

2022 Early School Leavers survey

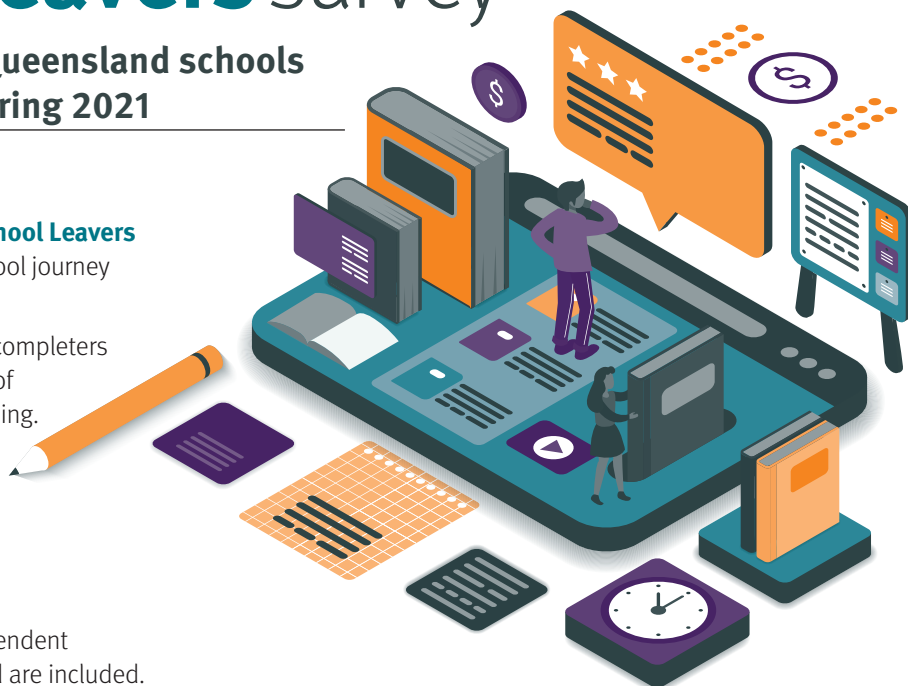
Destinations of students who left Queensland schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2021

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.

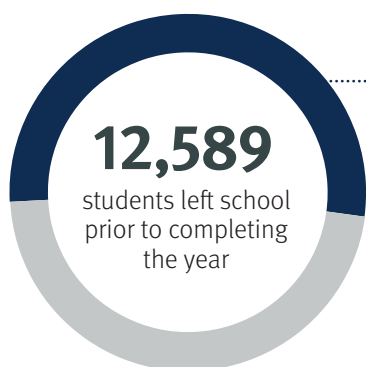
Insights gained from these surveys assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

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



2022 Early School Leavers survey

Over 184,000 students were enrolled in Years 10-12 in Queensland schools at the start of 2021



6,697
respondents

53.2%
response rate

2241 left in Year 10

3721 left in Year 11

735 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/earllyschoollleavers



Queensland
Government

Post-school engagement

Engagement in education, employment or training

76.2%¹ in education, employment or training

38.6%
in education
or training

37.7%
in employment only

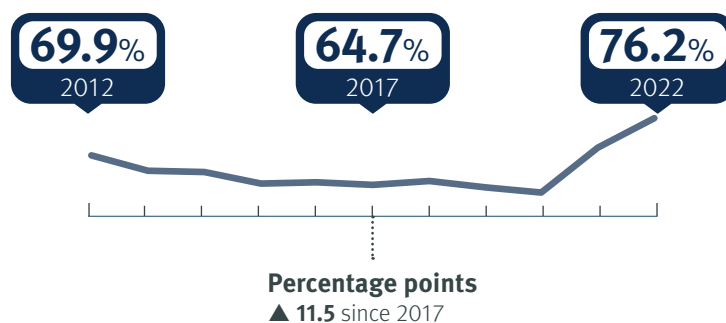
23.8%
not in education,
employment or
training



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 2022, in a year that saw much economic growth.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

