showed high proportions of respondents working in just two industry areas – Retail Trade and Hospitality. Between them, these two categories accounted for 46.2 per cent of school completers in employment. (table 8)

Reasons for not continuing in study (tables 9, 10)

- This survey indicates that the main reasons why young people do not continue in study are because they are taking time to consider their options (34.1 per cent) or they do not feel ready for further study (18.5 per cent)
- Work commitments are the third most important reason (13.3 per cent), followed by financial impediments. Many graduates were concerned with the cost of studying (9.2 per cent) while others were working in order to finance future study (8.1 per cent).
- Mackay respondents were slightly less likely to nominate reasons associated with taking a break from study than their Queensland counterparts, and slightly more likely to nominate work commitments as preventing them from continuing in study.

Destinations by Year 12 studies (table 11)

- 35.4 per cent of Year 12 graduates left secondary school with a VET qualification, while a small number of Year 12 graduates (0.6 per cent) were school-based apprentices and trainees (SATs).
- Graduates with a VET qualification were much less likely to enrol in university (8.8 per cent compared with 34.8 per cent of the non-VET cohort). However they tended to balance lower levels of transition to university with much higher rates of transition to employment-based training (41.7 per cent compared with 22.8 per cent).
- Graduates with a VET qualification were as likely as their non-VET counterparts to enter employment with no further education and training (29.7 per cent and 27.0 per cent respectively).

Destinations by Indigenous Status (table 12)

- The survey data suggest that Indigenous Year 12 completers were less likely than their non-Indigenous peers to enrol at university and more likely to enrol in on-campus VET or commence a traineeship.

Destinations by socioeconomic status (table 14)

- Although the number of graduates in each destination category are too small to allow firm conclusions to be made, the data suggest that graduates from higher socioeconomic quartiles transferred to university at a higher rate than those from lower socioeconomic quartiles.

Differences from State patterns (figure 2)

- A lower rate of transfer than the state average was evident for university entrance and higher level VET.
- A higher rate than the state average was evident for transfer to apprenticeships and traineeships.
- 52.1 per cent of Year 12 completers in Mackay were working in the four occupational categories of sales assistants, food handlers, clerks/secretaries and waiters, compared with 63.4 per cent statewide (table 7).
- Year 12 completers in Mackay were less likely to be working in the two industry categories of Retail Trade and Hospitality than their counterparts elsewhere (46.2 per cent compared with 61.1 per cent) (table 8).

REGIONAL REPORT

MACKAY

Main destinations

All respondents were categorised into their main destination, be it study or work, as outlined in Table 1. Students (in university or VET) were assigned to the study categories regardless of their labour force status.

Table 1 **Categorisations used to determine Main Destination**

Higher Education	
University (degree)	Respondents studying at degree level. N.B. Some are also in the labour market
VET categories	
VET Cert IV+	Respondents studying Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma (excluding apprentices and trainees). N.B. Some are also in the labour market. This category is referred to as higher level VET in the report.
VET Cert III	Respondents studying Certificate III (excluding apprentices and trainees). N.B. Some are also in the labour market.
VET Cert I-II	Respondents studying Certificate I or II (excluding apprentices and trainees). This category also includes 274 respondents in an "unspecified" VET certificate and 358 with an unknown course level. N.B. Some are also in the labour market. This category is referred to as lower level VET in the report.
Apprentice	Working and in employment-based apprenticeship.
Trainee	Working and in employment-based traineeship.
No further education and training	
Working full-time	Working full-time (35 hours or more) and not in a study or training destination. This includes people with part-time jobs that total 35 hours or more.
Working part-time/casual	Working part-time or casual (fewer than 35 hours) and not in a study or training destination.
Seeking work	Looking for work and not in a study or training destination (Unemployed in the Australian Bureau of Statistics classification).
Not studying and not in the labour force	Not in study or training, not working and not looking for work.

