



The nextstep Survey 2005

on the destinations of
Year 12 school leavers

Regional Report

Northern



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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 56.7 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 THE NORTHERN REGION (1 164 respondents)

Destinations (table 2)

- 66.7 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 in Northern in 2004 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.
- The most likely destination was university (36.9 per cent), followed by campus-based VET programs (10.4 per cent), with 3.4 per cent of VET students entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.
- The vast majority of University and higher level VET students were studying full-time (98.1 per cent and 82.5 per cent respectively).
- High proportions of lower level VET students were also studying full-time (76.0 per cent of Certificate III students and 75.4 per cent of Certificate I/II students).
- 19.4 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (12.0 per cent) or trainee (7.6 per cent).
- 33.2 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (26.0 per cent), seeking work (5.3 per cent) or neither in the labour force nor studying (1.9 per cent).

Sex differences in education and training destinations (table 2)

- Females were more likely than males to enter university (42.6 per cent compared with 30.2 per cent of males), and females and males were approximately equally likely to enrol in campus-based VET programs.
- Males were more likely than females to commence an apprenticeship (23.1 per cent compared with 2.4 per cent) whereas females were more likely to commence a traineeship (9.3 per cent compared with 5.2 per cent).
- Females were more likely than males to be in employment, in both full-time and part-time/casual jobs.

Studying and working (table 3)

- The majority of university students and nearly half of the higher level VET students combined study with part-time/casual employment (59.4 per cent and 48.9 per cent respectively).
- Respondents who were not in study were more likely to be in full-time jobs than in part-time/casual employment (45.7 per cent and 32.6 per cent respectively).

Field of study (table 5)

- Two fields of study – Health and Society and Culture - accounted for more than four out of ten student destinations (43.6 per cent) while Management and Commerce, Engineering and Related Technologies and Natural and Physical Sciences accounted for a further 33.6 per cent of enrolments.
- Females were much more likely to enter study in Health, Society and Culture, Management and Commerce, and Education.
- Males significantly outnumbered females in Engineering and Related Technologies, Natural and Physical Sciences and Information Technology.

Earning

- Including apprentices and trainees, 34.6 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 (35.3 per cent compared with 28.9 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 57.2 per cent of school completers. (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 (40.2 per cent) or they do not feel ready (19.3 per cent)
- Work commitments are the third most important reason (9.4 per cent), followed by financial impediments. Many graduates were working in order to finance future study (8.3 per cent) while others were concerned with the cost of studying (5.9 per cent).
- Northern respondents nominated very similar reasons to those of their counterparts elsewhere.

Destinations by Year 12 studies (table 11)

- 38.1 per cent of Year 12 graduates left secondary school with a VET qualification, while a small number of Year 12 graduates (1.6 per cent) were school-based apprentices.
- Graduates with a VET qualification were much less likely to enrol in university (20.5 per cent compared with 46.9 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 (32.0 per cent compared with 11.6 per cent).
- Graduates with a VET qualification were also more likely to enter employment with no further education and training (29.3 per cent compared with 24.0 per cent).
- School-based apprentices were much more likely to undertake apprenticeships and traineeships than other graduates (26.3 per cent compared with 19.3 per cent).

Destinations by Indigenous Status (table 12)

- Indigenous Year 12 completers were much less likely than their non-Indigenous peers to enrol at university (14.3 per cent compared with 37.8 per cent).
- Indigenous graduates, however, were more likely than non-Indigenous graduates to enrol in on-campus VET (18.4 per cent and 10.2 per cent respectively).
- Indigenous students were more likely to be contracted as an apprentice or trainee (26.5 per cent compared with 19.1 per cent) and approximately equally likely to be employed (26.5 per cent compared with 26.0 per cent).
- Indigenous graduates were also more likely to be seeking work (12.2 per cent compared with 5.0 per cent).

Destinations by socioeconomic status (table 14)

- Transition to university tended to rise with socioeconomic status (SES).

Differences from State patterns (figure 2)

- Transition to university was comparable with the state average and higher than the average for all non-metropolitan regions, though transition to campus-based VET was lower than the state average.
- A higher rate of transfer than the state average was evident for transfer to apprenticeships and traineeships, while the rate of direct entry to the workforce was similar to the state average.
- 60.0 per cent of Year 12 completers in the Northern region 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 the Northern region were slightly less likely to be working in the industry category of Retail Trade than their counterparts elsewhere (29.6 per cent compared with 35.0 per cent) (table 8).

