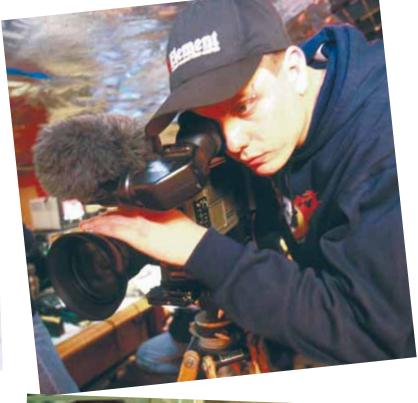


# The *On Track* Survey 2012

The Destinations of School Leavers in Victoria
Statewide Report









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This document is also available on the internet at www.education.vic.gov.au/ontrack

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All responsibility for the management of the data and for the interpretations and conclusions set out in this report rests with the authors.

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Sheldon Rothman
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# Chapter 1 Introduction

### Aims of On Track

The *On Track* project was initiated in 2003. Since the first large-scale survey in that year, around 385,000 school leavers have participated in the *On Track* surveys, providing valuable insights into their post-school destinations and pathways. The *On Track* survey seeks to:

- Offer a consistent and comprehensive approach to monitoring the transitions of school leavers;
- Report the information to schools, TAFE institutions and other education providers, organisations concerned with assisting young people, policymakers, parents and students;
- Provide detailed analyses of the transitions experienced by different groups of leavers;
- Enable education providers to use the findings to monitor and improve their programs; and
- Provide a referral service for school leavers who appear to be experiencing difficulties in the transition process.

### The On Track survey and reporting

The *On Track* survey was conducted in April—May 2012 by the Social Research Centre (SRC) in collaboration with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This involved a short telephone survey of school leavers who had earlier agreed to participate. Separate questionnaires were used for Year 12 or equivalent completers and early school leavers. The questionnaires were updated and revised in minor ways from those used in 2011. The questionnaires are available from the *On Track* website, http://www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/ontrack.

Participants in the *On Track* survey are guaranteed confidentiality and it is not possible to identify individual school leavers in any reporting. In keeping with the requirements of privacy legislation, permission to use names and contact details of Years 10, 11 and 12 students enrolled in the VCE, VCAL or IB was sought through a question on each student's Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) enrolment form in early 2011. International students were defined as out-of-scope for the purposes of *On Track* and were not included in the information provided by the VCAA.

This report is based on data from telephone surveys of 33,901 Year 12 or equivalent completers and 3552 early leavers from the 2011 school year. The report focuses on analyses at the state and regional levels. Results for individual schools were published in June 2012. All *On Track* reports, from previous years and from the longitudinal component of the program, are available from the *On Track* website. Individual school results can also be found at the My School website of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (http://www.myschool.edu.au/).

### Year 12 or equivalent completers sample

Year 12 or equivalent completers are defined as those who completed a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL, Senior or Intermediate). The sample includes those who completed such qualifications in schools (98.2%), or in TAFE institutions or adult and community education providers (1.8%).

Of the 53,239 Year 12 or equivalent completers in 2011, 46,722 (87.8%) allowed their contact details to be released. The names and telephone numbers of this group were supplied by the VCAA to the research team at the Social Research Centre. There were 33,901 successful responses, which represents 63.7% of all Year 12 or equivalent completers and 72.6% of those who agreed to take part). Table 1 provides a summary of the target population and achieved sample, and losses due to opting-out and non-contact.

Table 1 Year 12 or equivalent completers: target population and achieved sample

Category	Number	Percentage (%)
Surveyed (achieved sample)	33,901	63.7
Opted-out	6,517	12.2
Declined on contact	1,797	3.4

The gender make-up of the achieved sample of 33,901 was identical to that of the target sample: 52.9% of respondents were female as were 52.9% of the target sample. Sector composition was also similar between the achieved sample and target sample. Completers from Government schools represented 53.1% of the target sample and 52.5% of respondents. Completers from Catholic schools represented 23.0% of the target sample and 24.5% of respondents; from Independent schools, 21.5% of the target sample and 21.2% of respondents; and from adult education providers, 2.4% of the target sample and 1.8% of respondents. The regional distribution of schools attended by Year 12 completers in the achieved sample also showed little deviation from those in the target sample: 73.8% of students in the target sample attended schools located in metropolitan regions, as had 74.2% of respondents.

The vast majority of survey respondents completed the VCE qualification (92.6%), followed by VCAL (6.5%) and IB (0.9%), as shown in Table 2. Since the 2008 survey, the proportion of completers who received a VCAL certificate only has increased from 4.6% to 6.5%.

Table 2 Year 12 or equivalent completers: certificate completed in 2012

Qualification	Number	Percentage (%)
VCE	33,901	92.6
VCAL	6,517	6.5
IB	1,797	0.9
Total	53,239	100.0

**Notes:** 538 VCE students also received a VCAL qualification; to avoid double-counting they are included in the VCE group only.

#### Early school leavers sample

For *On Track*, early school leavers are defined as those students who had registered their details with the VCAA by enrolling in a VCE or VCAL unit, and who left school during 2011 before completing one of the qualifications included above (VCE, IB, VCAL Senior or VCAL Intermediate). In general, early leavers had been in Year 10, 11 or 12 when they left school. As such, the sample does not represent all early leavers from Victorian schools.

For the 2012 survey, the early leavers consent file from the VCAA comprised 11,615 records, 791 more than for the 2011 survey. A total of 3552 early leavers were successfully contacted and surveyed through *On Track*, representing a response rate of 30.6% of those who consented to be contacted, lower than in 2011. The response rate was affected by the number of unusable telephone numbers or incorrect contact information, which accounted for 4574 or 39.4% of the target sample, 1000 more than the number who were interviewed.

Table 3 records the composition of the target and achieved samples of early school leavers in relation to the year level at which they left school, based on data provided by VCAA. A little more than one-third (35.7%) of the achieved sample comprised leavers from Year 12, compared to 45.0% of the target sample. A further 47.9% of the achieved sample were leavers from Year 11, and 16.5% were leavers from Year 10 or below.

Table 3 Early school leavers 2012: target population and achieved sample, by year level of exit in 2011

	Target	sample	Achieved	d sample
Year level of exit	Number	%	Number	%
Year 10 or lower	1,690	14.6	585	16.5
Year 11	4,698	40.4	1,700	47.9
Year 12 (before completion)	5,227	45.0	1,267	35.7
Total	11,615	100.0	3,552	100.0

**Notes:** This table is based on year level information in the sample files provided by VCAA. All other data on early school leavers in this report are based on respondents' answer to the question 'What year level were you in when you left school?'

Findings based on the early leaver data should be treated with caution due to the relatively low overall response rate among the sample and evidence of differential response rates among sub-groups of early leavers. Nevertheless, the *On Track* sample of early leavers is much larger than any other early leaver data collection for Victoria and enables more detailed analyses than would otherwise be available.

### **Confidence intervals**

The results presented in this report are based on interviews with 33,901 Year 12 or equivalent completers from a population of 53,239, and 3,552 early school leavers from a population of 11,615 consenters. Confidence intervals are not reported within the individual tables that appear in this report. As most results are reported as percentages of the sample, the general range of confidence intervals can be reported once, as the calculation of the standard deviation for proportions is affected by the sample size only. In addition, with a known population size and a sample larger than 10% of the population, the finite population correction (fpc), which is based on both the population size and sample size, is used to adjust the calculation of the standard error and, consequently, the confidence interval.

The 95% confidence intervals for selected percentages are shown in Table 4, separately for Year 12 or equivalent completers and for early leavers. The largest confidence interval for Year 12 or equivalent completers data is  $\pm$ 0.4 percentage points for percentages between 26% and 74%. For early leavers data, the largest confidence interval is  $\pm$ 2.5 percentage points for percentages between 43% and 57%. For more extreme percentages, the confidence intervals are smaller. In the case of post-school destinations, the 95% confidence interval for the percentage of Year 12 or equivalent completers who enrolled for bachelor degree study is 52.0%  $\pm$ 0.4%; that is, the 95% confidence interval extends from 51.6% to 52.4%, so we can be confident that the 'true' figure lies within that interval.

Table 4 Confidence intervals, 2012 On Track surveys

Year 12 or equivalen	t completers	Early school leavers			
Range	Confidence interval	Range	Confidence interval		
26-74%	±0.4%	43-57%	±2.5%		
11-25% and 75-89%	±0.3%	35-42% and 58-65%	±2.4%		
4-10% and 90-96%	±0.2%	30-34% and 66-70%	±2.3%		
1-3% and 97-99%	±0.1%	26-29% and 71-74%	±2.2%		
		22-25% and 75-78%	±2.1%		
		20-21% and 79-80%	±2.0%		
		1-19% and 81-99%	±‱2.0%		
		1-14% and 86-99%	±‱1.6%		

# Chapter 2 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers

This chapter provides details of the destinations of the young people who completed Year 12 or its equivalent during 2011, and were interviewed for On Track in April 2012. The first section provides an overview of the destinations by gender, socioeconomic status (SES), Indigenous status, language background, geographic location and study strand, and a comparison with results from earlier On Track surveys. Subsequent sections examine in more detail particular destinations: tertiary study, apprenticeship/traineeship, employment and unemployment. Year 12 or equivalent completers who deferred tertiary study in 2012 have

been allocated to a destination, and are discussed separately at the end of the chapter.

### **Main destinations in 2012**

Table 5 shows the main destinations as at April 2012 of those who completed Year 12 or its equivalent in 2011. In order to prevent double-counting, the table shows a single destination for each respondent. For young people who are combining study and work, *On Track* emphasises the study destination. For example, a bachelor degree student who also holds a part-time job is classified in the 'bachelor degree' category and

not in the 'employed' category. Similarly, apprentices and trainees are classified in the 'apprenticeship/traineeship' category rather than as 'employed', although most of them are employed as a condition of their training contracts. Completers who deferred a place in a tertiary-level program have been allocated to a destination in Table 5. Information on the activities of those who deferred study in 2012 begins on page 22. Information on the subsequent pathways of those who deferred tertiary places in earlier years can be found in the On Track survey longitudinal reports and in other research (Polesel, 2009; Polesel, Klatt & O'Hanlon, 2012).

Table 5 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, April 2012

Destination	No.	(%)
Bachelor degree	17619	52.0
Certificate IV+	4547	13.4
Certificate I-III	1378	4.1
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	2727	8.0
Employed	5943	17.5
Looking for work	1394	4.1

More than three-quarters (77.5%) of 2011 Year 12 or equivalent completers continued in some form of education or training in 2012. Study toward a bachelor degree was the most common activity for respondents (52.0%), followed by certificate-level study (17.5%). Apprentices and trainees accounted for another 8.0% of Year 12 or equivalent completers.

Of the 22.5% of completers who were not in education or training, most

were working either full-time (6.9%) or part-time (10.6%). Only 4.1% were in the labour market but unemployed and looking for work, and 0.9% were not in the labour force, education or training (NILFET).

### **Destinations by gender**

Gender differences in patterns of school completion and post-school destinations have been documented elsewhere (e.g., Curtis & McMillan, 2008), and in previous

On Track reports. The patterns previously identified continue among the 2011 completers.

Females make up a higher proportion of respondents who had completed Year 12 or its equivalent in 2011 (53.2%) than males (46.8%). This largely reflects the higher retention to Year 12 of females.

Table 6 presents destination data by gender, with traineeships reported separately from apprenticeships and part-time employment reported separately from full-time employment. The most notable gender differences in destinations are:

 Young women more frequently than young men entered bachelor degree study (54.7% compared to 48.9%).

- Young men much more frequently than young women entered an apprenticeship (8.7% compared to 1.5%), and young women more frequently than men entered a traineeship (3.7% compared to 2.5%).
- There was little difference in the percentage of young men and young
- women who were employed, 17.6% and 17.5%, respectively. Of those employed, 45.2% of young men and 34.3% of young women were working full-time.
- Young men were more frequently looking for work (4.9%) than were young women (3.4%).