Table 2 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by sex, Mackay, 2005

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
University (degree)	66	17.9	139	32.2	205	25.6
VET Cert IV+	6	1.6	15	3.5	21	2.6
VET Cert III*	3	0.8	11	2.5	14	1.8
VET Cert I-II*	23	6.3	16	3.7	39	4.9
Apprentice	123	33.4	11	2.5	134	16.8
Trainee	31	8.4	71	16.4	102	12.8
(VET Total)	186	50.5	124	28.6	310	38.9
Working full-time	55	14.9	79	18.3	134	16.8
Working part-time/casual	27	7.3	63	14.6	90	11.3
Seeking work	26	7.1	21	4.9	47	5.9
Not studying/ not in the labour force	8	2.2	6	1.4	14	1.8
Total	368	100.0	432	100.0	800	100.0

* Students not in apprenticeships or traineeships

Figure 1 Main destinations of Year 12 completers, Mackay, 2005

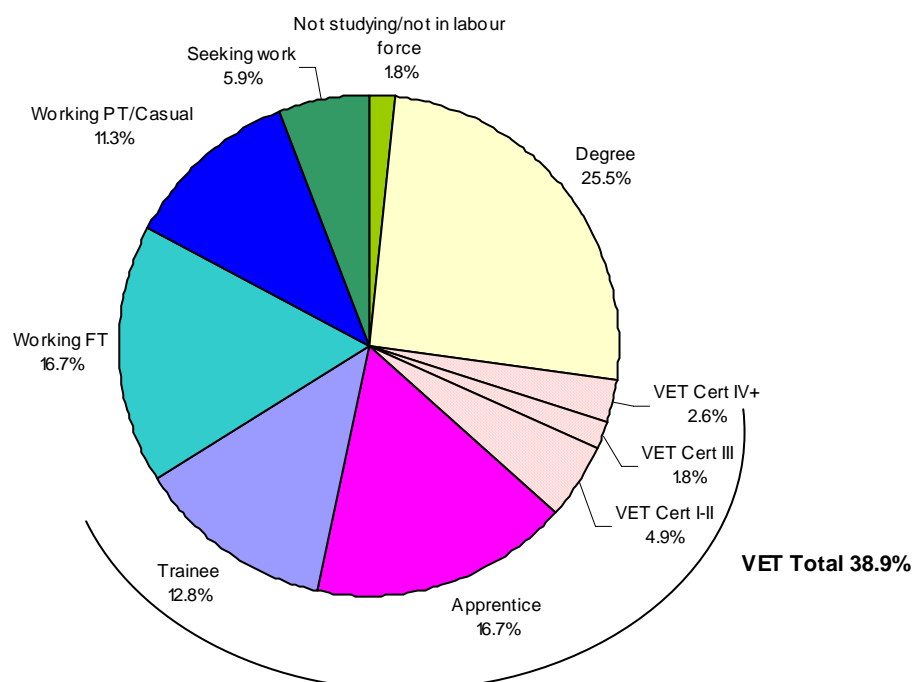
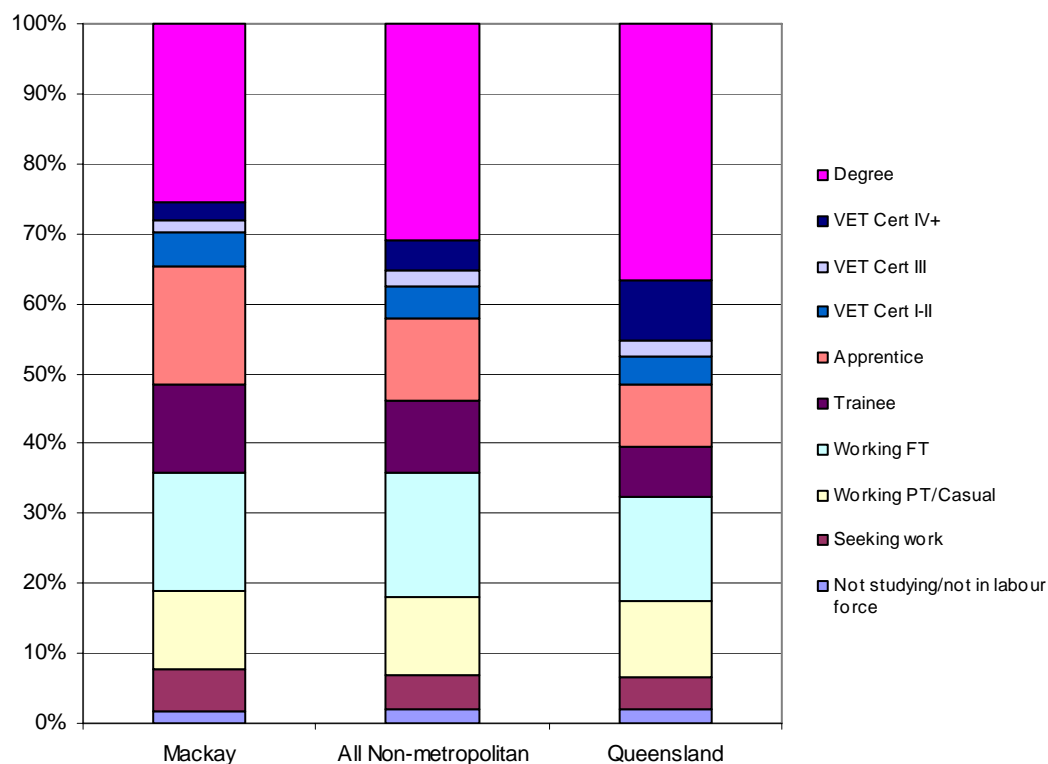