REGIONAL REPORT

NORTHERN

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, Northern, 2005

Destination	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
University (degree)	163	30.2	266	42.6	429	36.9
VET Cert IV+	16	3.0	24	3.8	40	3.4
VET Cert III*	11	2.0	14	2.2	25	2.1
VET Cert I-II*	31	5.7	26	4.2	57	4.9
Apprentice	125	23.1	15	2.4	140	12.0
Trainee	28	5.2	58	9.3	86	7.4
(VET Total)	211	39.0	137	21.9	348	29.8
Working full-time	72	13.3	105	16.8	177	15.2
Working part-time/casual	48	8.9	78	12.5	126	10.8
Seeking work	36	6.7	26	4.2	62	5.3
Not studying/ not in the labour force	10	1.9	12	1.9	22	1.9
Total	540	100.0	624	100.0	1 164	100.0

* Students not in apprenticeships or traineeships

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

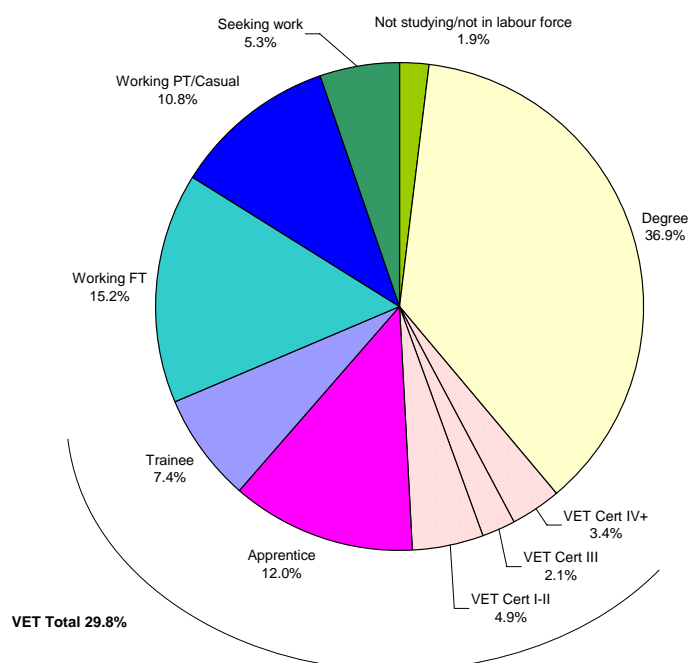
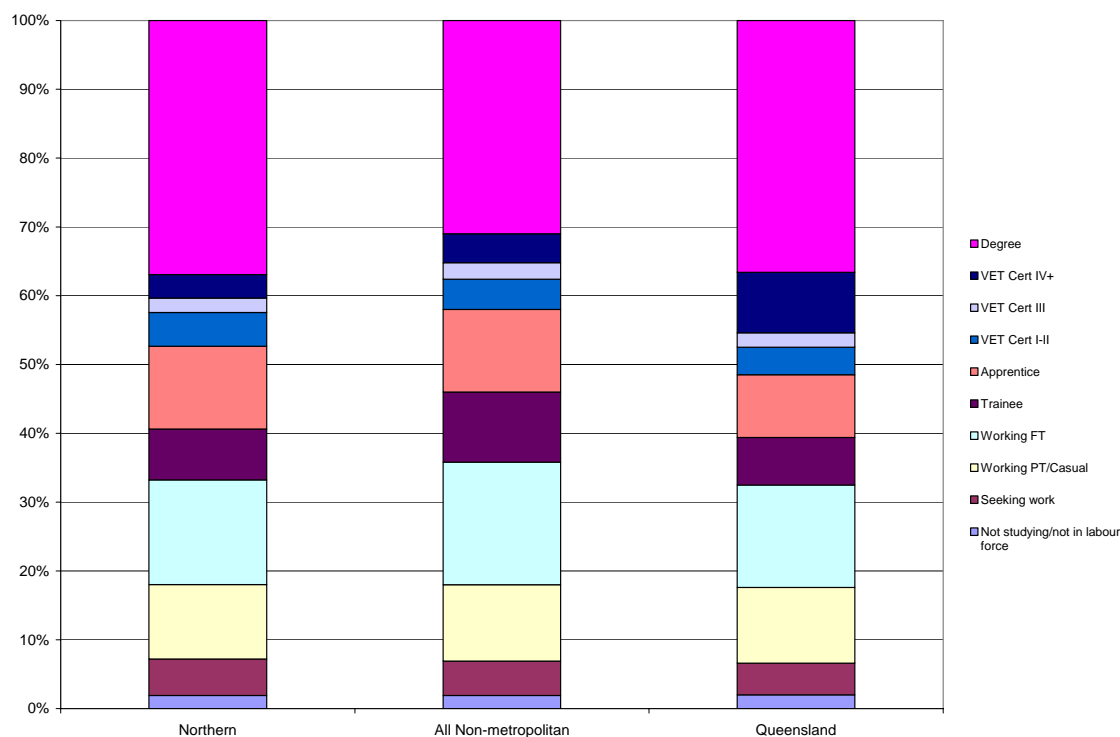