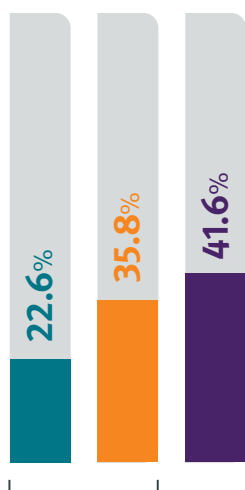


in employment only



not in education,
employment or training

Indigenous



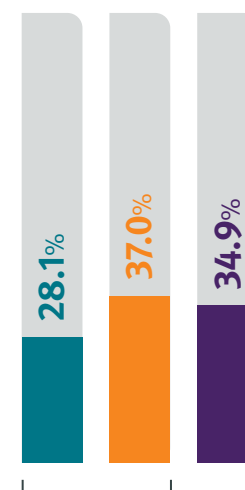
58.4%
of 776
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



75.9%
of 3252
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



65.1%
of 1596
respondents from
disadvantaged areas⁴
were engaged

¹ Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point. For this reason, sum components may not exactly equal sub-totals or 100%.

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 (40.2%).

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



in education or training



in employment only



not in education,
employment or training

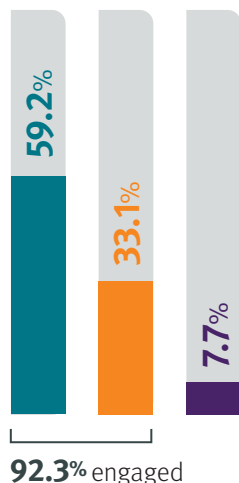
To get a job/apprenticeship



27.8%

1865
respondents

▲ 5.7 since 2017



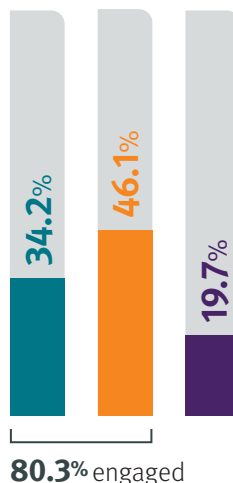
Did not like school



18.9%

1267
respondents

▲ 0.6 since 2017



Health reasons



11.8%

788
respondents

No change
since 2017



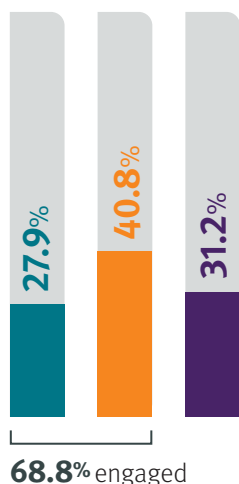
Behaviour of other students disrupted my study



8.2%

551
respondents

▲ 0.1 since 2017



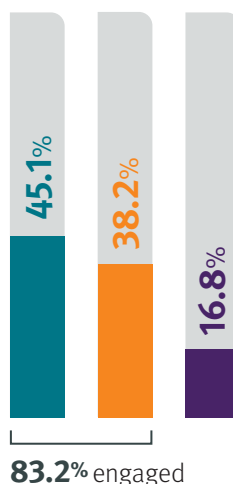
Study options did not meet my needs



7.4%

495
respondents

▲ 0.5 since 2017



Difficult academically



6.8%

453
respondents

▼ 0.2 since 2017



Females

73.8% in education, training or employment



More likely than males to leave school
due to health reasons;
19.0% compared to 7.2%

Males

77.8% in education, training or employment

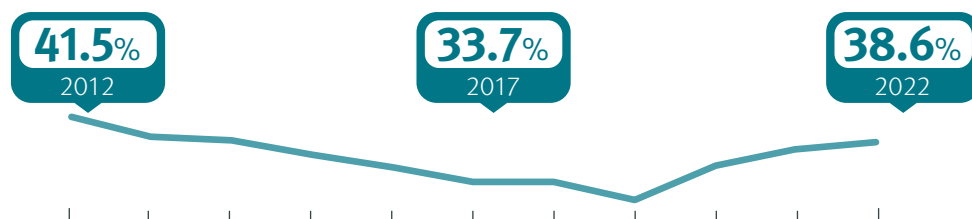


More likely than females to leave school
to get a job/apprenticeship;
36.6% compared to 14.2%

Main destination

In education or training

Percentage point change



Between 2021 and 2022 there was a decrease or close to no change in all education and training categories, except **apprenticeships** which increased from 19.8% to 22.1%. This follows the increase observed between 2020 and 2021 which corresponded with targeted government support and stimulus in areas such as construction.

