NSW Secondary Students’ Post-School Destinations and Expectations

VET Participation in Schools

This fact sheet provides a brief overview of findings from the 2018 NSW Secondary Students’ Post-School Destinations and Expectations survey relating to Vocational Education and Training (VET) participation in school. One-in-three respondents answered questions about VET participation – 1,160 Year 12 completers and 1,487 early school leavers.

VET courses in school

- **81.9%** Year 12 completers and **75.3%** early school leavers said VET courses were available at school. A higher proportion of Year 12 completers said VET was available at school. Early school leavers are more likely to be unsure if VET was available.

- **34.1%** Year 12 completers and **41.5%** early school leavers started a VET course at school. Early leavers are more likely to have started a VET course at school than Year 12 completers.

- **46.3%** Year 12 completers and **48.2%** early school leavers said doing VET at school increased their interest in a career or job in this area. There is no difference between the proportion of Year 12 completers and early school leavers.

- **18.1%** Year 12 completers and **45.1%** early school leavers would have been interested in doing VET if available. Early school leavers would have been more interested in doing VET if available.

VET course completion

Most Year 12 completers who started a VET course finished the course and received a qualification. Early school leavers are more likely to not finish the VET course they start at school.

- **10.3%** Year 12 completers and **73.4%** early school leavers finished the course and received a qualification.
- **13.4%** Year 12 completers and **64.0%** early school leavers finished the course but did not receive a qualification.
- **24.4%** Year 12 completers and **7.3%** early school leavers did not finish.

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1. Of those where VET was offered at school
2. Of those who started a VET course at school
3. Of those where VET was not offered at school or respondent was unsure
Finished course, but not qualification

Most common reasons for not completing the VET qualification, despite completing the course, included no longer being interested in a job in the area and not needing the qualification for employment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Year 12 completers</th>
<th>Early school leavers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No longer interested in job in area</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t need the qualification for employment</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer interested after completing school</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agreed they benefitted from studying VET at school even though they did not finish the qualification⁵.

Did not finish VET course

Almost two-thirds (64.0%) of early school leavers who started a VET course did not finish the course at school. Female early school leavers are more likely not to finish the course than male early school leavers (70.1% vs. 61.0%). Students often left school before they could complete the course.

Early school leavers main reason for not finishing course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left school before finishing the course</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer fit with plans</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer interested in job in area</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among early school leavers who did not finish the course:

- 18% completed a related qualification after school
- 22% were currently studying for a related qualification

Agreed they benefitted from studying VET at school even though they did not finish the course⁶.

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⁴ Males (18.8%) more likely to report this reason than females (7.6%)
⁵ Of those who finished the course but not the qualification
⁶ Of those who did not finish the course