Figure 2 Main destinations of Year 12 completers, Mackay, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005



Study and work

Table 3 Study and labour force destinations of Year 12 completers, Mackay, 2005

<i>Employment Destination</i>		<i>Uni Degree</i>	<i>VET Cert IV+</i>	<i>VET Cert III</i>	<i>VET Cert I-II</i>	<i>Unknown study</i>	<i>No study</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Full-time work	<i>No.</i>	10	4	2	1	2	134	153
	<i>%</i>	4.9	12.9	4.4	3.3	1.0	47.0	19.1
PT/Casual work	<i>No.</i>	81	8	6	3	10	90	198
	<i>%</i>	39.5	25.8	13.3	10.0	4.9	31.6	24.8
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	0	6	8	4	116	0	134
	<i>%</i>	0.0	19.4	17.8	13.3	56.9	0	16.8
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	1	4	23	14	61	0	103
	<i>%</i>	0.5	12.9	51.1	46.7	29.9	0	12.9
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	54	5	6	5	6	47	123
	<i>%</i>	26.3	16.1	13.3	16.7	2.9	16.5	15.4
Not working/not seeking work	<i>No.</i>	59	4	0	3	9	14	89
	<i>%</i>	28.8	12.9	0.0	10.0	4.4	4.9	11.1
TOTAL	<i>No.</i>	205	31	45	30	204	285	800
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-schooling Institutions entered

Table 4 Post-school institutions of Year 12 completers, Mackay, 2005

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Central Queensland University	79	15.3
James Cook University	68	13.2
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE	47	9.1
The University of Queensland	25	4.9
Griffith University	18	3.5
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	14	2.7
Queensland University of Technology	9	1.7
Bond University	3	0.6
Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE	3	0.6
Southbank Institute of TAFE	2	0.4
The Bremer Institute of TAFE	2	0.4
Moreton Institute of TAFE	1	0.2
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	0.2
University of Southern Queensland	1	0.2
Australian College of Natural Medicine	1	0.2
Other Queensland TAFEs	23	4.5
Other Private Training Colleges	21	4.1
Interstate Universities	1	0.2
Other/unknown	196	38.1
Total	515	100.0

Note: Other/unknown category includes apprentices and trainees who did not specify study location.

