



The nextstep Survey 2005

on the destinations of
Year 12 school leavers

Regional Report

North West



Authors

John Polesel

Sue Helme

Richard Teese

Tanya Nicholas

Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning

The University of Melbourne

For the Department of Education and the Arts

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.

Contents

Acknowledgements	1
List of tables.....	2
List of figures	2
Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	3
Main destinations.....	6
Study and work.....	8
Post-schooling Institutions entered.....	9
Field of study	10
Employment Destinations.....	10
Not in Study.....	12
Destinations by Year 12 Studies	13
Destinations by Indigenous status, Language Background and School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	14
Appendix.....	15

List of tables

Table 1	Categorisations used to determine Main Destination	6
Table 2	Main destinations of Year 12 completers by sex, North West, 2005.....	7
Table 3	Study and labour force destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, 2005.....	8
Table 4	Post-school institutions of Year 12 completers, North West, 2005	9
Table 5	Post-school field of study of Year 12 completers by sex, North West, 2005.....	10
Table 6	Employment destinations of Year 12 school completers not in education or training, North West, 2005	10
Table 7	Occupational categories of all working respondents, North West and Queensland, 2005.	11
Table 8	Industry categories of all working Year 12 completers, North West and Queensland, 2005.....	12
Table 9	Main reason of Year 12 completers for not studying by sex, North West, 2005	12
Table 10	Main destinations of Year 12 completers by VET qualification, North West, 2005	13
Table 11	Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Indigenous Status, LBOTE and SAT, North West, 2005	14
Table AA	Schools attended in 2004 by Year 12 completers, North West.....	15

List of figures

Figure 1	Main destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, 2005.....	7
Figure 2	Main destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005	8
Figure 3	Employment destinations of Year 12 completers not in education or training, North West, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005.....	11

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 44.8 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 NORTH WEST (86 respondents)

Destinations (table 2)

- 60.5 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 in North West in 2004 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.
- The most likely study destinations were university and traineeships (both 18.6 per cent), followed by apprenticeships (17.4 per cent) then campus-based VET programs (5.9 per cent).
- 39.5 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, with most employed (31.4 per cent), looking for work (5.8 per cent) and neither in the labour market nor studying (2.3 per cent).

Sex differences in education and training destinations (table 2)

- Males were more likely than females to enter university (25.0 per cent compared with 13.0 per cent of females).
- Males were more likely than females to commence an apprenticeship (35.0 per cent compared with 2.2 per cent) whereas females were more likely to commence a traineeship (26.1 per cent compared with 10.0 per cent).

- Females were more likely to be in employment, in either full-time or part-time/casual jobs.

Field of study (table 5)

- Management and Commerce and Society and Culture were the most common fields of study entered, accounting for 14 out of 30 student destinations.

Earning

- Including apprentices and trainees, 60.4 per cent of the respondents were full-time workers. (table 2)
- The survey also showed high proportions of respondents working in just three industry areas – Retail Trade, Hospitality and Construction. Between them, these three categories accounted for 51.8 per cent of working school completers. (table 8)

Reasons for not continuing in study (table 9)

- This survey indicates that the main reasons why young people do not continue in study are because they do not feel ready for further study, they are taking time to consider their options, or they are deterred by the costs of undertaking study.

Destinations by Year 12 studies (table 10)

- 37 Year 12 graduates (43.0 per cent) left secondary school with a VET qualification.
- Graduates with a VET qualification were more likely to enter apprenticeships and traineeships and less likely to enter full-time employment than other respondents.

Destinations by Indigenous Status (table 11)

- Comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school completers were not possible due to low numbers of Indigenous respondents.

Differences from State patterns (figure 2)

- North West respondents had a lower rate of transfer to university and campus-based VET, compared with all non-metropolitan and statewide respondents.
- A higher rate of transfer than the state average was evident for transfer to apprenticeships and traineeships, and for direct entry to the workforce.
- The three commonest occupational categories accessed by Year 12 completers in North West were the same as those for Year 12 completers statewide – Sales Assistants, Food Handlers and Clerks, Receptionists and Secretaries (table 7).
- The three commonest industry categories accessed by Year 12 completers in North West were the same as those for Year 12 completers statewide – Retail, Hospitality and Construction (table 8).