Table 6 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by gender, April 2012

	Females		Ma	les	Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
University	9801	54.7	7818	48.9	17619	52.0
Certificate IV+	2465	13.8	2082	13.0	4547	13.4
Certificate I-III	833	4.6	545	3.4	1378	4.1
Apprenticeship	264	1.5	1396	8.7	1660	4.9
Traineeship	670	3.7	397	2.5	1067	3.1
Employed full-time	1071	6.0	1272	8.0	2343	6.9
Employed part-time	2056	11.5	1544	9.7	3600	10.6
Looking for work	607	3.4	787	4.9	1394	4.1
NILFET	152	0.8	141	0.9	293	0.9
Total	17919	100.0	15982	100.0	33901	100.0

## Destinations by senior certificate and study strand

Students in Victorian secondary schools are able to choose from a number of different senior certificates and undertake nationally accredited vocational education and training

(VET) studies while at school. This section reports on destinations in terms of whether students completed the International Baccalaureate (IB)¹, VCE or VCAL (or a combined VCE–VCAL program), and whether VCE completers included any VET in Schools subjects as part of

their studies. Table 7 provides details on the destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by gender, according to the senior certificate completed and study strand.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Through 2011, the International Baccalaureate was available only in non-government schools.

Table 7 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by senior certificate, study strand and gender, April 2012

IB		В	VCE non-VET		VCE	VET	VCE-	VCAL	VCAL only	
Destination	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Females										
Bachelor degree	169	82.0	7785	62.9	1819	41.9	27	14.0	1	0.1
Certificate IV+	2	1.0	1410	11.4	816	18.8	54	28.0	183	22.6
Certificate I-III	1	0.5	432	3.5	249	5.7	20	10.4	131	16.2
Apprenticeship	2	1.0	96	0.8	81	1.9	15	7.8	70	8.6
Traineeship	1	0.5	342	2.8	233	5.4	6	3.1	88	10.9
Employed	28	13.6	1877	15.2	943	21.7	54	28.0	225	27.8
Looking for work	3	1.5	335	2.7	160	3.7	15	7.8	94	11.6
NILFET	0	0.0	94	0.8	38	0.9	2	1.0	18	2.2
Total	206	100.0	12371	100.0	4339	100.0	193	100.0	810	100.0
Males										
Bachelor degree	80	83.3	6274	61.9	1402	34.9	53	15.3	9	0.7
Certificate IV+	2	2.1	1153	11.4	716	17.8	38	11.0	173	12.5
Certificate I-III	2	2.1	278	2.7	156	3.9	9	2.6	100	7.2
Apprenticeship	0	0.0	349	3.4	460	11.5	102	29.4	485	35.1
Traineeship	1	1.0	169	1.7	139	3.5	20	5.8	68	4.9
Employed	9	9.4	1474	14.5	880	21.9	87	25.1	366	26.5
Looking for work	1	1.0	360	3.5	228	5.7	34	9.8	164	11.9
NILFET	1	1.0	85	0.8	34	0.8	4	1.2	17	1.2
Total	96	100.0	10142	100.0	4015	100.0	347	100.0	1382	100.0
Persons										
Bachelor degree	249	82.5	14059	62.4	3221	38.6	80	14.8	10	0.5
Certificate IV+	4	1.3	2563	11.4	1532	18.3	92	17.0	356	16.2
Certificate I-III	3	1.0	710	3.2	405	4.8	29	5.4	231	10.5
Apprenticeship	2	0.7	445	2.0	541	6.5	117	21.7	555	25.3
Traineeship	2	0.7	511	2.3	372	4.5	26	4.8	156	7.1
Employed	37	12.3	3351	14.9	1823	21.8	141	26.1	591	27.0
Looking for work	4	1.3	695	3.1	388	4.6	49	9.1	258	11.8
NILFET	1	0.3	179	0.8	72	0.9	6	1.1	35	1.6
Total	302	100.0	22513	100.0	8354	100.0	540	100.0	2192	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Of completers who studied VCE without any VET-almost two-thirds of completers surveyed— 62.4% were enrolled in bachelor degree study in April 2012. Bachelor degree study was also the most common destination (38.6%) for those who included some VET in their VCE.<sup>2</sup> Apprenticeships, traineeships and employment were the most common destinations of VCAL completers, accounting for 52.6% of the VCE-VCAL group and 59.4% of the VCAL only group. VCAL participants were unemployed and looking for work in greater proportions than other completers. IB completers represent less than 1% of all *On Track* respondents in the 2012 survey, and 68.2% of IB completers are female. Among IB completers, 82.5% were in bachelor degree study and 12.3% were employed in April 2012. There are only small differences between males and females in relation to destinations for IB completers.

Certificate-level study is an important destination for completers from VCE and VCAL programs. Enrolment in certificate courses ranged from 14.5% of VCE non-VET completers to 26.8% of VCAL only completers. Former VCE students in certificate-level courses – regardless of whether they had done VET in Schools or VCAL – were more frequently studying at level IV and above (78.5%) compared to those who completed VCAL only (60.6%).

#### **Destinations by socioeconomic status**

Differences in education and employment participation among young people from different socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds have been well documented in Australia over many years, including through On Track. On Track uses a measure of SES based on students' home address when in Year 12. The measure is obtained by linking each student's home address to the ABS Census Collection District (CD) in which their home is located. Once the CD is known, its Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSED) score and State percentile rank, obtained from the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (ABS, 2006), are assigned to each completer. CDs with percentile ranks from 1 to 25 are then assigned to the lowest SES quarter; CDs with percentile ranks from 26 to 50 to the lower middle quarter; CDs with percentile ranks from 51 to 75 to the upper middle quarter; and CDs with percentile ranks from 76 to 99 to the highest quarter. Overall, 99.9% of respondents' addresses were matched to a CD; all were matched to a SLA.3

Table 8 reports on the destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers classified according to their SES quarter and gender. Year 12 or equivalent completers from the highest SES quarter were more frequently enrolled for a bachelor degree in April 2012 (60.5%) than were completers in the other three quarters. Among all SES quarters,

bachelor degree enrolment was more frequent among young women than among young men.

Completers from the lower SES quarters were more frequently enrolled in certificate-level courses than were those from higher quarters (22.5% from the lowest quarter and 14.0% from the highest). This holds for courses at Certificates I-III as well as Certificate IV and above. There were small differences in the proportions entering an apprenticeship or traineeship from among the three lowest SES quarters, but the proportion from the highest SES quarter was lower. In the highest three SES quarters, the rate of apprenticeship/ traineeship take-up for young men was more than double the rate for young women.

Completers from the lower SES quarters were more frequently in the labour market than were those from the highest quarter, either in employment (17.6% of the lowest quarter and 15.5% of the highest) or looking for work (5.8% of the lowest and 2.6% of the highest). At all SES levels, males were more frequently than females looking for work.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> One respondent had a home address in New South Wales and is not included in analyses based on SES.

Table 8 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers by socioeconomic status (SES) and gender, April 2012

Destination	Lowest	Lower middle	Upper middle	Highest	Total
Females					
Bachelor degree	47.0	49.7	54.1	63.0	54.7
Certificate IV+	16.4	15.4	13.7	11.2	13.8
Certificate I-III	7.5	5.0	4.4	3.0	4.6
Apprenticeship	6.0	6.2	5.3	4.0	5.2
Employed	17.1	19.0	18.5	15.7	17.5
Looking for work	4.8	4.2	3.2	2.2	3.4
NILFET	1.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Males					
Bachelor degree	41.6	40.7	48.4	58.0	48.9
Certificate IV+	15.7	13.9	12.6	11.6	13.0
Certificate I-III	5.2	3.9	3.3	2.3	3.4
Apprenticeship	11.5	13.8	11.9	8.9	11.2
Employed	18.3	20.2	18.3	15.2	17.6
Looking for work	7.0	6.5	4.7	3.1	4.9
NILFET	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons					
Bachelor degree	44.6	45.6	51.4	60.5	52.0
Certificate IV+	16.0	14.7	13.2	11.4	13.4
Certificate I-III	6.5	4.5	3.9	2.7	4.1
Apprenticeship	8.5	9.7	8.4	6.4	8.0
Employed	17.6	19.5	18.4	15.5	17.5
Looking for work	5.8	5.3	3.9	2.6	4.1
NILFET	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Notes:** This table is based on all Year 12 or equivalent completers whose home addresses could be mapped to a Census Collection District (CD) or Statistical Local Area (SLA). CD-level information was not available for 0.1% of addresses. Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

#### **Destinations by Indigenous status**

Only a small proportion (0.8%, 273 persons) of the 2011 Year 12 or equivalent completers identified as being either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the telephone interview for *On Track*. The destinations of this small group are presented in Table 9. Because of the small numbers of Indigenous completers, a number of categories were combined to maintain adequate cell sizes.

Among Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent completers, 37.7% were studying

toward a bachelor degree, a 7.7 percentage point increase compared with the 2011 survey. A further 15.4% of Indigenous completers were enrolled in certificate-level courses, at both Certificate I-III (6.2%) and Certificate IV or above (9.2%). The percentage of Indigenous Year 12 completers enrolled in certificate-level courses at level I-III was higher than the percentage of non-Indigenous completers in those courses. In addition, Indigenous completers were in apprenticeships and traineeships at a higher rate than non-Indigenous

completers (13.6% compared to 7.9%). Indigenous completers were more frequently employed (26.7% compared to 16.8%), and more frequently looking for work or NILFET (6.6% compared to 4.6%).

The percentage of Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent completers in education and training in 2012 (66.7%) was greater than in 2011 (63.4%), but lower than the 78.5% of all Year 12 or equivalent completers in education and training.

Table 9 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers from an Indigenous background, by gender, April 2012

	Females		Ma	lles	Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Bachelor degree	62	45.3	41	30.1	103	37.7
Certificate IV+	11	8.0	14	10.3	25	9.2
Certificate I-III	11	8.0	6	4.4	17	6.2
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	16	11.7	21	15.4	37	13.6
Employed full-time	12	8.8	18	13.2	30	11.0
Employed part-time	18	13.1	25	18.4	43	15.8
Looking for work/NILFET	7	5.1	11	8.1	18	6.6
Total	137	100.0	136	100.0	273	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### **Destinations by language background**

One-fifth of respondents in the 2012 On Track survey said that they speak a language other than English at home. Among these completers from a language background other than English (LBOTE), the most common languages spoken are Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin, each comprising more than 9% of all other-language speakers. The destinations of LBOTE Year 12 or equivalent completers by gender are shown in Table 10.

Table 10 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers from a language background other than English, by gender, April 2012

	Females		Ma	les	Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Bachelor degree	2445	70.4	2119	64.1	4564	67.3
Certificate IV+	482	13.9	536	16.2	1018	15.0
Certificate I-III	146	4.2	91	2.8	237	3.5
Apprenticeship	36	1.0	127	3.8	163	2.4
Traineeship	51	1.5	42	1.3	93	1.4
Employed full-time	69	2.0	101	3.1	170	2.5
Employed part-time	132	3.8	136	4.1	268	4.0
Looking for work	90	2.6	135	4.1	225	3.3
NILFET	21	0.6	18	0.5	39	0.6
Total	3472	100.0	3305	100.0	6777	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Among LBOTE speakers, 67.3% were enrolled in a bachelor degree program. This is higher than the 52.0% of all Year 12 or equivalent completers studying toward a bachelor degree. In addition, 18.5% of LBOTE completers were enrolled in certificate-level study, compared to 17.5% of all Year 12 or equivalent completers. Overall, 89.6% of Year 12 or equivalent completers from a LBOTE were engaged in education and training as at April 2012.

### **Destinations by geographic location**

The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) operates nine regional offices, four in the metropolitan area and five in the remainder of the state. The major difference between the metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions in the destinations of Year 12 completers is the proportion of young people who defer tertiary study. More information on deferrers is presented later in this chapter. In the metropolitan

regions, 8.1% of Year 12 or equivalent completers deferred tertiary study; in the non-metropolitan regions, 16.5% of completers deferred. These different rates of deferral are reflected in the proportions of Year 12 or equivalent completers who were enrolled in bachelor degree study in April 2012, although there are other differences, as shown in Table 11.