Field of study

Table 5 Post-school field of study of Year 12 completers by sex, Mackay, 2005

<i>Post-School Field of Study</i>	<i>Females</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Management & Commerce	24.3	14.5	20.9	17.1	20.9	17.1
Health	20.9	10.0	16.1	8.2	16.1	8.2
Society & Culture	20.4	8.2	12.7	1.0	12.7	1.0
Engineering & Related Technologies	1.0	34.5	9.2	12.1	9.2	12.1
Education	12.1	3.6	6.3	7.3	6.3	7.3
Natural & Physical Sciences	7.3	4.5	5.4	5.8	5.4	5.8
Food, Hospitality & Personal Services	5.8	4.5	4.7	5.8	4.7	5.8
Creative Arts	5.8	2.7	4.4	0.5	4.4	0.5
Information Technology	0.5	11.8	1.9	0.0	1.9	0.0
Architecture & Building	0.0	5.5	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0
Mixed Field Programmes	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: This table uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Standard Classification of Education. Further information on which courses are in which fields is available at <http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/> under publication 1272.0

Employment Destinations

Table 6 Employment destinations of Year 12 school completers not in education or training, Mackay, 2005

<i>Employment Destination</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Working full-time	55	47.4	79	46.7	134	47.0
Working part-time/casual	27	23.3	63	37.3	90	31.6
Seeking work	26	22.4	21	12.4	47	16.5
Not studying/not in labour force	8	6.9	6	3.6	14	4.9
Total	116	100.0	169	100.0	285	100.0

Figure 3 Employment destinations of Year 12 completers not in education or training, Mackay, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005

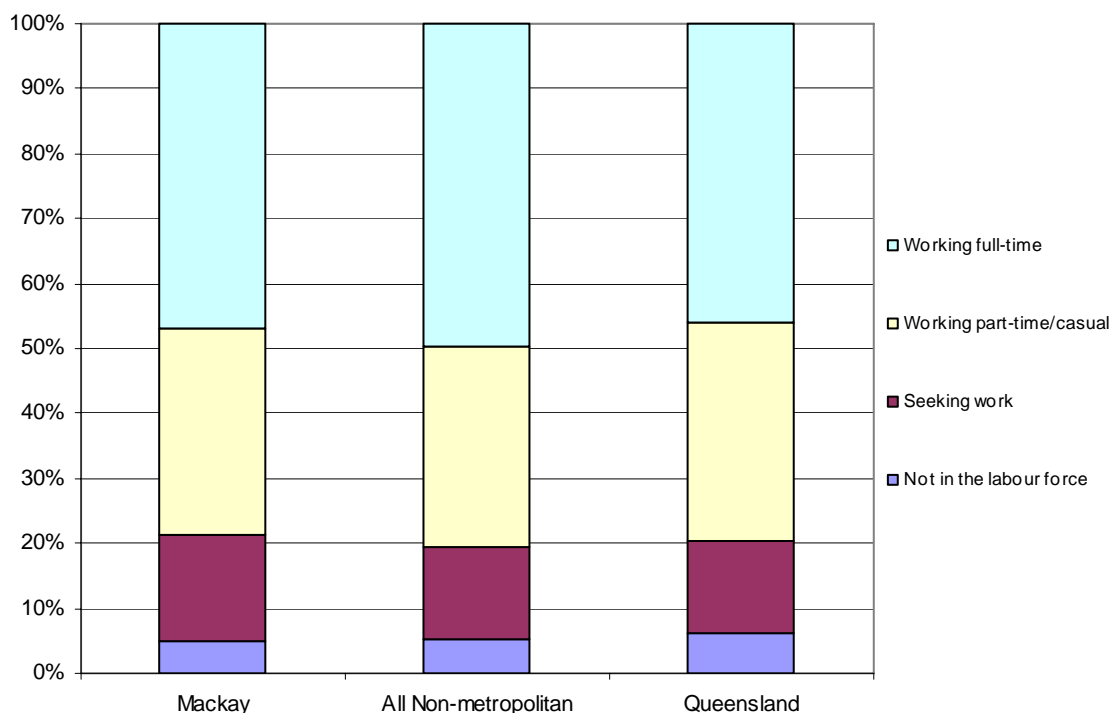


Table 7 Occupational categories of all working respondents, Mackay and Queensland, 2005