Figure 2 Main destinations of Year 12 completers, Northern, All Non-metropolitan and Queensland, 2005



Study and work

Table 3 Study and labour force destinations of Year 12 completers, Northern, 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>	12	3	3	1	5	177	201
	<i>%</i>	2.8	6.7	5.1	3.6	2.3	45.7	17.3
PT/Casual work	<i>No.</i>	255	22	11	5	8	126	427
	<i>%</i>	59.4	48.9	18.6	17.9	3.7	32.6	36.7
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	1	3	14	1	122	0	141
	<i>%</i>	0.2	6.7	23.7	3.6	56.5	0.0	12.1
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	5	2	20	7	57	0	91
	<i>%</i>	1.2	4.4	33.9	25.0	26.4	0.0	7.8
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	80	11	6	13	4	62	176
	<i>%</i>	18.6	24.4	10.2	46.4	1.9	16.0	15.1
Not working/not seeking work	<i>No.</i>	76	4	5	1	20	22	128
	<i>%</i>	17.7	8.9	8.5	3.6	9.3	5.7	11.0
TOTAL	<i>No.</i>	429	45	59	28	216	387	1 164
	<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, Northern, 2005

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
James Cook University	377	48.5
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	87	11.2
The University of Queensland	17	2.2
Griffith University	12	1.5
Queensland University of Technology	6	0.8
University of Southern Queensland	3	0.4
Central Queensland University	2	0.3
Tropical North Institute of TAFE	2	0.3
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE	1	0.1
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	0.1
Bond University	1	0.1
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE	1	0.1
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE	1	0.1
Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE	1	0.1
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	1	0.1
Other Private Training Colleges	29	3.7
Other Queensland TAFEs	23	3.0
Interstate Universities	2	0.3
Other/unknown	211	27.1
Total	778	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, Northern, 2005

<i>Post-School Field of Study</i>	<i>Females</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Total</i>	
		%		%		%
Health		29.8		14.9		23.9
Society & Culture		24.1		13.1		19.7
Management & Commerce		18.2		6.3		13.5
Engineering & Related Technologies		1.8		26.2		11.5
Natural & Physical Sciences		7.1		10.9		8.6
Education		9.2		5.4		7.7
Information Technology		1.2		11.3		5.2
Creative Arts		4.8		5.0		4.8
Food, Hospitality & Personal Services		3.3		2.3		2.9
Architecture & Building		0		1.8		0.7
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies		0		2.3		0.9
Mixed Field Programmes		0.6		0.5		0.5
Total		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, Northern, 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	72	43.4	105	47.5	177	45.7
Working part-time/casual	48	28.9	78	35.3	126	32.6
Seeking work	36	21.7	26	11.8	62	16.0
Not studying/not in labour force	10	6.0	12	5.4	22	5.7
Total	166	100.0	221	100.0	387	100.0