REGIONAL REPORT

NORTH WEST

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**

<i>Higher Education</i>	
University (degree)	Respondents studying at degree level. N.B. Some are also in the labour market
<i>VET categories</i>	
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.
<i>No further education and training</i>	
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, North West, 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)	10	25.0	6	13.0	16	18.6
VET Cert IV+	0	0.0	1	2.2	1	1.2
VET Cert III*	0	0.0	3	6.5	3	3.5
VET Cert I-II*	0	0.0	1	2.2	1	1.2
Apprentice	14	35.0	1	2.2	15	17.4
Trainee	4	10.0	12	26.1	16	18.6
<i>(VET Total)</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>45.0</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>39.2</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>41.9</i>
Working full-time	8	20.0	13	28.3	21	24.4
Working part-time/casual	1	2.5	5	10.9	6	7.0
Seeking work	2	5.0	3	6.5	5	5.8
Not studying/ not in the labour force	1	2.5	1	2.2	2	2.3
Total	40	100.0	46	100.0	86	100.0

* Students not in apprenticeships or traineeships

Figure 1 Main destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, 2005

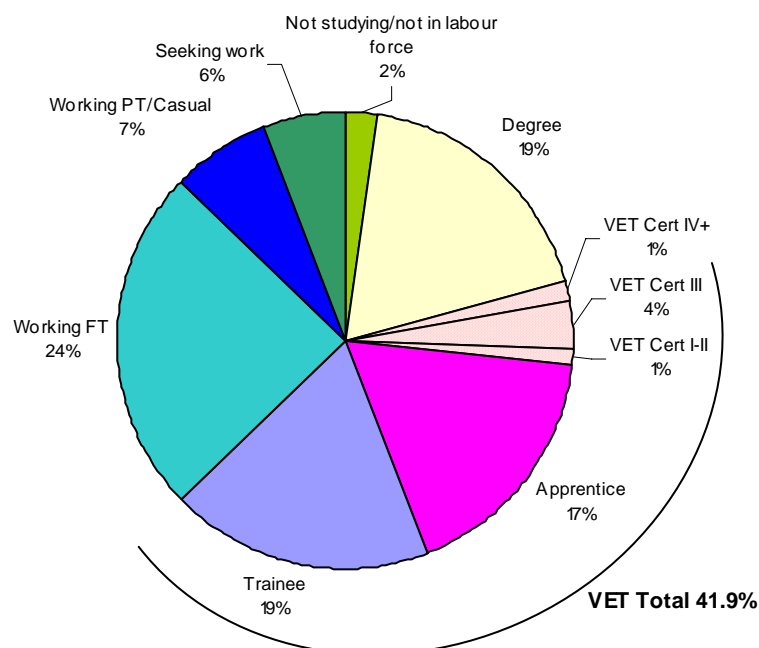
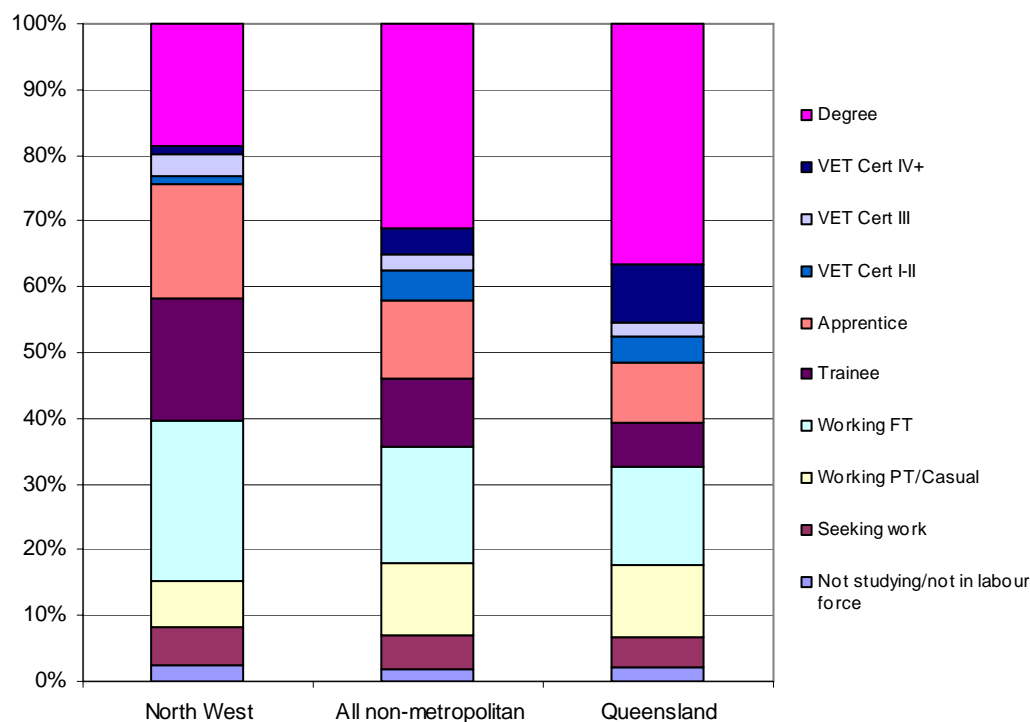