Females

33.5%



More likely than males to be undertaking campus-based study
20.6% compared to 7.0%

Males

41.8%



More likely than females to be undertaking employment-based training as an apprentice
32.2% compared to 6.4%

Bachelor Degree

No change since 2017

0.6%

VET Certificate IV+

▼ 0.8 since 2017

3.2%

VET Certificate III

▼ 1.4 since 2017

4.3%

VET Certificate I-II/other

▼ 1.4 since 2017

3.3%

Apprenticeship

▲ 7.7 since 2017

22.1%

Traineeship

▲ 1.5 since 2017

4.2%

Secondary study

▼ 0.8 since 2017

0.9%

In employment only



The proportion of early school leavers in employment continues to increase in the post pandemic recovery period. Those in **employment only** have now exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

Full-time employment

▲ 5.0 since 2017

18.4%

Part-time employment

▲ 1.7 since 2017

19.3%

Not in education, employment or training



Seeking work

▼ 9.2 since 2017

14.4%

Not in the labour force, education or training

▼ 2.4 since 2017

9.3%

While there were 1591 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 43.2% of these have had a job since leaving school and 10.6% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Destination:

Education and training

38.6%
2583

of early school leavers
continuing in education
or training

▲ 4.9 since 2017



Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

4.3%

▲ 0.3 since 2017

TAFE

50.8%

▲ 4.1 since 2017

Private training provider

30.4%

▼ 0.7 since 2017

Other institution

14.6%

▼ 3.7 since 2017

In education or training

Females

33.5%



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

28.7% compared to 7.7%

Males

41.8%



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

40.0% compared to 3.0%

What are they studying?⁵



Engineering and
Related Technologies

27.4%
709

265

Automotive

174

Mechanical & Industrial

123

Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and
Building

21.4%
554

530

Building

24

Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and
Personal Services

14.8%
383

204

Personal Services

179

Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

6.1%
158

104

Human Welfare

25

Sport & Recreation

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

How are they studying?



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

68.2%



studying **part-time**

84.0%



combining study with **paid employment**

85.1%

Destination:

Employment (total)

70.5%
4722

of early school leavers
were in paid employment

▲ 17.1 since 2017



Which industries are they working in?

◆ Percentage point change



Construction

23.8%

▲ 2.2 since 2017



**Accommodation
& Food Services**

20.5%

▼ 2.3 since 2017



Retail Trade

13.5%

▼ 1.0 since 2017



Manufacturing

9.1%

▼ 0.1 since 2017



**Health Care
& Social
Assistance**

5.1%

▲ 2.3 since 2017

In paid employment

Females

65.3%



**More likely than
males to be working as
Sales Workers**

34.5% compared to 8.4%

Males

73.9%



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

46.0% compared to 11.7%

What jobs are they doing?⁷



**Technicians and
Trades Workers**

33.6%

1586

▼ 1.0 since 2017

304 Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners

225 Auto Electricians & Mechanics

142 Fabrication Engineering Trades Workers



Labourers

27.8%

1314

▲ 0.2 since 2017

335 Construction & Mining Labourers

253 Food Preparation Assistants

151 Farm Workers



Sales Workers

17.8%

842

▼ 2.1 since 2017

586 Sales Assistants & Salespersons

230 Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers



**Community and
Personal Service
Workers**

11.5%

545

▲ 2.2 since 2017

263 Hospitality Workers

115 Child Carers

88 Personal Carers & Assistants

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

40.2%



working **full-time**

62.0%



combining work with further study

46.6%

⁶ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 70.5% figure includes 37.7% who were only working and 32.8% 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

23.8%
1591

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

▼ 11.5 since 2017

Main reason not studying

Percentage point change



Not interested/
already finished
study

18.6%

▲ 1.3 since 2017



Health reasons

16.0%

▲ 4.6 since 2017



Undecided and
considering
options

12.4%

▼ 0.6 since 2017



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

9.9%

▼ 4.8 since 2017



Disability

7.0%

▲ 3.2 since 2017

Not in education, training or employment

Females

26.2%



More likely than
males to have health
reasons or parenting
commitments

Males

22.2%



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

Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



Health reasons

13.0%



Only just started
looking for a job

11.8%



Transport
difficulties

10.1%



Not trying
very hard

9.9%



Not enough
job experience

9.4%

Worked since leaving school



43.2%
687

Main reason left previous job

187 Not satisfied with the job

108 Seasonal/temporary job

94 Health reasons

89 Got laid off/sacked

Not seeking work



39.2%
624

Main reason not seeking work

194 Health reasons

70 Disability

49 Accepted job that starts later

48 Don't want to work

Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**

60.8%



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

10.6%