

2021 Early School Leavers survey

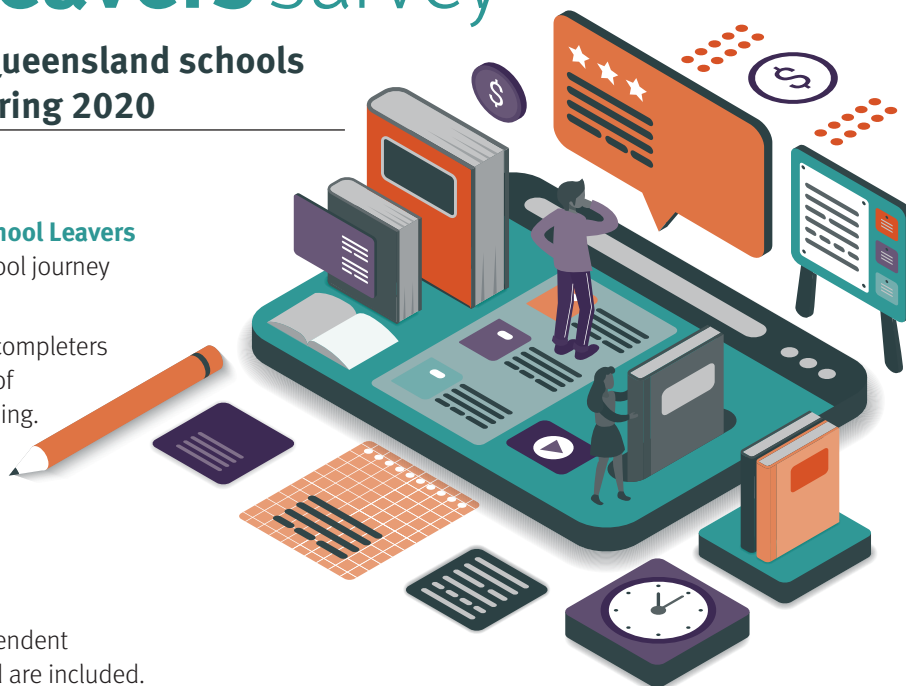
Destinations of students who left Queensland schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2020

Since 2007, the Department of Education's **Early School Leavers** survey has captured information about the post-school journey of students who leave school early.

This survey is a companion to the survey of Year 12 completers and together they provide a comprehensive picture of students in the year following the end of their schooling.

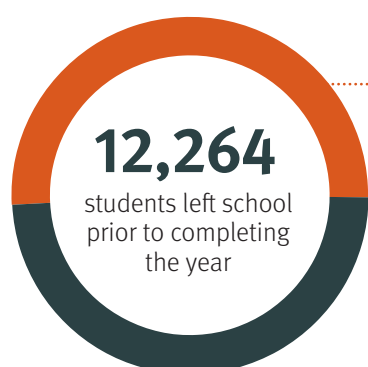
Insights gained from these surveys assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

All students who attended State, Catholic and Independent schools, and TAFE secondary colleges in Queensland are included.



2021 Early School Leavers survey

Over 180,000 students were enrolled in Years 10-12 in Queensland schools at the start of 2020



6,291
respondents

51.3%
response rate

2090 left in Year 10
3046 left in Year 11
1155 left in Year 12

Find out more



For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/earlyschoolleavers



Queensland
Government

Post-school engagement

Engagement in education, employment or training

71.3%¹ in education, employment or training

37.7%
in education
or training

33.7%
in employment only

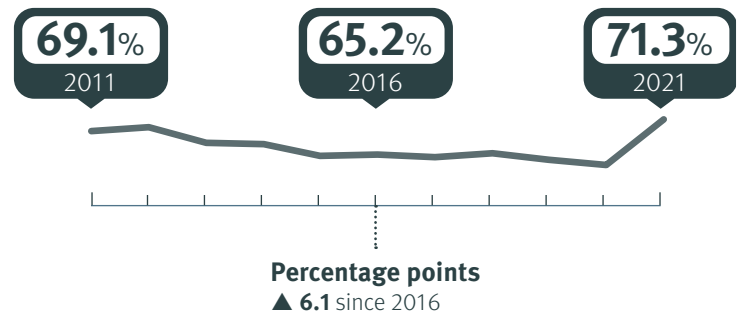
28.7%
not in education,
employment or
training



All early school leavers were assigned to a **main destination**.

This categorisation system prioritises education related destinations over other destinations. For example early school leavers who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination. Apprentices and trainees are reported as being in education or training.