Among Year 12 or equivalent completers from metropolitan regions, the most

common destination was bachelor degree study, attracting 56.6% of the group. Those who had attended schools in Eastern Metropolitan region were most frequently studying for a bachelor degree, at 62.8%; those from schools in the Northern Metropolitan region were least frequently in bachelor degree study, at 51.4%. Among those from schools in non-metropolitan regions, 43.8% of completers from schools in the Grampians region had enrolled for a bachelor degree. Among all regions, the lowest rate of enrolment in bachelor degrees was in the Hume region (29.2%).

There are regional differences for other forms of post-school education and training. Among completers from

metropolitan areas, 14.6% were enrolled in certificate-level courses at Certificate IV and above, and 3.8% at Certificate I-III in April 2012. Among those from non-metropolitan regions, 10.0% were in Certificate IV and above courses and 4.9% in Certificate I-III courses. Among the metropolitan regions, Northern Metropolitan (22.0%) and Western Metropolitan (21.6%) had the highest rates of participation in certificate-level courses. Among the non-metropolitan regions, Gippsland had the highest rate of enrolment in certificate-level courses (17.1%). Among Year 12 or equivalent completers from non-metropolitan regions, 12.6% were undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship, compared to 6.5% of completers from metropolitan regions.

There are also regional differences in the employment rates of Year 12 or equivalent completers. Among those from schools in metropolitan regions, 5.0% were employed full-time and 8.9% part-time. In the non-metropolitan regions, 12.5% were employed full-time and 15.7% part-time. Within the regional differences there are also gender differences in employment and hours of work. In non-metropolitan regions, males were more often working full[-time (14.9%) than part-time (13.6%). Across all regions, females were more frequently working part-time than full-time.

Table 11 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by DEECD region and gender, April 2012

	Metropolitan Regions					
	Eastern Metropolitan	Northern Metropolitan	Southern Metropolitan	Western Metropolitan	Metropolitan Regions	
Destination	%	%	%	%	%	
Females						
Bachelor degree	64.4	55.5	57-4	59-3	59.6	
Certificate IV+	12.6	17.7	13.6	17.1	14.8	
Certificate I-III	3.5	4.6	4.1	4.9	4.2	
Apprenticeship	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	
Traineeship	2.4	2.7	3.0	2,2	2.6	
Employed full-time	4.7	3.9	4.5	3.6	4.3	
Employed part-time	7.8	8.9	12.0	8.0	9.3	
Looking for work	2.6	4.3	3.4	3.1	3.3	
NILFET	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Males						
Bachelor degree	61.2	46.5	50.2	50.8	53.4	
Certificate IV+	11.3	17.3	14.4	17.4	14.4	
Certificate I-III	2.5	4.2	3.5	3.8	3.3	
Apprenticeship	6.7	9.1	7.4	7.3	7.5	
Traineeship	1.5	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.9	
Employed full-time	5.2	6.3	6.6	4.6	5.7	
Employed part-time	7.1	8.5	10.1	8.0	8.4	
Looking for work	3.4	5.2	4.7	5.5	4.5	
NILFET	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.9	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Persons						
Bachelor degree	62.8	51.4	54.0	55.1	56.6	
Certificate IV+	12.0	17.5	14.0	17.2	14.6	
Certificate I-III	3.0	4.4	3.8	4.4	3.8	
Apprenticeship	4.0	4.9	4.1	4.2	4.2	
Traineeship	2.0	2.5	2.5	1.9	2.2	
Employed full-time	5.0	5.0	5.5	4.1	5.0	
Employed part-time	7.5	8.7	11.1	8.0	8.9	
Looking for work	3.0	4.7	4.0	4.3	3.9	
NILFET	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

 Table 11
 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by DEECD region and gender, April 2012 (continued)

			Non metropo	litan Regions		
	Barwon South Western	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Non- metropolitan Total
Destination	%	%	%	%	%	%
Females						
Bachelor degree	44.7	38.7	44.2	31.1	46.2	41.5
Certificate IV+	11.3	13.2	9.3	11.5	9.8	11.1
Certificate I-III	4.4	6.1	6.4	7.0	6.5	5.9
Apprenticeship	2.0	3.5	1.0	2.0	2.1	2.2
Traineeship	6.6	7.1	5.3	8.9	6.0	6.8
Employed full-time	10.4	8.6	11.7	14.8	8.3	10.6
Employed part-time	15.5	17.9	17.6	19.6	17.1	17.3
Looking for work	4.4	3.4	3.3	3.9	2.8	3.6
NILFET	0.6	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Males						
Bachelor degree	39.3	30.0	43.3	26.7	34.2	35.1
Certificate IV+	8.9	10.3	6.1	9.5	7.9	8.7
Certificate I-III	2.9	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.0	3.6
Apprenticeship	11.6	14.0	9.1	12.9	15.4	12.7
Traineeship	3.9	5.0	3.0	5.8	4.8	4.5
Employed full-time	14.3	13.4	14.3	17.5	15.4	14.9
Employed part-time	14.3	13.8	11.9	17.2	10.5	13.6
Looking for work	4.1	8.7	7.8	5.5	7.0	6.3
NILFET	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons						
Bachelor degree	42.1	35.0	43.8	29.2	40.9	38.6
Certificate IV+	10.2	12.0	7.9	10.6	9.0	10.0
Certificate I-III	3.7	5.1	5.3	5.8	5.4	4.9
Apprenticeship	6.6	8.0	4.4	6.8	7.9	6.8
Traineeship	5.3	6.2	4.3	7.6	5.5	5.7
Employed full-time	12.3	10.7	12.8	16.0	11.4	12.5
Employed part-time	14.9	16.2	15.2	18.5	14.2	15.7
Looking for work	4.3	5.6	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.8
NILFET	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Destinations of year 12 or equivalent completers, 2003–2011

On Track was first conducted in 2003, interviewing young people who had completed Year 12 in 2002. In that first year of interviews, students who had deferred tertiary entrance had not been

identified separately. Further, young people whose destination could not be determined were not included in the reporting of *On Track*. Comparative destinations over the ten years of *On Track* are presented in Table 12. To ensure consistency with reporting practices in earlier years, completers who deferred are identified from 2004

onward, and the young people who were not in the labour force, education or training (NILFET)—who in previous years were identified as 'inactive'—are not included in the counts. As a result, the percentages reported in Table 12 are different from percentages reported elsewhere in this report.

Table 12 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers (showing deferrers separately), 2003-2012

Destination	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bachelor degree	41.6	43.4	43.1	46.1	47.4	43.9	45.6	48.8	49.7	52.2
Certificate I-IV+	26.3	26.1	23.4	20.4	19.0	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.3	17.2
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	5.7	6.4	10.0	9.2	8.1	9.8	8.0	8.5	7.9	7.5
Employed	20.9	14.3	13.1	13.0	13.7	14.4	12.4	11.3	10.9	9.8
Looking for work	5.5	3.8	3.8	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.0
Deferred		6.0	6.6	8.0	8.9	11.0	12.1	9.8	10.3	10.3

**Notes:** Completers in the 'NILFET' destination are not included and have been removed from the total count. Completers were not asked about deferral in 2003. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Over the ten years of *On Track*, the percentage of Year 12 or equivalent completers who went on to bachelor degree study has increased, from 41.6% in 2003 to 52.2% in 2012. In 2008 there was a decrease in bachelor degree enrolments related to changes in eligibility for Youth Allowance, but

subsequent changes led to renewed increases. In 2012, bachelor degree enrolments were higher than in any previous year. Between 2011 and 2012, enrolments in certificate-level study decreased from 18.3% to 17.2%, the first decrease since 2007–2008.

As a result of the increase in bachelor degree enrolments, 76.9% of Year 12 or equivalent completers were in education and training in 2012, which is the highest rate of participation in education and training in the ten years of *On Track* (see Figure 1).

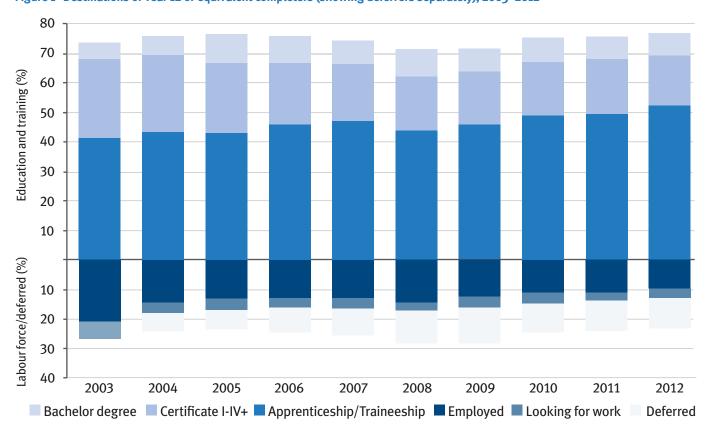


Figure 1 Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers (showing deferrers separately), 2003–2012

### Year 12 or equivalent completers in campusbased tertiary study

This section focuses on the young people who completed Year 12 or its equivalent in 2011 and were participating in campus-based tertiary education in April 2012. This is study that leads to the award of a certificate (level I through IV), diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree or bachelor degree. Study may be undertaken at a university, a TAFE institution or a private provider. Apprentices and trainees, who undertake a training contract, most often work

full-time and include a classroom-based component while earning a qualification, are not included in this section.

#### Socioeconomic background and gender

Table 13 shows the type of campusbased tertiary study being undertaken by Year 12 completers by socioeconomic background (SES) by gender. Among all those in campus-based tertiary study, 81.2% of Year 12 completers from the highest SES quarter were enrolled in a bachelor degree program, compared to 66.4% of those from the lowest SES quarter. Among female Year 12 completers from the highest SES quarter in tertiary study, 81.6% were in bachelor degree study, 14.5% were in courses leading to Certificate IV or above, and 3.9% were in courses leading to Certificate I, II or III. By contrast, 66.4% of female Year 12 completers from the lowest SES quarter who were studying were in bachelor degree study, 23.1% were in study at Certificate IV or above, and 10.6% were in study leading to Certificate I, II or III. At all SES levels, a relatively similar proportion of males and females who were studying were in bachelor degree study, and slightly higher proportions of males who were studying were enrolled at Certificate IV or above.

Table 13 Level of study of Year 12 or equivalent completers in campus-based tertiary study, by SES quarter and gender, April 2012

			SES quarter		
Destination	Lowest	Lower middle	Upper middle	Highest	Total
Females					
Bachelor degree	66.4	70.9	74.9	81.6	74.8
Certificate IV+	23.1	22.0	19.0	14.5	18.8
Certificate I-III	10.6	7.1	6.1	3.9	6.4
Count	2280	2882	3449	4488	13099
Percentage of all Year 12 completers	70.9	70.1	72.2	77.2	73.1
Males					
Bachelor degree	66.6	69.6	75.3	80.7	74.8
Certificate IV+	25.1	23.7	19.6	16.1	19.9
Certificate I-III	8.4	6.7	5.1	3.2	5.2
Count	1696	2047	2684	4018	10445
Percentage of all Year 12 completers	62.5	58.5	64.2	71.9	65.4
Persons					
Bachelor degree	66.4	70.4	75.1	81.2	74.8
Certificate IV+	23.9	22.7	19.2	15.3	19.3
Certificate I-III	9.6	7.0	5.7	3.6	5.9
Count	3976	4929	6133	8506	23544
Percentage of all Year 12 completers	67.1	64.8	68.5	74.6	69.5

Notes: Includes only Year 12 completers in campus-based tertiary study. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### Participation in the labour force

Young people in campus-based tertiary education require the financial means to sustain their post-school studies as well as their regular daily expenses, including accommodation, meals and

transport. More than one-half (55.6%) of all those studying were working, either full-time or part-time. Bachelor degree students were less frequently in full-time work (0.5%) compared to those studying at Certificate IV or above (1.7%)

or Certificate I, II or III (4.0%). Bachelor degree students were less frequently looking for work than were other students (see Table 14).