Figure 2 Main destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005



Study and work

Table 3 Study and labour force destinations of Year 12 completers, North West, 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>	0	0	1	0	0	21	22
	<i>%</i>						61.8	25.6
PT/Casual work	<i>No.</i>	1	0	2	1	0	6	10
	<i>%</i>						17.6	11.6
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	0	0	2	0	13	0	15
	<i>%</i>						0.0	17.4
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	0	1	4	1	10	0	16
	<i>%</i>						0.0	18.6
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	3	0	0	0	0	5	8
	<i>%</i>						14.7	9.3
Not working/not seeking work	<i>No.</i>	12	1	0	0	0	2	15
	<i>%</i>						5.9	17.4
TOTAL	<i>No.</i>	16	2	9	2	23	34	86
	<i>%</i>						100.0	100.0

Post-schooling Institutions entered

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

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
James Cook University	13	25.0
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	2	3.8
University of Southern Queensland	1	1.9
The University of Queensland	1	1.9
Queensland University of Technology	1	1.9
Central Queensland University	1	1.9
Other Queensland TAFEs	9	17.3
Other Private Training Colleges	2	3.8
Other/unknown	22	42.3
Total	52	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, North West, 2005

<i>Post-School Field of Study</i>	Males	Females	Total	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	
Management & Commerce	1	6	7	
Society & Culture	2	5	7	
Engineering & Related Technologies	4	1	5	
Natural & Physical Sciences	3	1	4	
Information Technology	3	0	3	
Education	0	2	2	
Health	0	1	1	
Architecture & Building	1	0	1	
Total	14	16	30	

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, North West, 2005

<i>Employment Destination</i>	Males	Females	Total	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Working full-time	8	13	21	61.8
Working part-time/casual	1	5	6	17.6
Seeking work	2	3	5	14.7
Not studying/not in labour force	1	1	2	5.9
Total	12	22	34	100.0

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

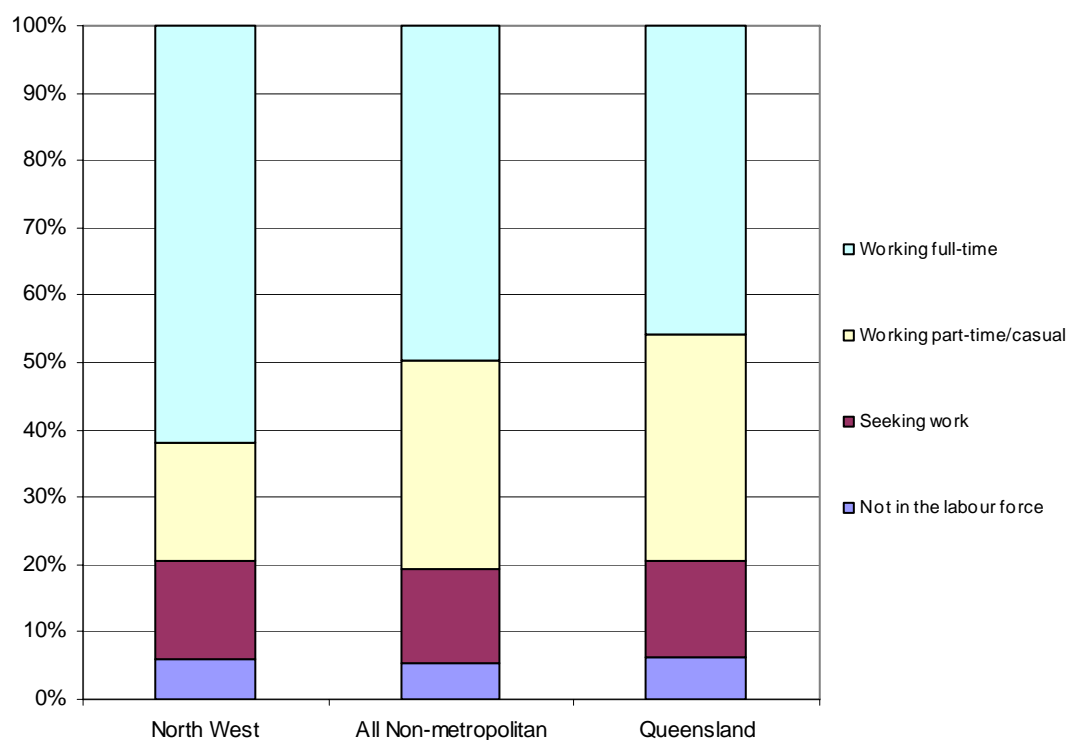


Table 7 Occupational categories of all working respondents, North West and Queensland, 2005