The survey was conducted in August/September 2021, a time when the economy was beginning to recover from the **COVID-19** recession.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

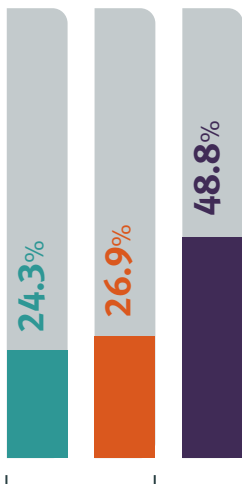


in employment only



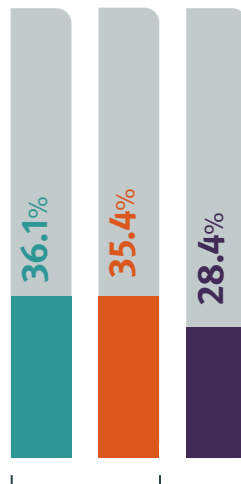
not in education,
employment or training

Indigenous



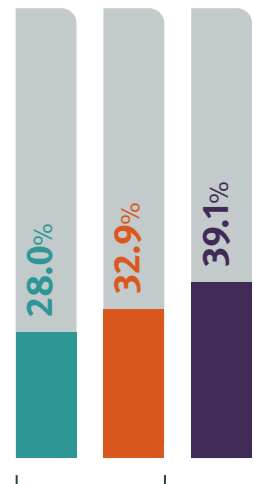
51.2%
of 773
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



71.6%
of 3093
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



60.9%
of 1661
respondents from
disadvantaged areas⁴
were engaged

¹ Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point

² Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (37.1%)

³ Students who were not living in a 'Major Cities' category area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure

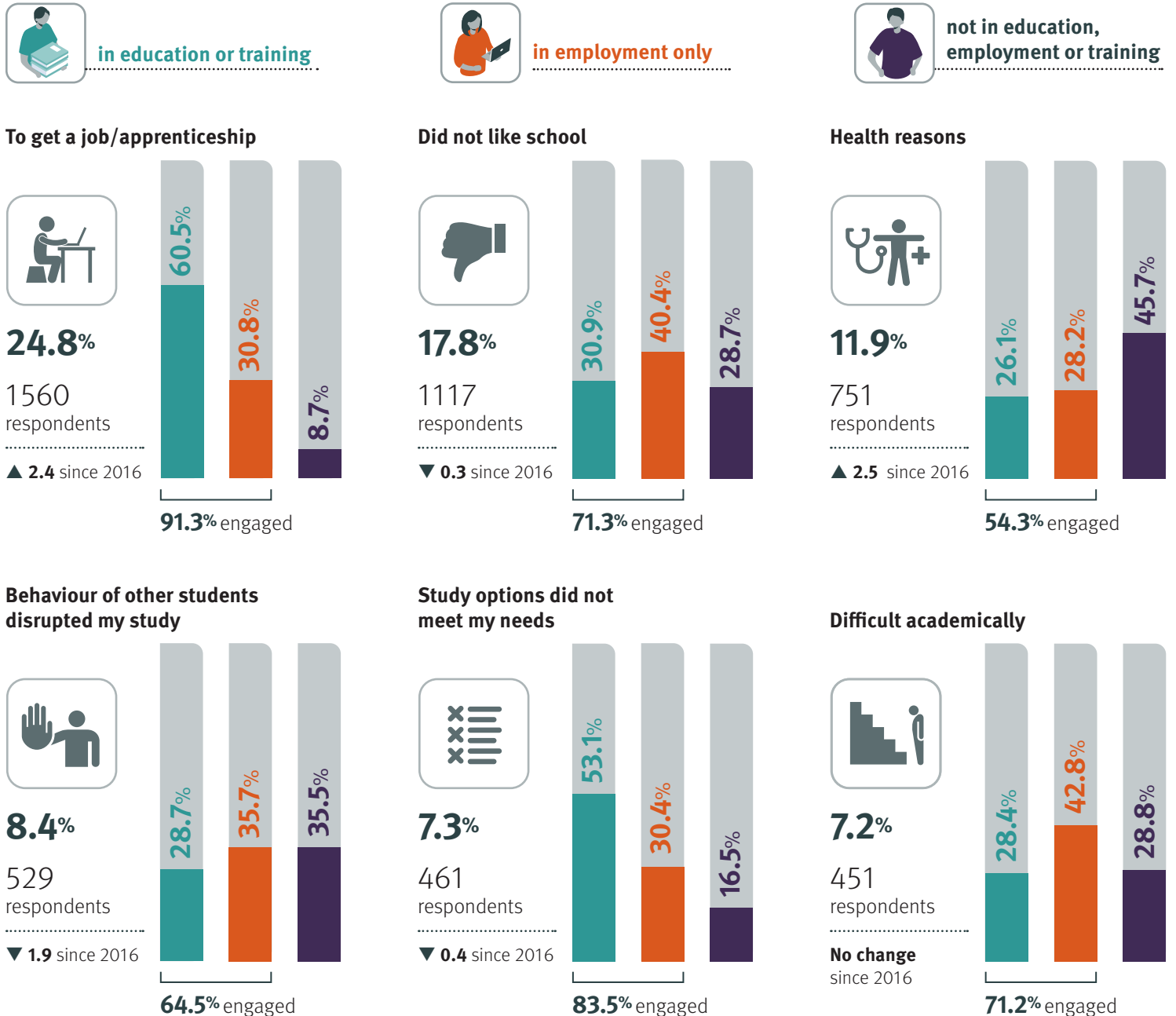
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