Table 14 Labour force status of Year 12 or equivalent completers in campus-based tertiary study, by level of study, 2012

	Level of study				
Labour force status	Bachelor degree	Certificate IV+	Certificate I-III		
Employed full-time	0.5	1.7	4.0		
Employed part-time	55.1	53.5	48.7		
Looking for work	27.6	31.7	30.9		
Not looking for work	16.8	13.1	16.4		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Notes: Includes only Year 12 completers in campus-based tertiary study. Excludes proxy interviews. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

# Year 12 or equivalent completers in apprenticeships and traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships provide important pathways for school leavers. Evidence from national longitudinal data indicates that both forms of training—particularly apprenticeship—lead to positive labour market outcomes (Curtis, 2008). As at April 2012, 8.0% of Year 12 or equivalent completers were in a training contract as an apprentice (4.9%)

or trainee (3.1%). These figures are slightly lower than those in 2011 (5.2% and 3.2% respectively).

Greater proportions of males (8.7%) than females (1.5%) entered apprenticeships after completing Year 12. Conversely, greater proportions of females (3.7%) than males (2.5%) entered traineeships. Of the Year 12 or equivalent completers who entered apprenticeships, 84.1% were male, which represents a slight decrease from 2011 (86.2%).

More than one-half of all apprentices and trainees were undertaking the

study component of their training at Certificate III award level, including 54.7% of apprentices and 54.0% of trainees (see Table 15). An additional 25.5% of apprentices and 27.9% of trainees were studying at a higher award level (Certificate IV, diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree). 10.5% of all apprentices and 9.9% of trainees were studying at lower levels (Certificate I or II). One in ten (9.8%) of apprentices and trainees combined did not know what level of qualification they would receive after completing their training contract.

Table 15 Level of study of Year 12 or equivalent completers in an apprenticeship or traineeship, by gender, April 2012

	Fem	Females M		ales	Pers	sons
Study award level	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Apprentices						
Associate degree	0	0.0	17	1.2	17	1.0
Advanced diploma	14	5.3	50	3.6	64	3.9
Diploma	22	8.3	47	3.4	69	4.2
Certificate IV	35	13.3	238	17.0	273	16.4
Certificate III	161	61.0	747	53.5	908	54.7
Certificate II	11	4.2	147	10.5	158	9.5
Certificate I	2	0.8	15	1.1	17	1.0
Level unspecified/unknown	19	7.2	135	9.7	154	9.3
Total	264	100.0	1396	100.0	1660	100.0
Trainees						
Associate degree	6	0.9	5	1.3	11	1.0
Associate degree Advanced diploma	6 23	0.9 3.4	5 16	1.3 4.0	11 39	1.0 3.7
Advanced diploma	23	3.4	16	4.0	39	3.7
Advanced diploma Diploma	23 60	3·4 9.0	16 43	4.0	39 103	3.7 9.7
Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV	23 60 89	3.4 9.0 13.3	16 43 56	4.0 10.8 14.1	39 103 145	3.7 9.7 13.6
Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III	23 60 89 403	3.4 9.0 13.3 60.1	16 43 56 173	4.0 10.8 14.1 43.6	39 103 145 576	3.7 9.7 13.6 54.0
Advanced diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II	23 60 89 403 40	3.4 9.0 13.3 60.1 6.0	16 43 56 173 55	4.0 10.8 14.1 43.6 13.9	39 103 145 576 95	3.7 9.7 13.6 54.0 8.9

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### Occupations of apprentices and trainees

Building and Construction (29.3%), Electrical and Electronics Trades (15.7%) and Food, Hospitality and Tourism (10.1%) were the most common occupation groups in which apprentices were undertaking their training (see Table 16), although the proportions entering all three occupation groups between 2011 and 2012 decreased. In Building and Construction, and Electrical and Electronics Trades, apprentices were overwhelmingly male. Occupations with increases since 2011 in apprenticeship entry include Motor Vehicle Service and Repair (9.6%) and Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty (7.7%).

Among trainees, Food, Hospitality and Tourism (22.0%), Sales Assistants

and Storepersons (15.4%) and Clerks, Receptionists and Secretaries (12.9%) were the most common occupation groups. There were more females than males training as Clerks, Receptionist and Secretaries, and as Sales Assistants and Storepersons. The Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty occupation group was evenly distributed between apprenticeships and traineeships.

Table 16 Occupational categories of apprentices and trainees, Year 12 or equivalent completers, by gender, April 2012

		Appre	ntices			Traiı	nees	
Occupation group	Count	(%) of total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Count	(%) of total	Female (%)	Male (%)
Accounting, Finance and Management	3	0.2	66.7	33.3	42	3.9	61.9	38.1
Building and Construction	487	29.3	1.4	98.6	20	1.9	0.0	100.0
Cleaning	3	0.2	33.3	66.7	2	0.2	50.0	50.0
Clerks, Receptionists and Secretaries	28	1.7	75.0	25.0	138	12.9	87.7	12.3
Computing and IT	3	0.2	33.3	66.7	13	1.2	7.7	92.3
Drivers and Transport	О	0.0	0.0	0.0	7	0.7	14.3	85.7
Electrical and Electronics Trades	260	15.7	0.8	99.2	9	0.8	0.0	100.0
Engineering, Science and the Environment	15	0.9	6.7	93.3	8	0.7	0.0	100.0
Food, Hospitality and Tourism	167	10.1	35.9	64.1	235	22.0	64.3	35.7
Gardening, Farming and Fishing	75	4.5	8.0	92.0	35	3.3	62.9	37.1
Government and Defence	2	0.1	0.0	100.0	5	0.5	60.0	40.0
Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty	127	7.7	80.3	19.7	133	12.5	63.9	36.1
Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers	117	7.0	2.6	97.4	22	2.1	27.3	72.7
Marketing and Sales Reps	1	0.1	100.0	0.0	15	1.4	53.3	46.7
Media, the Arts and Printing	8	0.5	12.5	87.5	16	1.5	50.0	50.0
Metal and Engineering Trades	55	3.3	1.8	98.2	2	0.2	0.0	100.0
Motor Vehicle Service and Repair	159	9.6	1.3	98.7	8	0.7	0.0	100.0
Sales Assistants and Storepersons	66	4.0	37.9	62.1	164	15.4	66.5	33.5
Social, Welfare and Security	5	0.3	60.0	40.0	28	2.6	67.9	32.1
Teaching, Childcare and Library	18	1.1	72.2	27.8	100	9.4	71.0	29.0
Other	61	3.7	19.7	80.3	65	6.1	58.5	41.5
All occupation groups	1660	100.0	15.9	84.1	1067	100.0	62.8	37.2

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Apprentices and trainees by DEECD region

The highest participation rates in apprenticeships by DEECD regions were in Northern Metropolitan region (4.9%) among all metropolitan regions

and in Gippsland region (8.0%) among non-metropolitan regions. Northern Metropolitan region also had the greatest percentage Year 12 or equivalent completers who entered traineeships (2.5%) among metropolitan regions; Hume region (7.6%) had the greatest percentage of completers entering traineeships among non-metropolitan regions. Overall, 4.2% of Year 12 or equivalent completers from schools in the metropolitan regions entered apprenticeships and 2.2% entered

traineeships, while 6.8% of completers from schools in the non-metropolitan regions entered apprenticeships and 5.7% entered traineeships (see Table 11 above).

Although there were greater percentages of Year 12 completers from the non-metropolitan regions entering

contracts of training, there were more completers from metropolitan regions in apprenticeships, as shown in Table 17, because there were more completers from schools in the metropolitan regions. Overall, 64.0% of apprentices had completed Year 12 or an equivalent

qualification at a school in a metropolitan region, particularly in the Eastern Metropolitan and Southern Metropolitan regions. Schools in Southern Metropolitan (15.2%) and Eastern Metropolitan (14.7%) regions also had the highest percentages of trainees.

Table 17 Participation in apprenticeships and traineeships by Year 12 or equivalent completers, by DEECD region and gender, April 2012

	Fem	ales	Males		Pers	sons
Study award level	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Apprentices						
Eastern Metropolitan	52	19.7	276	19.8	328	19.8
Northern Metropolitan	38	14.4	202	14.5	240	14.5
Southern Metropolitan	42	15.9	261	18.7	303	18.3
Western Metropolitan	27	10.2	164	11.7	191	11.5
Barwon South Western	27	10.2	142	10.2	169	10.2
Gippsland	32	12.1	95	6.8	127	7.7
Grampians	7	2.7	49	3.5	56	3.4
Hume	17	6.4	84	6.0	101	6.1
Loddon Mallee	22	8.3	123	8.8	145	8.7
Total	264	100.0	1396	100.0	1660	100.0
Trainees						
Eastern Metropolitan	99	14.8	63	15.9	162	15.2
Northern Metropolitan	73	10.9	52	13.1		
		,	52	13.1	125	11.7
Southern Metropolitan	117	17.5	72	18.1	125 189	11.7 17.7
Southern Metropolitan Western Metropolitan		-		_	_	•
·	117	17.5	72	18.1	189	17.7
Western Metropolitan	117 52	17.5 7.8	72 37	18.1 9.3	189 89	17.7
Western Metropolitan Barwon South Western	117 52 88	17.5 7.8 13.1	72 37 47	18.1 9.3 11.8	189 89 135	17.7 8.3 12.7
Western Metropolitan Barwon South Western Gippsland	117 52 88 65	17.5 7.8 13.1 9.7	72 37 47 34	18.1 9.3 11.8 8.6	189 89 135 99	17.7 8.3 12.7 9.3
Western Metropolitan Barwon South Western Gippsland Grampians	117 52 88 65 39	17.5 7.8 13.1 9.7 5.8	72 37 47 34 16	18.1 9·3 11.8 8.6 4.0	189 89 135 99 55	17.7 8.3 12.7 9.3 5.2

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### **Year 12 or equivalent** completers not continuing in education or training

At the time of the survey (April 2012), 7630 Year 12 or equivalent completers (22.5% of all respondents) indicated they were not enrolled in campus-based tertiary study and were not undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship. Most of this group had entered the labour force: 30.7% of those not in education or training reported they were employed full-time (working 35 hours or more per week in all jobs); 47.2% were employed part-time (less than 35 hours per week in all jobs); 18.3% were unemployed and looking for work; and 3.8% were not in the labour force, education or training ('NILFET').

A higher proportion of males (34.0%) than females (27.6%) were employed full-time, while 41.2% of males and 52.9% of females were employed part-time. Higher proportions of young men were looking for work (21.0%) compared to young women (15.6%). There was little difference in the percentage who were NILFET: 3.8% of young men and 3.9% of young women. Overall, 80.5% of young women not in education or training and 75.2% of young men not in education or training were employed.

### Occupations of respondents not in education or training

Post-school employment among Year 12 or equivalent completers who did not undertake further study in 2012 is fairly concentrated in a limited number of

occupations. More than one-half of this group (50.7%) were employed as either Sales Assistants, Checkout Operators and Cashiers, Waiters, Counter Hands at Food Outlets or Storepersons, with differences by gender. These five occupations accounted for 62.1% of employed females, and 37.8% of employed males. In addition to the top occupations of Sales Assistants (12.9%) and Storepersons (8.6%), 6.2% of males were working as Checkout Operators and Cashiers, 6.2% as Counter Hands at Food Outlets, 6.2% as Kitchenhands and 6.2% as General Labourers. Table 18 shows 86.8% of occupations of Year 12 or equivalent completers not in education or training. None of the other occupations accounted for more than 0.5% of the total or 1.0% of either males or females.

