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 a VET course 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 24.4% Early school leavers finished course and qualification.
- 13.4% Year 12 completers and 7.3% Early school leavers finished course but not qualification.
- 73.4% Year 12 completers and 64.0% Early school leavers did not finish.

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
4 2.9 per cent of participants indicated that they either did not know if they had finished the course or did not answer the question.
5 4.3 per cent of participants indicated that they either did not know if they had finished the course or did not answer the question.
**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>Year 12 completers</th>
<th>Early school leavers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>No longer interested in job in area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>Didn’t need the qualification for employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>No longer interested after completing school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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>Early school leavers main reason</th>
<th>Year 12 completers</th>
<th>Early school leavers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left school before finishing the course</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>70.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer fit with plans</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer interested in job in area</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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6 Males (18.8%) more likely to report this reason than females (7.6%)

7 Of those who finished the course but not the qualification

8 Of those who did not finish the course