Post-school engagement

Why are they leaving?

Percentage point change

Single most important reason for leaving school and how they are engaged now



Females

70.0% in education, training or employment

More likely than males to leave school due to health reasons; **18.0% compared to 8.0%**

Males

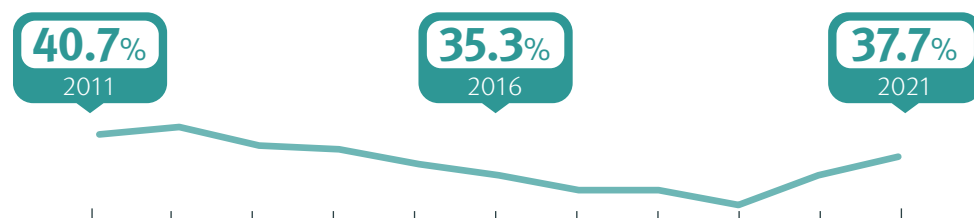
72.2% in education, training or employment

More likely than females to leave school to get a job/apprenticeship; **32.1% compared to 13.6%**

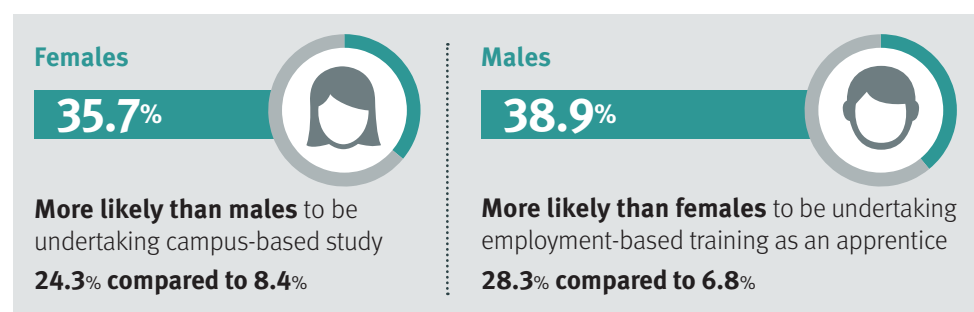
Main destination

In education or training

▲ Percentage point change



Between 2020 and 2021 there was an decrease or no change in all education and training categories, except **apprenticeships** which increased from 14.9% to 19.8%. This corresponds with targeted government support and stimulus in areas such as construction.



Bachelor Degree	0.7%
▲ 0.1 since 2016	
VET Certificate IV+	3.9%
▼ 1.7 since 2016	
VET Certificate III	5.2%
▼ 0.8 since 2016	
VET Certificate I-II/other	3.4%
▼ 1.3 since 2016	
Apprenticeship	19.8%
▲ 5.3 since 2016	
Traineeship	3.2%
▲ 1.3 since 2016	
Secondary study	1.4%
▼ 0.5 since 2016	

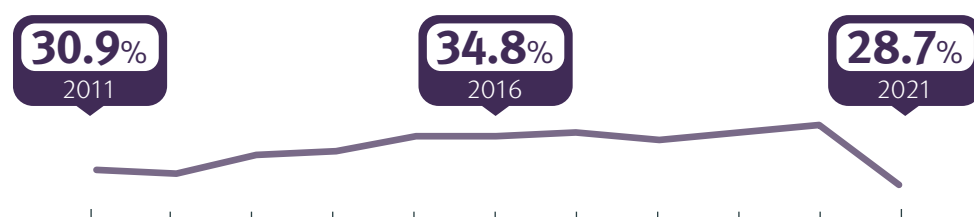
In employment only



The increase in the proportion of early school leavers in employment indicates that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy is less severe on young people than it was in 2020. Those in **employment only** have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Full-time employment	14.7%
▲ 1.6 since 2016	
Part-time employment	18.9%
▲ 2.1 since 2016	

Not in education, employment or training



Seeking work	17.1%
▼ 6.3 since 2016	
Not in the labour force, education or training	11.6%
▲ 0.2 since 2016	

While there were 1805 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 35.2% of these have had a job since leaving school and almost 10% were waiting for a job or study course to begin. A 7.0 percentage point decrease in those seeking work indicates that there are more jobs available than there were in 2020.