Table 18 Occupations of Year 12 or equivalent completers employed full-time or part-time and not in education or training, by gender, 2012

Main activity	Count	(%) of females	(%) of males
Sales Assistants	1010	21.3	12.9
Waiters	581	15.4	3.8
Checkout Operators & Cashiers	579	13.2	6.2
Counter Hands at Food Outlets	428	8.4	6.2
Store-persons	352	3.8	8.6
Kitchen hands	267	3.1	6.2
Receptionists	207	6.0	0.8
Factory Workers and Packers	201	1.6	5.5
Bar Attendants	184	3.0	3.4
General Labourers	183	0.4	6.2
Sport and Fitness	175	2.2	3.9
Teachers, Tutors and Teacher Aides	155	3.0	2.2
Farm Workers and Farmers	107	1.0	2.8
Construction and Earthmoving Labourers	77	0.0	2.8
Other Labourers	68	0.4	2.1
Telemarketing and Call Centres	63	1.3	0.8
Cleaners	62	0.8	1.4
Child Care	58	1.8	0.1
Gardeners & Nursery Workers	50	0.2	1.6
Machine Operators	47	0.1	1.6
Animal Workers	37	0.9	0.4
Office Assistants and Office Managers	34	0.8	0.3
Data Entry	32	0.6	0.5
General Clerks	32	0.7	0.4
Delivery Drivers	32	0.1	1.1
Defence	31	0.0	1.1
All others	890	9.9	17.0
Total	5823	100.0	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

# Reasons for Year 12 or equivalent completers not continuing in education and training

The reasons given by Year 12 or equivalent completers for not continuing in education or training are overwhelmingly work-related (Table 19). Five out of every six (83.3%) said they

wanted to start their career right away, with little difference between males (85.5%) and females (80.8%). The next most common reason was needing a break from study. Reasons relating to study were not nearly as important. Note that these percentages are not mutually exclusive: respondents could have

chosen more than one reason for not studying in 2012.

Nearly one-half off respondents not in education or training said it was extremely likely they would start study or training in the next two years. This was slightly more so for females (51.7%) than for males (47.7%).

Table 19 Reasons for not continuing in education or training, Year 12 or equivalent completers not in education or training, 2012

Main activity	Females	Males	Persons
You wanted to start working	80.8	85.5	83.3
You just needed a break from study	73.4	61.7	67.1
You never planned or intended to study	22.7	31.4	27.4
The courses you were interested in were not available locally	20.7	20.1	20.4

Notes: Responses are not mutually exclusive. Respondents may have agreed with more than one statement.

### Year 12 or equivalent completers not in the labour force, education or training (NILFET)

Overall, 0.9% of Year 12 or equivalent completers were not in the labour force, education or training (NILFET). Respondents who are not in education or training and are not in the labour force are asked to describe their main activity since leaving school. The most commonly cited activity is 'travel or holiday', identified by 40.4% of the group. 'Travel or holiday' was more frequently cited by young women (48.3%) than young men (31.8%), those from metropolitan regions (41.7%) than non-metropolitan regions (37.0%), those from the two highest SES quarters (75.0%), and those from the highest GAT quarter (66.1%). Of those who were NILFET in April 2012, just under one-half

(49.8%) had deferred tertiary study for the year.

The next most commonly cited activity of those NILFET was 'home duties or looking after children', cited by 27.8%. Among those from non-metropolitan regions, 39.9% cited home duties as their main activity compared to 26.0% of those from metropolitan regions. Among young women, 29.0% cited home duties compared to 26.5% of young men.

# Year 12 or equivalent completers who deferred tertiary study

A total of 3488 school completers (10.3% of respondents<sup>4</sup>) indicated in the 2012 *On Track* survey that they had been offered a place at a university, TAFE or other tertiary

institution, but had deferred that place. The percentage of Year 12 or equivalent completers who had deferred a tertiary place had increased each year from 6.0% in 2004 to 12.0% in 2009, then decreased to 9.8% in 2010. In 2011 the percentage of Year 12 or equivalent completers who deferred tertiary study increased to 10.3%, where it remained in 2012.

A comparison of the characteristics of school completers who deferred their studies and those who were studying at certificate or bachelor degree level in 2012 (see Table 20) indicates that, as in previous years of *On Track*, the profiles of these two groups of young people are similar with respect to some characteristics. The distributions of Indigenous status, SES and school sector of those who deferred and those who

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In this chapter, deferrers are discussed as a percentage of respondents, rather than as a percentage of applicants. The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) and individual institutions use the percentage of applicants when discussing deferral rates.

entered tertiary study are very similar. Geographic location and language background are areas of difference between these groups of young people. Those who had completed Year 12 at a non-metropolitan school (16.5%) more than twice as frequently deferred study than did those who had attended a metropolitan school (8.1%). Year 12

or equivalent completers who speak a language other than English at home make up a much smaller percentage of deferrers than they do of those studying—8.0% compared to 25.4%.

There were some smaller differences related to the GAT scores of those who deferred and those who were

studying, with 14.4% of the deferrers coming from the lowest quarter of GAT scores compared to 16.9% of those who enrolled. Year 12 or equivalent completers with GAT scores in the highest quarter of the distribution accounted for 32.8% of those enrolled and 30.3% of those who deferred.

Table 20 Characteristics of Year 12 or equivalent completers who deferred tertiary study in 2012 and those who commenced tertiary study in 2012

	Studying		Defe	erred	Deferred as % of
Characteristic	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	all respondents
Gender	2445	70.4	2119	64.1	4564
Females	13016	55.6	2014	57.7	11.2
Males	10413	44.4	1474	42.3	9.2
Geographic location					
Metropolitan	18783	80.2	2049	58.7	8.1
Non-metropolitan	4646	19.8	1439	41.3	16.5
Indigenous status					
Indigenous	145	0.6	32	1.0	11.7
Non-Indigenous	22703	99.4	3074	99.0	9.5
Country of birth					
Australia	19647	86.1	2848	91.8	10.0
Elsewhere	3169	13.9	255	8.2	6.6
Language spoken at home					
English	17030	74.6	2854	92.0	11.1
Other language	5806	25.4	249	8.0	3.7
SES quarters					
Lowest	3965	16.9	480	13.8	8.1
Lower middle	4906	20.9	812	23.3	10.7
Upper middle	6104	26.1	968	27.8	10.8
Highest	8454	36.1	1228	35.2	10.8

Table 20 Characteristics of Year 12 or equivalent completers who deferred tertiary study in 2012 and those who commenced tertiary study in 2012 (continues)

	Studying		Defe	rred	Deferred as % of
Characteristic	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	all respondents
GAT quarters					
Lowest	3825	16.9	494	14.4	7.5
Lower middle	5231	23.1	889	25.9	11.5
Upper middle	6121	27.1	1010	29.4	12.5
Highest	7423	32.8	1039	30.3	11.7
School sector					
Government	11517	49.2	1714	49.1	9.6
Catholic	6032	25.7	820	23.5	9.9
Independent	5623	24.0	936	26.8	13.0
Adult	257	1.1	18	0.5	2.9

Notes: Not all sections sum to the State totals due to missing data for the characteristic; however, percentages are based on persons for whom data are available.

### Reasons for Year 12 or equivalent completers deferring

All Year 12 or equivalent completers who indicated that they had deferred tertiary study in 2012 were asked to identify up to four reasons that had been a factor in the decision to defer. Deferrers were asked

to select, from a prepared list, which reasons had had an influence on that decision. Table 21 shows the reasons for deferring study according to where deferrers had completed Year 12. The most commonly cited reasons across Victoria (and for both males and females)

was the desire to start earning money and to have some other experiences before continuing study. The need to move away from home was a factor for 42.3% of those from non-metropolitan regions, but only 10.7% of those from metropolitan areas.

Table 21 Reasons for deferring tertiary study, by geographic location, 2012

Reason	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan	Victoria
You wanted to start earning your own money	75.3	86.8	80.1
You just needed a break from study	79.9	77.9	79.1
You wanted some other experiences, like travel, before continuing your education	72.0	65.8	69.4
You would have had to move away from home	10.7	42.3	24.0

Notes: Responses are not mutually exclusive. Respondents may have agreed with more than one statement.

## Main activities of those who deferred tertiary study, by geographic location

Among all deferrers, the most common activity as at April 2012 was part-time work (44.3% of all deferrers; see Table 22). Overall, 9.2% of those who deferred a tertiary place were undertaking some other form of education and training as at April 2012, including 3.3% in some

other form of tertiary study and 5.9% in an apprenticeship or traineeship. This varied by geographic location, with more non-metropolitan deferrers in a contract of training and more metropolitan deferrers in a campus-based tertiary course. There are differences between metropolitan and non-metropolitan deferrers in many of the activities undertaken while deferring their studies.

A greater percentage of non-metropolitan (38.5%) than metropolitan (26.0%) deferrers were working full-time, and a greater percentage of metropolitan deferrers (13.0%) than non-metropolitan deferrers (8.5%) were looking for work. A small percentage of deferrers were classified as NILFET: 5.3% of metropolitan deferrers and 2.6% of non-metropolitan deferrers.

Table 22 Main activities of those who deferred tertiary study, by gender, 2012

	Metropolitan		Non-metropolitan		Victoria	
Activity	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Other tertiary study	87	4.2	28	1.9	115	3.3
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	99	4.8	108	7.5	207	5.9
Employed full-time	533	26.0	554	38.5	1087	31.2
Employed part-time	955	46.6	589	40.9	1544	44.3
Looking for work	266	13.0	123	8.5	389	11.2
NILFET	109	5.3	37	2.6	146	4.2
Total	2049	100.0	1439	100.0	3488	100.0

# Chapter 3 Destinations of early school leavers

This chapter provides details of the destinations of early school leavers who were interviewed for *On Track* in May 2012. For the purposes of the *On Track* survey, early school leavers are defined as:

... those students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who had registered their details with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) by enrolling in an International Baccalaureate (IB) program or a VCE or VCAL unit, and who left school without completing one of the following certificates: IB, VCE, VCAL senior or VCAL intermediate.

A total of 3552 identified early school leavers participated in the 2012 *On Track* survey. Just under one-half of the achieved sample (49.5%) had attempted or completed Year 11, 19.0% had been in Year 10 or below in 2011, and the remaining 31.6% of the sample had commenced but did not complete Year 12.

Earlier *On Track* reports, and research based on national longitudinal samples of

young people (Curtis & McMillan, 2008), indicate that there tend to be more male early school leavers than female leavers. This was also found to be the case in the 2012 survey, both across and within year levels (see Table 23). Overall, males constituted 61.4% of the early leaver sample in the 2012 survey, similar to the proportion in 2011 survey.

### Main destinations in 2012

Almost all early leaver respondents (94.8%) indicated they were in some form of education or training or had entered the labour market and were either employed or looking for work. The remaining 5.2% were not in the labour force, education or training ('NILFET').

More than one-half (56.4%) of the early school leavers in the survey were enrolled in some form of education or training in May 2012, an increase over early school leavers in 2011 (55.3%). The main destinations of these young people are presented in Table 23, by gender. The percentage of male early school leavers

enrolled in some form of education and training (59.3%) was greater than the percentage of female early school leavers in education and training (51.9%). This difference is mainly because of the greater take-up of apprenticeships by males. Participation in the labour force and not studying was greater among female early leavers (40.4%) than among male early school leavers (37.0%), and the proportion of female early school leavers who were NILFET was greater (7.7% of females and 3.7% of males).

For females, the most frequent education or training destination—and the most frequent destination overall—was a course leading to a Certificate I, II or III (20.8%); another 12.1% were enrolled in a course leading to Certificate IV or above. Apprenticeships and traineeships accounted for a further 19.0% of females. For males, apprenticeships dominated the education and training destinations of early school leavers (41.2%), followed by Certificate I-III courses (10.6%), higher-level certificate courses (4.3%) and traineeships (3.2%).

Table 23 Destinations of early school leavers, by gender, May 2012

	Females		Males		Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Certificate IV+	166	12.1	93	4.3	259	7.3
Certificate I-III	285	20.8	232	10.6	517	14.6
Apprenticeship	131	9.6	899	41.2	1030	29.0
Traineeship	129	9.4	70	3.2	199	5.6
In education and training (sub-total)	711	51.9	1294	59-3	2005	56.4
Employed full-time	132	9.6	256	11.7	388	10.9
Employed part-time	225	16.4	215	9.9	440	12.4
Looking for work	197	14.4	337	15.4	534	15.0
NILFET	105	7.7	80	3.7	185	5.2
Not in education and training (sub-total)	659	48.1	888	40.7	1547	43.6
All destinations	1370	100.0	2182	100.0	3552	100.0

An early exit from school, if it does result in a job, will frequently mean part-time work. The percentage of female early leavers in full-time employment at the time of the survey (9.6%) was lower than the percentage of males working full-time (11.7%). The percentage of female early school leavers in part-time employment (16.4%) was higher than the percentage in full-time employment; in contrast, a smaller percentage of male early leavers (9.9%) were working part-time compared to the percentage working full-time. Although part-time employment can often lead to full-time work (Marks, 2006), in general part-time work does not confer the same advantages as full-time work in terms of earnings, career paths and access to training.