<i>Occupational Category</i>	<i>Mackay Number</i>	<i>Mackay Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Sales Assistants	128	21.8	30.3
Food Handlers	80	13.7	16.9
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	82	14.0	9.7
Waiters	15	2.6	6.5
Building & Construction Skilled Workers	43	7.3	6.2
Storepersons	32	5.5	4.5
Child Care & Education-Related Workers	15	2.6	3.4
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty Workers	15	2.6	3.0
Gardeners, Farmers & Animal Workers	15	2.6	2.9
Automotive Workers	45	7.7	2.6
Labourers	10	1.7	2.2
Electrical & Electronics Trades	32	5.5	2.1
Factory and Machine Workers	9	1.5	1.7
Engineering & Science Related	17	2.9	1.3
Cleaners	12	2.0	1.2
Marketing & Sales Representatives	4	0.7	1.0
Other (fewer than 1% of respondents statewide)	32	5.5	4.5
Total	586	100.0	100.0

Table 8 Industry categories of all working Year 12 completers, Mackay and Queensland, 2005

<i>Industry Category</i>	<i>Mackay Number</i>	<i>Mackay Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Retail trade	142	27.1	35.0
Hospitality (Accommodation, cafes, restaurants)	100	19.1	26.1
Construction	37	7.1	7.1
Manufacturing	26	5.0	4.1
Health and Community Services	20	3.8	3.8
Personal and Other Services	18	3.4	3.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	14	2.7	2.9
Education	9	1.7	2.5
Government Administration and Defence	20	3.8	2.5
Property and Business Services	16	3.1	2.3
Cultural and Recreational Services	7	1.3	2.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	18	3.4	2.0
Transport and Storage	17	3.2	1.8
Finance and Insurance	9	1.7	1.6
Wholesale Trade	3	0.6	1.2
Other (fewer than 1% of respondents statewide)	68	13.0	1.8
Total	524	100.0	100.0

Not in Study

Table 9 Main reason of Year 12 completers for not studying by sex, Mackay, 2005

<i>Main Reason</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
I am taking time to consider my options (gap year)	23	34.8	36	33.6	59	34.1
I don't feel ready for more study	11	16.7	21	19.6	32	18.5
My work commitments	14	21.2	9	8.4	23	13.3
The costs of undertaking study	5	7.6	11	10.3	16	9.2
I am working in order to finance further study	3	4.5	11	10.3	14	8.1
My family commitments	1	1.5	6	5.6	7	4.0
The program I would like to do is not offered locally	0	0.0	6	5.6	6	3.5
I don't meet the entry criteria for the program I want to do	3	4.5	2	1.9	5	2.9
I was unsure I would be able to cope with the study program	3	4.5	2	1.9	5	2.9
Transport difficulties	3	4.5	1	0.9	4	2.3
I don't know what is available	0	0.0	2	1.9	2	1.2
The program is not available after hours or externally	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	66	100.0	107	100.0	173	100.0

Table 10 Main reason for not studying, Mackay, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005

<i>Main reason</i>	<i>Mackay</i>	<i>All Non-metro</i>	<i>Queensland</i>
	%	%	%
I am taking time to consider my options (gap year)	34.1	33.4	40.3
I don't feel ready for more study	18.5	18.9	19.6
My work commitments	13.3	14.4	9.8
I am working in order to finance further study	8.1	8.4	7.9
The costs of undertaking study	9.2	7.7	7.6
I don't meet the entry criteria for the program I want to do	2.9	4.2	3.7
My family commitments	4.0	4.3	3.2
Transport difficulties	2.3	1.8	2.3
I was unsure I would be able to cope with the study program	2.9	2.4	1.9
I don't know what is available	1.2	2.0	2.0
The program I would like to do is not offered locally	3.5	2.4	1.5
The program is not available after hours or externally	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Destinations by Year 12 Studies