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

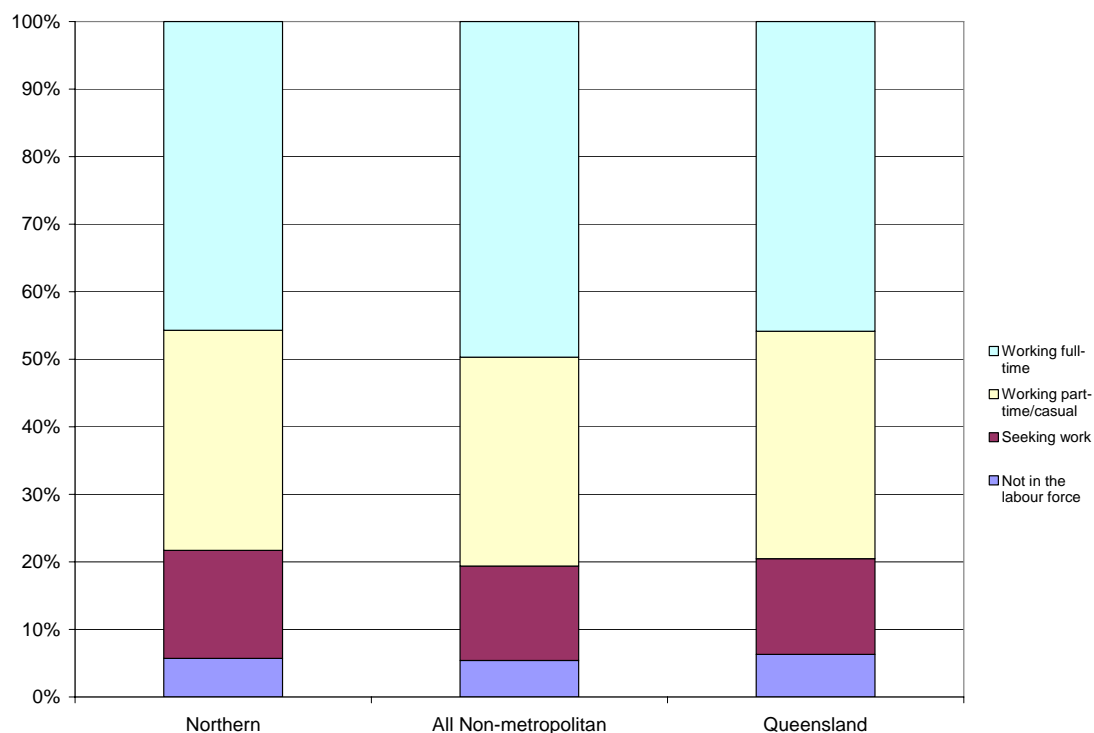


Table 7 Occupational categories of all working respondents, Northern and Queensland, 2005

<i>Occupational Category</i>	<i>Northern Number</i>	<i>Northern Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Sales Assistants	216	25.3	30.3
Food Handlers	136	15.9	16.9
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	97	11.3	9.7
Waiters	64	7.5	6.5
Building & Construction Skilled Workers	56	6.5	6.2
Storepersons	34	4.0	4.5
Child Care & Education-Related Workers	24	2.8	3.4
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty Workers	22	2.6	3.0
Gardeners, Farmers & Animal Workers	33	3.9	2.9
Automotive Workers	27	3.2	2.6
Labourers	18	2.1	2.2
Electrical & Electronics Trades	33	3.9	2.1
Factory and Machine Workers	5	0.6	1.7
Engineering & Science Related	21	2.5	1.3
Cleaners	5	0.6	1.2
Marketing & Sales Representatives	5	0.6	1.0
Other (fewer than 1% of respondents statewide)	59	6.7	4.5
Total	855	100.0	100.0

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

<i>Industry Category</i>	<i>Northern Number</i>	<i>Northern Per cent</i>	<i>Qld Per cent</i>
Retail trade	224	29.6	35.0
Hospitality (Accommodation, cafes, restaurants)	209	27.6	26.1
Construction	57	7.5	7.1
Manufacturing	31	4.1	4.1
Health and Community Services	22	2.9	3.8
Personal and Other Services	24	3.2	3.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	27	3.6	2.9
Education	17	2.2	2.5
Government Administration and Defence	38	5.0	2.5
Property and Business Services	14	1.9	2.3
Cultural and Recreational Services	15	2.0	2.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	23	3.0	2.0
Transport and Storage	15	2.0	1.8
Finance and Insurance	12	1.6	1.6
Wholesale Trade	9	1.2	1.2
Other (fewer than 1% of respondents statewide)	19	2.6	1.8
Total	756	100.0	100.0

Not in Study

Table 9 Main reason of Year 12 completers for not studying by sex, Northern, 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)	38	35.5	64	43.5	102	40.2
I don't feel ready for more study	16	15.0	33	22.4	49	19.3
My work commitments	12	11.2	12	8.2	24	9.4
I am working in order to finance further study	10	9.3	11	7.5	21	8.3
The costs of undertaking study	6	5.6	9	6.1	15	5.9
My family commitments	4	3.7	6	4.1	10	3.9
I don't know what is available	6	5.6	3	2.0	9	3.5
I don't meet the entry criteria for the program I want to do	5	4.7	3	2.0	8	3.1
Transport difficulties	5	4.7	1	0.7	6	2.4
I was unsure I would be able to cope with the study program	3	2.8	2	1.4	5	2.0
The program I would like to do is not offered locally	2	1.9	3	2.0	5	2.0
The program is not available after hours or externally	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	107	100.0	147	100.0	254	100.0