Destinations were strongly associated with the year level at which an early leaver exited from school (see Table 24). In general, greater percentages of those who left earlier (in Year 10 or below), compared to those who left in senior secondary years, were enrolled in Certificate I, II or III courses at a TAFE institute, or community education or private provider. Earlier leavers were also more frequently undertaking an apprenticeship than were later leavers: Over one third (37.7%) of those who left in Year 10 followed this pathway compared to slightly more than one-fifth (20.7%) of those who left during Year 12.

The higher the year level of exit, the greater the percentage of early school

leavers who were working either fulltime or part-time. The percentage of those who left during Year 12 and were employed (31.6%) was more than twice the percentage of those who left in Year 10 or earlier (13.8%). The percentages of early school leavers who experienced a more troublesome transition from school and were unemployed and looking for work were similar across the exit year levels (Years 10, 11 and 12), between 13.4% and 15.5%. Slightly greater percentages of those who had left in Year 10 or below were NILFET (6.2%) compared to those who had left in later years (5.0% of Year 11 leavers and 4.9% of Year 12 leavers).

Table 24 Destinations of early school leavers, by year level of exit, May 2012

	Year 10		Year 11		Year 12		Total	
Destination	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Females								
Certificate IV+	18	8.6	83	12.7	65	12.9	166	12.1
Certificate I-III	63	30.1	129	19.7	93	18.4	285	20.8
Apprenticeship	33	15.8	69	10.5	29	5.7	131	9.6
Traineeship	20	9.6	65	9.9	44	8.7	129	9.4
Employed full-time	4	1.9	57	8.7	71	14.1	132	9.6
Employed-part-time	19	9.1	106	16.2	100	19.8	225	16.4
Looking for work	35	16.7	92	14.0	70	13.9	197	14.4
NILFET	17	8.1	55	8.4	33	6.5	105	7.7
Total	209	100.0	656	100.0	505	100.0	1370	100.0
Males								
Certificate IV+	18	8.6	83	12.7	65	12.9	166	12.1
Certificate I-III	63	30.1	129	19.7	93	18.4	285	20.8
Apprenticeship	33	15.8	69	10.5	29	5.7	131	9.6
Traineeship	20	9.6	65	9.9	44	8.7	129	9.4
Employed full-time	4	1.9	57	8.7	71	14.1	132	9.6
Employed-part-time	19	9.1	106	16.2	100	19.8	225	16.4
Looking for work	35	16.7	92	14.0	70	13.9	197	14.4
NILFET	17	8.1	55	8.4	33	6.5	105	7.7
Total	209	100.0	656	100.0	505	100.0	1370	100.0
Persons								
Certificate IV+	25	3.7	126	7.2	108	9.6	259	7.3
Certificate I-III	137	20.3	244	13.9	136	12.1	517	14.6
Apprenticeship	254	37.7	544	31.0	232	20.7	1030	29.0
Traineeship	33	4.9	102	5.8	64	5.7	199	5.6
Employed full-time	41	6.1	174	9.9	173	15.4	388	10.9
Employed-part-time	52	7.7	207	11.8	181	16.1	440	12.4
Looking for work	90	13.4	272	15.5	172	15.3	534	15.0
NILFET	42	6.2	88	5.0	55	4.9	185	5.2
Total	674	100.0	1757	100.0	1121	100.0	3552	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

#### **Destinations by socioeconomic status**

Table 25 reports the destinations of early leavers classified according to their SES quarter and gender. In general, there were smaller differences among early leavers in destinations by SES than were evident among Year 12 or equivalent completers (see Chapter 2).

Early school leavers from the lowest SES quarter were less frequently in education, training or employment than were leavers from the other SES quarters. Consequently, nearly one-quarter (24.3%) of early leavers from the lowest SES quarter were either looking for work or were NILFET, compared to 19.2% from

the lower-middle quarter, 18.9% from the upper-middle quarter and 16.5% from the highest SES quarter.

Early leavers from the lowest SES quarter were less frequently in an apprenticeship or traineeship (30.1%) than early leavers from the other three quarters. The relationship between SES and apprenticeship/traineeship destinations is much stronger for males, who constitute the large majority of apprentices, the largest group, than for females. For all SES quarters, the rate of apprenticeship/traineeship take-up by young men was more than double the rate of young women. Among female early leavers the differences by SES

in the take-up of apprenticeships and traineeships were much smaller.

The greatest change between 2011 and 2012 is the increase in the percentage of early school leavers who entered campus-based study at Certificate I, II or III. Overall, 14.6% of early leavers were enrolled at this level in 2012 compared to 13.6% in 2011. This change is most prominent among both female and male early school leavers from the lowest SES quarter, which increased from 14.2% to 18.7%. There was also an increase in study at Certificate IV and above, with changes among those from the two higher SES quarters.

Table 25 Destinations of early school leavers by socioeconomic status (SES) and gender, May 2012

	SES quarter						
Destination	Lowest	Lower middle	Upper middle	Highest	Total		
Females							
Certificate IV+	8.1	11.9	13.9	17.1	12.1		
Certificate I-III	25.4	21.3	18.8	14.6	20.8		
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	16.5	19.6	21.7	18.8	19.0		
Employed	23.7	25.8	25.2	31.7	26.1		
Looking for work	16.7	14.1	14.2	10.8	14.4		
NILFET	9.6	7.2	6.1	7.1	7.7		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Males							
Certificate IV+	3.1	4.2	5.2	5.1	4.3		
Certificate I-III	14.6	9.6	8.5	8.2	10.6		
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	38.5	45.7	45.8	51.3	44.4		
Employed	20.8	22.8	22.4	19.8	21.6		
Looking for work	17.8	15.0	14.8	12.7	15.4		
NILFET	5.2	2.8	3.3	2.8	3.7		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Table 25 Destinations of early school leavers by socioeconomic status (SES) and gender, May 2012 (continues)

	SES quarter							
Destination	Lowest	Lower middle	Upper middle	Highest	Total			
Persons								
Certificate IV+	5.0	7.3	8.4	9.9	7.3			
Certificate I-III	18.7	14.2	12.2	10.8	14.6			
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	30.1	35.4	37.1	38.1	34.6			
Employed	21.9	24.0	23.4	24.6	23.3			
Looking for work	17.4	14.6	14.6	12.0	15.0			
NILFET	6.9	4.5	4.4	4.6	5.2			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			

**Notes:** This table is based on all early leavers whose home addresses could be mapped to a Census Collection District (CD) or Statistical Local Area (SLA). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

#### **Destinations by Indigenous status**

A small group of early school leavers (3.4%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the 2012 early leaver survey. As such, the results need to be treated with caution. The destinations of Indigenous respondents are shown in Table 26.

Table 26 Destinations of early school leavers from an Indigenous background, by gender, May 2012

	Females		Males		Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Certificate I-IV+	13	34.2	16	22.9	29	26.9
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	10	26.3	24	34.3	34	31.5
Employed	6	15.8	14	20.0	20	18.5
Looking for work/NILFET	9	23.7	16	22.9	25	23.1
Total	38	100.0	70	100.0	108	100.0

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Enrolment in certificate courses was higher among Indigenous respondents (26.9%) than among non-Indigenous respondents (22.3%), although there was little difference in the level or course. There was a small difference in the rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous early school leavers who had entered an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Indigenous early school leavers had a slightly lower rate of employment (18.5%) than did their non-Indigenous peers (23.3%) when surveyed in May 2012. A greater percentage of Indigenous early school leavers were unemployed or NILFET when surveyed compared to their non-Indigenous leavers.

#### **Destinations by language background**

Just over one in ten (11.2%) respondents in the *On Track* 2012 early leaver survey—compared to two in ten Year 12 or equivalent completers—said that they speak a language other than English at home. Among these early school leavers from a language background other than English (LBOTE) the most common

languages spoken were Arabic, Greek and Turkish, each constituting more than 7.0% of all LBOTE respondents. The destinations of LBOTE early school leavers are shown in Table 27.

In education and training destinations,

there were marked differences between LBOTE and non-LBOTE early school leavers. Overall, 53.0% of LBOTE early school leavers were engaged in further education and training compared to 58.0% of non-LBOTE early leavers. Early leavers from other language backgrounds were more frequently undertaking further study at all certificate levels compared to non-LBOTE early school leavers and non-LBOTE early leavers were more frequently in an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Table 27 Destinations of early school leavers from a language background other than English, by gender, May 2012

	Females		Males		Persons	
Destination	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Certificate I-IV+	52	39.1%	45	18.8%	97	26.1%
Apprenticeship/Traineeship	27	20.3%	73	30.5%	100	26.9%
Employed	22	16.5%	57	23.8%	79	21.2%
Looking for work/NILFET	32	24.1%	64	26.8%	96	25.8%
Total	133	100.0%	239	100.0%	372	100.0%

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Early school leavers from a language background other than English were unemployed (not studying or working and looking for work) at a higher rate (20.4%) than were non-LBOTE early leavers (14.5%) and were slightly more frequently NILFET.

### **Destinations by geographic location**

There was regional variation in the post-school destinations of early school leavers. Overall, 62.3% of early school leavers from non-metropolitan regions were in education and training, compared to 51.9% of early leavers from metropolitan regions. Early school leavers from non-metropolitan regions (41.0%) were more frequently engaged

in an apprenticeship or traineeship than were those from metropolitan regions (29.6%). There were only small differences in the percentages in certificate-level study and employment. Early school leavers from metropolitan regions were more frequently looking for work or NILFET.

Enrolment in further education and training among male early school leavers was higher in non-metropolitan regions (65.3%) than in metropolitan regions (54.6%), mainly because of the higher take-up rate of apprenticeships in non-metropolitan regions (see Table 28). Among female early school leavers, participation in education and training

was higher in the Loddon Mallee region (60.8%) than in all other regions.

There were also overall important differences in destinations in regard to engagement with the labour force. While there was little difference between metropolitan and non-metropolitan early school leavers working full-time or part-time, there were such differences within some regions, more frequently those outside Melbourne. Early leavers from schools in metropolitan regions were more frequently not working, not studying and looking for work (18.1%) than were leavers from non-metropolitan regions (11.1%), and they were more frequently NILFET.