Table 11 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Year 12 VET qualification, School-based apprenticeship of trainee (SAT) and CPCSE, Mackay, 2005

<i>Destination</i>		<i>VET Qualification</i>		<i>School-based apprentice or trainee (SAT)</i>	<i>CPCSE</i>
		<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
University (degree)	<i>No.</i>	180	25	0	1
	<i>%</i>	34.8	8.8		
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	16	5	0	0
	<i>%</i>	3.1	1.8		
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	9	5	0	0
	<i>%</i>	1.7	1.8		
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	24	15	0	2
	<i>%</i>	4.6	5.3		
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	57	77	1	0
	<i>%</i>	11.0	27.2		
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	61	41	1	0
	<i>%</i>	11.8	14.5		
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	86	48	1	1
	<i>%</i>	16.6	17.0		
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	54	36	1	1
	<i>%</i>	10.4	12.7		
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	23	24	1	3
	<i>%</i>	4.4	8.5		
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	7	7	0	1
	<i>%</i>	1.4	2.5		
Total	<i>No.</i>	517	283	5	9
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0		

Destinations by Indigenous status

Table 12 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Indigenous Status, Mackay, 2005

<i>Destination</i>		<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>
University (degree)	<i>No.</i>	202	3
	<i>%</i>	26.2	10.7
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	19	2
	<i>%</i>	2.5	7.1
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	13	1
	<i>%</i>	1.7	3.6
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	38	1
	<i>%</i>	4.9	3.6
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	132	2
	<i>%</i>	17.1	7.1
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	96	6
	<i>%</i>	12.4	21.4
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	129	5
	<i>%</i>	16.7	17.9
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	86	4
	<i>%</i>	11.1	14.3
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	45	2
	<i>%</i>	5.8	7.1
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	12	2
	<i>%</i>	1.6	7.1
Total	<i>No.</i>	772	28
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0

Destinations by Language Background

Table 13 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Language Background, Mackay, 2005

<i>Destination</i>	<i>LBOTE No.</i>
University (degree)	1
VET Certificate IV+	0
VET Certificate III	0
VET Certificate I-II	2
Apprentice	0
Trainee	1
Working FT	1
Working PT Casual	0
Seeking work	0
Not studying/not in labour force	1
Total	6

Destinations by Socioeconomic status

Table 14 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by socioeconomic quartile, Mackay, 2005

<i>Destination</i>		<i>Lowest SES</i>	<i>Second lowest SES</i>	<i>Second highest SES</i>	<i>Highest SES</i>
University (degree)	<i>No.</i>	34	46	35	18
	<i>%</i>	23.9	26.6	29.2	31.6
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	4	2	2	2
	<i>%</i>	2.8	1.2	1.7	3.5
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	3	2	3	1
	<i>%</i>	2.1	1.2	2.5	1.8
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	7	11	3	0
	<i>%</i>	4.9	6.4	2.5	0.0
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	19	41	19	8
	<i>%</i>	13.4	23.7	15.8	14.0
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	21	18	14	9
	<i>%</i>	14.8	10.4	11.7	15.8
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	28	25	23	10
	<i>%</i>	19.7	14.5	19.2	17.5
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	16	19	11	8
	<i>%</i>	11.3	11.0	9.2	14.0
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	9	8	6	1
	<i>%</i>	6.3	4.6	5.0	1.8
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	1	1	4	0
	<i>%</i>	0.7	0.6	3.3	0.0
Total	<i>No.</i>	142	173	120	57
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Appendix

Table AA Schools attended in 2004 by Year 12 completers, Mackay

Bowen State High School	Mackay State High School
Calen District State College	Middlemount Community School
Clermont State High School	Mirani State High School
Collinsville State High School	Moranbah State High School
Dysart State High School	Pioneer State High School
Glenden State School	Proserpine State High School
Holy Spirit College	Sarina State High School
Mackay Christian College	St Patrick's Senior College, Mackay
Mackay District Special School	Whitsunday Anglican School
Mackay North State High School	