<i>Occupational Category</i>	<i>North West Number</i>	<i>North West Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Sales Assistants	13	20.6	30.3
Food Handlers	8	12.7	16.9
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	12	19.0	9.7
Waiters	2	3.2	6.5
Building & Construction Skilled Workers	6	9.5	6.2
Storepersons	4	6.3	4.5
Child Care & Education-Related Workers	2	3.2	3.4
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty Workers	0	0.0	3.0
Gardeners, Farmers & Animal Workers	0	0.0	2.9
Automotive Workers	2	3.2	2.6
Labourers	1	1.6	2.2
Electrical & Electronics Trades	4	6.3	2.1
Factory and Machine Workers	2	3.2	1.7
Engineering & Science Related	1	1.6	1.3
Cleaners	0	0.0	1.2
Marketing & Sales Representatives	1	1.6	1.0
Other (fewer than 1 % of respondents statewide)	5	8.0	4.5
Total	63	100.0	100.0

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

<i>Industry Category</i>	<i>North West Number</i>	<i>North West Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Retail trade	14	25.0	35.0
Hospitality (Accommodation, cafes, restaurants)	8	14.3	26.1
Construction	7	12.5	7.1
Manufacturing	4	7.1	4.1
Health and Community Services	3	5.4	3.8
Personal and Other Services	2	3.6	3.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	0	0.0	2.9
Education	1	1.8	2.5
Government Administration and Defence	4	7.1	2.5
Property and Business Services	5	8.9	2.3
Cultural and Recreational Services	0	0.0	2.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0	0.0	2.0
Transport and Storage	2	3.6	1.8
Finance and Insurance	1	1.8	1.6
Wholesale Trade	1	1.8	1.2
Other (fewer than 1% of respondents statewide)	4	7.1	1.8
Total	56	100.0	100.0

Not in Study

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

<i>Main Reason</i>	<i>Males No.</i>	<i>Females No.</i>	<i>Total No.</i>
I don't feel ready for more study	1	6	7
I am taking time to consider my options (gap year)	2	4	6
The costs of undertaking study	2	4	6
My work commitments	1	1	2
I am working in order to finance further study	0	1	1
Unsure I would be able to cope with the study program	0	1	1
Family commitments	1	0	1
Transport difficulties	0	1	1
The program I would like to do is not offered locally	1	0	1
Total	8	18	26

Destinations by Year 12 Studies

Table 10 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by VET qualification, North West, 2005

<i>Destination</i>		<i>VET Qualification</i>	
		<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
University (degree)	<i>No.</i>	9	7
	<i>%</i>	18.4	18.9
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	0	1
	<i>%</i>	0.0	2.7
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	2	1
	<i>%</i>	4.1	2.7
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	1	0
	<i>%</i>	2.0	0.0
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	7	8
	<i>%</i>	14.3	21.6
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	7	9
	<i>%</i>	14.3	24.3
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	15	6
	<i>%</i>	30.6	16.2
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	3	3
	<i>%</i>	6.1	8.1
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	4	1
	<i>%</i>	8.2	2.7
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	1	1
	<i>%</i>	2.0	2.7
Total	<i>No.</i>	49	37
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0

Destinations by Indigenous status, Language Background and School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)

Table 11 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Indigenous Status, LBOTE and SAT, North West, 2005

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Indigenous No.</i>	<i>LBOTE No.</i>	<i>SAT No.</i>
University (degree)	1	2	0
VET Certificate IV+	0	0	0
VET Certificate III	0	0	0
VET Certificate I-II	0	0	0
Apprentice	5	1	2
Trainee	1	0	0
Working FT	2	0	1
Working PT Casual	0	0	0
Seeking work	4	0	0
Not studying/not in labour force	0	0	0
Total	13	3	3

Appendix

Table AA Schools attended in 2004 by Year 12 completers, North West

Cloncurry State School
Hughenden State School
Spinifex State College Mount Isa