Table 28 Destinations of early school leavers, by DEECD region and gender, May 2012

	Metropolitan Regions						
	Eastern Metropolitan	Northern Metropolitan	Southern Metropolitan	Western Metropolitan	Metropolitan Regions Total		
Destination	%	%	%	%	%		
Females							
Certificate IV+	13.5	13.0	8.3	12.0	11.7		
Certificate I-III	15.1	20.3	20.5	21.9	19.5		
Apprenticeship	9.7	7.7	8.3	9.9	8.9		
Traineeship	10.3	9.7	6.3	5.2	7.9		
Employed full-time	12.4	9.7	12.2	10.4	11.2		
Employed part-time	20.0	11.1	18.0	15.1	16.0		
Looking for work	16.2	17.4	14.1	17.7	16.3		
NILFET	2.7	11.1	12.2	7.8	8.6		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Count	185	207	205	192	789		
Males							
Certificate IV+	6.2	4.2	4.3	6.1	5.1		
Certificate I-IV and above	9.7	11.9	11.8	12.1	11.4		
Apprenticeship	43.2	34.6	32.9	33.0	35.6		
Traineeship	2.3	1.6	2.9	3.0	2.5		
Employed full-time	11.6	11.2	13.5	11.1	11.9		
Employed part-time	10.4	8.7	11.8	9.4	10.1		
Looking for work	15.1	21.8	19.0	20.2	19.2		
NILFET	1.5	6.1	3.7	5.1	4.2		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Count	259	312	347	297	1215		
Persons			_				
Certificate IV+	9.2	7.7	5.8	8.4	7.7		
Certificate I-III	11.9	15.2	15.0	16.0	14.6		
Apprenticeship	29.3	23.9	23.7	23.9	25.0		
Traineeship	5.6	4.8	4.2	3.9	4.6		
Employed full-time	11.9	10.6	13.0	10.8	11.6		
Employed part-time	14.4	9.6	14.1	11.7	12.4		
Looking for work	15.5	20.0	17.2	19.2	18.1		
NILFET	2.0	8.1	6.9	6.1	5.9		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Count	444	519	552	489	2004		

Table 28 Destinations of early school leavers, by DEECD region and gender, May 2012 (continues)

	Non-metropolitan Regions								
	Barwon South Western	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Non-metropolitan Total			
Destination	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Females									
Certificate IV+	14.8	12.9	11.7	16.9	8.0	12.7			
Certificate I-III	20.0	23.4	22.3	20.5	26.4	22.5			
Apprenticeship	9.0	11.3	12.8	8.4	11.2	10.5			
Traineeship	13.5	7.3	11.7	8.4	15.2	11.5			
Employed full-time	9.7	7.3	7.4	7.2	5.6	7.6			
Employed part-time	16.1	19.4	17.0	13.3	18.4	17.0			
Looking for work	12.3	9.7	10.6	19.3	8.8	11.7			
NILFET	4.5	8.9	6.4	6.0	6.4	6.4			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Count	155	124	94	83	125	581			
Males									
Certificate V+	3.7	3.5	1.7	5.2	2.2	3.2			
Certificate I-III	9.6	11.9	5.2	10.4	9.2	9.6			
Apprenticeship	50.2	46.5	55.2	43.7	47.6	48.3			
Traineeship	2.7	3⋅5	7.8	5.2	3.7	4.1			
Employed full-time	12.8	11.9	7.8	15.6	9.6	11.5			
Employed part-time	10.0	6.6	9.5	10.4	11.1	9.5			
Looking for work	9.1	12.4	10.3	8.9	11.8	10.8			
NILFET	1.8	3⋅5	2.6	0.7	4.8	3.0			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Count	219	226	116	135	271	967			
Persons									
Certificate IV+	8.3	6.9	6.2	9.6	4.0	6.8			
Certificate I-III	13.9	16.0	12.9	14.2	14.6	14.5			
Apprenticeship	33.2	34.0	36.2	30.3	36.1	34.1			
Traineeship	7.2	4.9	9.5	6.4	7.3	6.9			
Employed full-time	11.5	10.3	7.6	12.4	8.3	10.0			
Employed part-time	12.6	11.1	12.9	11.5	13.4	12.3			
Looking for work	10.4	11.4	10.5	12.8	10.9	11.1			
NILFET	2.9	5.4	4.3	2.8	5.3	4.3			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Count	374	350	210	218	396	1548			

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

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### Destinations of early school leavers, 2003–2011

Over the first nine years of *On Track*, the percentages of early leavers in each destination did not change markedly; however, 2012, the tenth year of *On Track*, the percentage of early leavers in education and training has increased for the third consecutive year and reached the highest rate of participation at 59.5% (see Table 29). While there have been

fluctuations in the proportions of each cohort involved in apprenticeships, there has not been a large increase over the years since the first survey in 2003, when 28.7% of early school leavers went into an apprenticeship, and the most recent survey in 2012, when 30.6% of early leavers took up an apprenticeship. The percentage enrolled in certificate level courses decreased between 2003 and 2008, from 23.0% to 14.6%, but in 2012 has returned to the level of 2003.

The percentage of respondents who left school early and entered employment without being enrolled in further education or training has also fluctuated over the years of the survey. In 2012, 24.6% of early leavers were employed. This is the lowest rate of employment of all ten years of *On Track*. The percentage of early school leavers looking for work has also fluctuated in a similar way to the percentage employed since 2003, and was 15.9% in 2012.

Table 29 Destinations of early school leavers, 2003-2012

Destination	<b>2003</b> (%)	<b>2004</b> (%)	<b>2005</b> (%)	<b>2006</b> (%)	<b>2007</b> (%)	2008 (%)	<b>2009</b> (%)	<b>2010</b> (%)	<b>2011</b> (%)	<b>2012</b> (%)
Certificate I-IV+	23.0	22.4	19.8	14.6	15.8	14.6	17.5	21.2	21.1	23.0
Apprenticeship	28.7	23.5	29.8	35.5	30.2	33.2	30.3	28.2	30.9	30.6
Traineeship	5.4	5.3	8.0	7.1	7.1	7.3	5.5	6.4	5.8	5.9
In education & training (sub-total)	57.0	51.2	57.6	57.2	53.2	55.1	53.3	55.8	57.8	59.5
Employed	25.9	29.6	27.0	27.9	31.5	30.9	28.0	27.5	25.2	24.6
Looking for work	17.0	19.2	15.4	14.8	15.3	14.0	18.7	16.7	17.0	15.9
Not in education or training (sub-total)	43.0	48.8	42.4	42.8	46.8	44.9	46.7	44.2	42.2	40.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Notes:** The category 'NILFET' was not used prior to the 2009 survey, and early leavers in this category were not included in totals. For this table, all those in the 'NILFET' category are excluded from the totals, resulting in differences between percentages reported in this table and percentages reported in Table 23.

## Early school leavers not in education or training

The jobs found by early school leavers who did not enter further education or training are listed in Table 30. Four of the five most common occupations among early

school leavers—, Counter
Hands at Food Outlets,
Sales Assistants, Checkout
Operators and Cashiers,
and Storepersons—were
among the five most common
occupations of Year 12 or
equivalent completers not in
education or training. The one
occupation not among the five
most common occupations

of Year 12 or equivalent completers is Waiters, which accounted for more female early school leavers than male early school leavers (7.9% and 2.6%, respectively). Males were more frequently than females working as General Labourers. Among female early school leavers, the four most common occupations

were also the four most common occupations of female Year 12 or equivalent completers, accounting for one-half of early school leavers and than one-half of Year 12 or equivalent completers.

Table 30 Occupations of early school leavers employed full-time or part-time and not in education or training, by gender, May 2012

Occupation	Count	(%) of females	(%) of males
Counter Hands at Food Outlets	92	16.7	7.2
Sales Assistants	90	16.1	7.2
Checkout Operators & Cashiers	59	13.0	2.8
Storepersons	50	2.5	9.0
Waiters	40	7.9	2.6
General Labourers	36	1.1	7.0
Factory Workers & Packers	32	2.8	4.8
Kitchenhands	31	4.2	3.5
Bar Attendants	19	3.1	1.7
Receptionists	18	4.8	0.2
Cleaners	17	1.1	2.8
Farm Workers & Farmers	17	1.4	2.6
Construction & Earthmoving Labourers	17	0.3	3.5
Other Labourers	17	0.6	3.3
Sport & Fitness	16	1.1	2.6
Concreters & Construction Workers	15	0.0	3.3
Gardeners & Nursery Workers	13	0.8	2.2
Building & Construction Professionals	12	0.0	2.6
Animal Workers	12	2.3	0.9
Machine Operators	12	0.6	2.2
Bricklayers & Stonemasons	9	0.0	2.0
Delivery Drivers	8	0.6	1.3
Managers	7	0.3	1.3
Electrical Trades	7	0.0	1.5
Child Care	7	1.7	0.2
Teachers, Tutors & Teacher Aides	7	2.0	0.0
Carpenters & Joiners	6	0.0	1.3
Cooks	6	0.0	1.3
Telemarketing & Call Centres	6	1.7	0.0
All others	133	13.0	19.0
Total	811	100.0	100.0

**Notes:** Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Reasons for early school leavers not continuing in education and training

Early school leavers indicated multiple reasons for not continuing in study (see Table 31). Four out of five (81.5%) early school leavers not in education or training said they were not studying because they wanted to start working. A similar percentage of Year 12 or equivalent completers (83.3%) had given this reason for not studying, and among both Year 12 completers and early leavers, it was the most common response for both females and males. The major difference between male and female early school leavers regarding reasons for not studying related to participation in study. Among males, 28.9% stated they never planned to study and 27.7% stated that courses of interest were not available locally.

Table 31 Reasons for not continuing in education or training, early school leavers not in education or training, May 2012

Reason	Females (%)	Males (%)	Persons (%)
You wanted to start working	76.4	85.1	81.5
You just needed a break from study	59.9	54.4	56.6
The courses you were interested in were not available locally	21.5	27.7	25.1
You never planned or intended to study	18.8	28.9	24.7

Notes: Responses are not mutually exclusive. Respondents may have agreed with more than one statement.

## Reasons for leaving school early

Young people leave school before completing Year 12 or an equivalent certificate for a number of reasons. Polesel and Helme (2004) classify the various influences leading to early school leaving as 'push' and 'pull' factors. Push factors operate from within the school setting and act to drive young people away from the school environment, usually in a negative manner. Factors that tend to attract young people away from school and into another pathway,

such as an apprenticeship, traineeship or employment, are pull factors, which act in a predominantly positive way.

For the 2012 On Track survey, early school leavers were invited to say, without prompting, why they left school. They were invited to provide as many reasons they felt were applicable. In 2012, 16.5% of early leavers nominated more than one reason. Table 32 shows the reasons given by early leavers as influences on their decision to leave school, separating the first reason given from other reasons stated. Responses are shown separately for females and males, with push factors

in the top section, pull factors in the middle and other factors in the bottom section.

For both males and females, close to one-half of early school leavers cited a push factor as the main reason for leaving school. A pull factor was the main reason for 41.7% of males and 26.6% of females. Females more frequently than males cited another reason, particularly related to family or personal reasons or ill health.

There were only minor differences in the reasons for early school leaving between 2011 and 2012.

Table 32 Reasons given by early leavers for leaving school, by gender, May 2012

	Fem	ales	Males	
Reason	First reason	Other reason	First reason	Other reason
Push factors				
I didn't like school or teachers/I wasn't interested	19.8	3.6	20.3	4.8
School wasn't for me/I wasn't learning	10.7	2.0	11.8	1.8
I wasn't coping well at school/failing subjects	10.7	2.2	7.0	1.5
I was asked to leave/expelled/got in trouble	3.5	0.2	5.0	0.6
Bullying or peer relationship problems	3.7	2.1	1.4	0.6
Other push factors	2.5	0.7	1.9	0.7
Pull factors				
Work or career reasons	14.0	2.5	34.9	3.4
Study elsewhere (eg, TAFE); do different course	6.5	1.2	3.6	1.0
I travelled/I went overseas/I moved	2.7	0.6	0.7	0.3
Other pull factors	3.4	1.0	2.5	0.9
Other factors				
Family or other personal reasons	9.6	1.6	3.3	0.6
Ill health	9.0	1.1	3.9	0.5
Other	4.0	0.9	3.7	0.9

**Notes:** Percentages in the 'first reason' columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Percentages in the 'other reason' columns represent only those who offered additional reasons and sum to less than 100%.