Destination:

Education and training

37.7%
2369

of early school leavers
continuing in education
or training

▲ 2.4 since 2016



Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

3.7%

▼ 1.1 since 2016

TAFE

49.3%

▲ 6.5 since 2016

Private training provider

29.1%

▼ 4.4 since 2016

Other institution

17.9%

▼ 1.1 since 2016

In education or training

Females

35.7%



More likely than
males to study in the
field of Food, Hospitality
and Personal Services

Males

38.9%



More likely than
females to study in the
field of Engineering and
Related Technologies

What are they studying?⁵



Engineering and
Related Technologies

25.0%
593

230

Automotive

128

Mechanical & Industrial

116

Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and
Building

19.5%
462

441

Building

21

Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and
Personal Services

14.1%
334

173

Personal Services

161

Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

7.1%
169

103

Human Welfare

25

Sport and Recreation

11

Justice and Law Enforcement

How are they studying?



employment-based study as an **apprentice or trainee**

61.1%



studying **part-time**

79.3%



combining study with **paid employment**

78.6%

⁵ Field of study categories are based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (broad, narrow and detailed).

Destination:

Employment (total)

63.2%
3978

of early school leavers
were in paid employment

▲ 10.8 since 2016



Which industries are they working in?

Percentage point change



Construction

23.6%

▲ 3.5 since 2016



**Accommodation
& Food Services**

21.3%

▼ 3.5 since 2016



Retail Trade

14.2%

▼ 0.4 since 2016



Other Services

10.4%

▼ 0.3 since 2016



Manufacturing

9.0%

▲ 0.5 since 2016

In paid employment

Females

57.6%



More likely than
males to be working
as Sales Workers or
Community and Personal
Service Workers

Males

66.9%



More likely than
females to be working
as Technician and Trades
Workers or Labourers

What jobs are they doing?⁷



**Technicians and
Trades Workers**

34.0%

1352

▼ 3.9 since 2016

241

Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners

189

Auto Electricians and Mechanics

121

Food Trades Workers



Labourers

28.5%

1133

▲ 5.9 since 2016

301

Construction & Mining Labourers

267

Food Preparation Assistants

177

Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers



Sales Workers

17.6%

700

▼ 2.8 since 2016

363

Sales Assistants & Salespersons

326

Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers



**Community and
Personal Service
Workers**

10.8%

431

▲ 0.2 since 2016

211

Hospitality Workers

79

Child Carers

62

Personal Carers & Assistants

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

40.4%



working **full-time**

58.2%



combining work with **further study**

46.8%

⁶ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 63.2% figure includes 33.7% who were only working and 29.6% who were both working and studying. Those who were working and studying are reported as studying for their main destination.

⁷ Occupation categories are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (major and minor groups).

Destination:

Not in education, employment or training

28.7%
1805

of early school leavers
were not in education,
employment or training

▼ 6.1 since 2016

Main reason not studying

Percentage point change



Not interested/
already finished
study

18.1%

▲ 1.3 since 2016



Health reasons

15.1%

▲ 6.7 since 2016



Undecided and
considering
options

11.7%

▼ 2.9 since 2016



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

10.6%

▼ 4.9 since 2016



Disability

7.5%

▲ 3.3 since 2016

Not in education, training or employment

Females

30.0%



More likely than
males to have
parenting or family
commitments

Males

27.8%



More likely than
females to not be
interested in further
study and looking
for work

Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



Not enough
jobs

13.5%



Transport
difficulties

12.3%



Health reasons

10.1%



Not enough
experience

10.0%



Only just started
looking for a job

10.0%

Worked since leaving school



35.2%
636

Main reason left previous job

133 Not satisfied with the job

132 Seasonal/temporary job

98 Health reasons

85 Got laid off/sacked

Not seeking work



40.3%
728

Main reason not seeking work

225 Health reasons

109 Disability

60 Future study commitment

55 Parenting commitments

Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**

59.7%



Have **been impacted by Coronavirus**

7.3%



Are **waiting for employment or study to commence**

9.9%