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

<i>Main reason</i>	<i>Northern</i>	<i>All Non-metro</i>	<i>Queensland</i>
	%	%	%
I am taking time to consider my options (gap year)	40.2	33.4	40.3
I don't feel ready for more study	19.3	18.9	19.6
My work commitments	9.4	14.4	9.8
I am working in order to finance further study	8.3	8.4	7.9
The costs of undertaking study	5.9	7.7	7.6
I don't meet the entry criteria for the program I want to do	3.1	4.2	3.7
My family commitments	3.9	4.3	3.2
Transport difficulties	2.4	1.8	2.3
I was unsure I would be able to cope with the study program	2.0	2.4	1.9
I don't know what is available	3.5	2.0	2.0
The program I would like to do is not offered locally	2.0	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, SAT and CPCSE, Northern, 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>	338	91	5	0
	<i>%</i>	46.9	20.5		
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	25	15	1	0
	<i>%</i>	3.5	3.4		
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	13	12	0	0
	<i>%</i>	1.8	2.7		
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	38	19	1	1
	<i>%</i>	5.3	4.3		
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	42	98	3	0
	<i>%</i>	5.8	22.1		
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	42	44	2	0
	<i>%</i>	5.8	9.9		
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	101	76	2	0
	<i>%</i>	14.0	17.1		
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	72	54	4	0
	<i>%</i>	10.0	12.2		
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	34	28	0	2
	<i>%</i>	4.7	6.3		
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	15	7	1	3
	<i>%</i>	2.1	1.6		
Total	<i>No.</i>	720	444	19	6
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0		

Destinations by Indigenous status

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

<i>Destination</i>		<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>
University (degree)	<i>No.</i>	422	7
	<i>%</i>	37.8	14.3
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	37	3
	<i>%</i>	3.3	6.1
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	23	2
	<i>%</i>	2.1	4.1
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	53	4
	<i>%</i>	4.8	8.2
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	132	8
	<i>%</i>	11.8	16.3
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	81	5
	<i>%</i>	7.3	10.2
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	170	7
	<i>%</i>	15.2	14.3
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	120	6
	<i>%</i>	10.8	12.2
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	56	6
	<i>%</i>	5.0	12.2
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	21	1
	<i>%</i>	1.9	2.0
Total	<i>No.</i>	1115	49
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0

Destinations by Language Background

Table 13 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by Language Background Other Than English, Northern, 2005

<i>Destination</i>	<i>LBOTE No.</i>
University (degree)	6
VET Certificate IV+	1
VET Certificate III	0
VET Certificate I-II	4
Apprentice	2
Trainee	1
Working FT	1
Working PT Casual	3
Seeking work	0
Not studying/not in labour force	0
Total	18

Destinations by Socioeconomic status

Table 14 Main destinations of Year 12 completers by socioeconomic quartile, Northern, 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>	80	85	54	94
	<i>%</i>	37.4	32.7	36.7	55.0
VET Certificate IV+	<i>No.</i>	6	8	7	6
	<i>%</i>	2.8	3.1	4.8	3.5
VET Certificate III	<i>No.</i>	2	4	2	3
	<i>%</i>	0.9	1.5	1.4	1.8
VET Certificate I-II	<i>No.</i>	16	8	8	4
	<i>%</i>	7.5	3.1	5.4	2.3
Apprentice	<i>No.</i>	26	27	18	14
	<i>%</i>	12.1	10.4	12.2	8.2
Trainee	<i>No.</i>	12	21	9	12
	<i>%</i>	5.6	8.1	6.1	7.0
Working FT	<i>No.</i>	25	53	25	13
	<i>%</i>	11.7	20.4	17.0	7.6
Working PT Casual	<i>No.</i>	33	27	13	14
	<i>%</i>	15.4	10.4	8.8	8.2
Seeking work	<i>No.</i>	9	20	7	8
	<i>%</i>	4.2	7.7	4.8	4.7
Not studying/not in labour force	<i>No.</i>	5	7	4	3
	<i>%</i>	2.3	2.7	2.7	1.8
Total	<i>No.</i>	214	260	147	171
	<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Appendix

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

All Souls St Gabriels School	Kirwan State High School
Annandale Christian School	Northern Beaches State High School
Ayr State High School	Pimlico State High School
Blackheath and Thornburgh College	Ryan Catholic College
Burdekin Catholic High School	St Margaret Mary's College
Calvary Christian College, Mt Louisa	St Patrick's College, Townsville
Charters Towers State High School	St Teresa's College, Townsville
Columba Catholic College	St Teresa's College, Abergowrie
Gilroy Santa Maria College	The Cathedral School of St Anne and St James
Heatley Secondary College	Thuringowa State High School
Home Hill State High School	Townsville Grammar School
Ignatius Park College	Townsville State High School
Ingham State High School	Williams Ross State High School