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### Appendix 1

## Enrolments in VCE Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Table A1 VCE VET enrolments in 2011, by certificate

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	CUV30203	Certificate III in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts	29
2011	CUV20203	Certificate II in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts	15
2011	CUV40203	Certificate IV in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts	8
2011	22070VIC	Certificate II in Acting (Screen)	65
2011	22072VIC	Certificate III in Acting (Screen)	29
2011	CHC10208	Certificate I in Active Volunteering	11
2011	CHC30608	Certificate III in Active Volunteering	10
2011	MEA20407	Certificate II in Aeroskills	20
2011	MEA40607	Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Avionics)	4
2011	MEA40707	Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Mechanical)	1
2011	CHC30208	Certificate III in Aged Care	69
2011	CHC30102	Certificate III in Aged Care Work	2
2011	RTE20103	Certificate II in Agriculture	546
2011	RTE30103	Certificate III in Agriculture	65
2011	RTE30703	Certificate III in Agriculture (Horse Breeding)	2
2011	22018VIC	Certificate II in Airbrushing	12
2011	HLT32407	Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance	396
2011	RUV10104	Certificate I in Animal Studies	17
2011	RUV20104	Certificate II in Animal Studies	359
2011	21633VIC	Certificate II in Applied Design in Industry	1
2011	LMT21706	Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design & Technology	10
2011	LMT31407	Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design & Technology	92
2011	LMT21707	Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology	901
2011	39042QLD	Certificate II in Applied Language	324
2011	39043QLD	Certificate III in Applied Language	24
2011	80976ACT	Certificate I in Arabic	16
2011	80977ACT	Certificate II in Arabic	1
2011	PRM20104	Certificate II in Asset Maintenance(Cleaning Operations)	10
2011	PRM30104	Certificate III in Asset Maintenance(Cleaning Operations)	5

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	AUR10105	Certificate I in Automotive	34
2011	AUR20408	Certificate II in Automotive Electrical Technology	37
2011	AUR30305	Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology	1
2011	AUR30308	Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology	2
2011	AUR20705	Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical	5
2011	AUR30405	Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology	138
2011	AUR21105	Certificate II in Automotive Sales (Sales Service Station Operations	3
2011	AUR30605	Certificate III in Automotive Specialist	18
2011	22015VIC	Certificate II in Automotive Studies (Pre-vocational)	2025
2011	21560VIC	Certificate II in Automotive Technology Studies	492
2011	AUR20905	Certificate II in Automotive Vehicle Body	7
2011	AUR30805	Certificate III in Automotive Vehicle Body	12
2011	AUR20505	Certificate II in Automotive Vehicle Servicing	89
2011	AVI20208	Certificate II in Aviation (Flight Operations)	54
2011	AVI40108	Certificate IV in Aviation Operations (Commerical Pilot Aeroplane)	23
2011	WRB30104	Certificate III in Beauty Services	414
2011	WRB40105	Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy	1
2011	81122ACT	Certificate III in Bengali	4
2011	AUR20305	Certificate II in Bicycles	7
2011	AUR30205	Certificate III in Bicycles	2
2011	CPC30108	Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying	18
2011	BCG40106	Certificate IV in Building & Construction	11
2011	CPC40110	Certificate IV in Building & Construction (Building)	19
2011	21844VIC	Certificate II in Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship	4913
2011	BSB10101	Certificate I in Business	1
2011	BSB10107	Certificate I in Business	96
2011	BSB20107	Certificate II in Business	3432
2011	BSB30107	Certificate III in Business	417
2011	BSB40207	Certificate IV in Business	1
2011	BSB31107	Certificate III in Business (Medical)	2
2011	BSB30407	Certificate III in Business Administration	222

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	BSB40507	Certificate IV in Business Administration	40
2011	BSB31007	Certificate III in Business Administration (Legal)	8
2011	LMF32109	Certificate III in Cabinet Making	40
2011	RUV30204	Certificate III in Captive Animals	6
2011	CPC30208	Certificate III in Carpentry	219
2011	CPC32008	Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery	1
2011	CHC30402	Certificate III in Children's Services	26
2011	CHC30708	Certificate III in Children's Services	644
2011	CHC41208	Certificate IV in Children's Services (Outside School Hours Care)	2
2011	30267QLD	Certificate III in Christian Ministry	67
2011	91115NSW	Certificate III in Christian Studies	16
2011	91530NSW	Certificate III in Christian Studies	46
2011	21888VIC	Certificate II in Circus	11
2011	22073VIC	Certificate III in Circus Arts	12
2011	22074VIC	Certificate IV in Circus Arts	7
2011	RII20709	Certificate II in Civil Construction	32
2011	RII30909	Certificate III in Civil Construction	2
2011	BCC30607	Certificate III in Civil Construction (Plant Operations)	7
2011	RII30809	Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations	1
2011	LMT30506	Certificate III in Clothing Production	4
2011	LMT20707	Certificate II in Clothing Production (Complex or Multiple Process)	1
2011	SIR20107	Certificate II in Community Pharmacy	6
2011	SIR30107	Certificate III in Community Pharmacy	8
2011	SRC10206	Certificate I in Community Recreation	50
2011	SRC20206	Certificate II in Community Recreation	3821
2011	SRC30206	Certificate III in Community Recreation	5
2011	CHC20108	Certificate II in Community Services	2438
2011	CHC20202	Certificate II in Community Services Work	1
2011	CHC30108	Certificate III in Community Services Work	17
2011	CHC40708	Certificate IV in Community Services Work	1
2011	RUV30304	Certificate III in Companion Animal Services	44

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	RUV40304	Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services	4
2011	UEE20507	Certificate II in Computer Assembly and Repair	1
2011	UEE40107	Certificate IV in Computer Systems	1
2011	RTD10102	Certificate I in Conservation & Land Management	5
2011	RTD30102	Certificate III in Conservation & Land Management	25
2011	RTD20102	Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management	327
2011	BCG10198	Certificate I in Construction	2
2011	CPC10108	Certificate I in Construction	147
2011	CPC20108	Certificate II in Construction	47
2011	CPC20208	Certificate II in Construction Pathways	9
2011	CUF10107	Certificate I in Creative Industries	34
2011	CUF20107	Certificate II in Creative Industries (Media)	626
2011	BSB30207	Certificate III in Customer Contact	16
2011	21764VIC	Certificate II in Dance	509
2011	21760VIC	Certificate III in Dance	56
2011	21912VIC	Certificate IV in Dance	4
2011	21816VIC	Certificate IV in Dance (Teaching & Management)	10
2011	21719VIC	Certificate IV in Dance Mediums	1
2011	HLT31807	Certificate III in Dental Assisting	13
2011	CUV40303	Certificate IV in Design	166
2011	CUV30303	Certificate III in Design Fundamentals	22
2011	CHC30408	Certificate III in Disability	10
2011	CHC40308	Certificate IV in Disability	21
2011	CHC30808	Certificate III in Education Support	19
2011	UEE30910	Certificate III in Electronics and Communications	1
2011	UEE22007	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)	148
2011	UEE22010	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)	146
2011	21583VIC	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Shared Technology)	294
2011	UEE30807	Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician	52
2011	21887VIC	Certificate II in Electrotechnology Studies (Pre-vocational)	540
2011	HLT21107	Certificate II in Emergency Medical Service First Response	163

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	91350NSW	Certificate III in Employment Education and Training	62
2011	MEM20105	Certificate II in Engineering	182
2011	MEM30405	Certificate III in Engineering - Electrical Trade	1
2011	MEM30305	Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade	32
2011	MEM30205	Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade	20
2011	MEM30105	Certificate III in Engineering - Production Systems	1
2011	MEM30505	Certificate III in Engineering - Technical	1
2011	22019VIC	Certificate II in Engineering Studies	1910
2011	MEM20205	Certificate II in Engineering(Production Tech)	11
2011	21908VIC	Certificate II in Equine Industry	570
2011	21936VIC	Certificate I in ESL (Access)	99
2011	21932VIC	Certificate II in ESL (Access)	63
2011	21933VIC	Certificate III in ESL (Access)	12
2011	21935VIC	Certificate III in ESL (Employment)	6
2011	SIT30607	Certificate III in Events	202
2011	91168NSW	Certificate II in Fashion Visualisation	9
2011	91502NSW	Certificate II in Fashion Visualisation	12
2011	FNS20104	Certificate II in Financial Services	28
2011	FNS30107	Certificate III in Financial Services	52
2011	FNS40604	Certificate IV in Financial Services	67
2011	FNS30304	Certificate III in Financial Services (Accounts Clerical)	1
2011	SRF30206	Certificate III in Fitness	465
2011	SRF40206	Certificate IV in Fitness	56
2011	LMF31208	Certificate III in Flooring Technology	3
2011	WRF20104	Certificate II in Floristry	11
2011	WRF30104	Certificate III in Floristry	4
2011	FDF20103	Certificate II in Food Processing	2
2011	FDF30603	Certificate III in Food Processing (Retail Baking - Bread)	38
2011	FDF10803	Certificate I in Food Processing (Retail Baking)	1
2011	FDF30503	Certificate III in Food Processing (Retail Baking-Cake & Pastry)	3
2011	FDF30903	Certificate III in Food Processing (Sales)	13

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	FDF20403	Certificate II in Food Processing (Wine)	16
2011	FDF30703	Certificate III in Food Processing(Retail Baking Combined)	3
2011	FPI20105	Certificate II in Forest Growing & Management	1
2011	81016ACT	Certificate I in French	6
2011	81017ACT	Certificate II in French	1
2011	BSB31207	Certificate III in Frontline Management	1
2011	BSB40807	Certificate IV in Frontline Management	7
2011	LMF10102	Certificate I in Furnishing	24
2011	21278VIC	Certificate II in Furnishing (Pre-apprenticeship Cabinet Making)	253
2011	LMF20302	Certificate II in Furniture Making	2
2011	LMF20309	Certificate II in Furniture Making	928
2011	LMF30302	Certificate III in Furniture Making	1
2011	21695VIC	Certificate IV in Further Education	63
2011	BCG30798	Certificate III in Gen Construction(Carp-Framewrk/Formwrk/Finish)	7
2011	BCG20198	Certificate II in General Construction	1
2011	BCG30498	Certificate III in General Construction (Painting & Decorating)	1
2011	21772VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults	1017
2011	21773VIC	Certificate II in General Education for Adults	983
2011	21774VIC	Certificate III in General Education for Adults (CGEA)	312
2011	21771VIC	Certificate I in General Education for Adults(Introductory)	238
2011	81021ACT	Certificate II in German	27
2011	PSP30104	Certificate III in Government	1
2011	WRH20106	Certificate II in Hairdressing	260
2011	WRH20109	Certificate II in Hairdressing	1287
2011	WRH30106	Certificate III in Hairdressing	72
2011	WRH30109	Certificate III in Hairdressing	126
2011	HLT32507	Certificate III in Health Services Assistance	147
2011	HLT21207	Certificate II in Health Support Services	15
2011	HLT32807	Certificate III in Health Support Services	6
2011	SIT20509	Certificate II in Holiday Parks and Resorts	6
2011	CHC30202	Certificate III in Home and Community Care	3

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	CHC30308	Certificate III in Home and Community Care	44
2011	RTF10103	Certificate I in Horticulture	61
2011	RTF20103	Certificate II in Horticulture	420
2011	RTF30103	Certificate III in Horticulture	6
2011	RTF30403	Certificate III in Horticulture (Landscape)	7
2011	RTF20703	Certificate II in Horticulture (Parks & Gardens)	98
2011	RTF30803	Certificate III in Horticulture (Turf Management)	4
2011	SIT10207	Certificate I in Hospitality	101
2011	SIT20207	Certificate II in Hospitality	3583
2011	SIT30707	Certificate III in Hospitality	750
2011	SIT40307	Certificate IV in Hospitality	3
2011	SIT30807	Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)	131
2011	THH11102	Certificate I in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	1
2011	SIT20307	Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	3285
2011	SIT10307	Certificate I in Hospitality (Kitchen Ops)	314
2011	THH21802	Certificate II in Hospitality (Operations)	1
2011	THH33002	Certificate III in Hospitality (Operations)	8
2011	SIT31107	Certificate III in Hospitality (Patisserie)	2
2011	80929ACT	Certificate IV in Hyperbaric Operations (Occupational SCUBA to 30m)	1
2011	80931ACT	Certificate IV in Hyperbaric Operations (SSBA to 30m)	1
2011	ICA10105	Certificate I in Information Technology	504
2011	ICA20105	Certificate II in Information Technology	1215
2011	ICA30105	Certificate III in Information Technology	1163
2011	ICA40805	Certificate IV in Information Technology (Multimedia)	7
2011	ICA40305	Certificate IV in Information Technology (Websites)	2
2011	ICA40405	Certificate IV in Information Technology Networking	6
2011	ICA40105	Certificate IV in Information Technology (General)	4
2011	22071VIC	Certificate II in Integrated Technologies	537
2011	CUF40207	Certificate IV in Interactive Digital Media	3
2011	LMF40408	Certificate IV in Interior Decoration	9
2011	LMF31908	Certificate III in Interior Decoration (Retail Supervision)	16

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	81037ACT	Certificate II in Japanese	43
2011	MEM30605	Certificate III in Jewellery Manufacture	1
2011	CPC31908	Certificate III in Joinery	23
2011	21533VIC	Certificate II in Joinery/Shopfitting/Stairbuilding (Pre-app)	33
2011	CSC20107	Certificate II in Justice	7
2011	21792VIC	Certificate IV in Justice	36
2011	MSL30109	Certificate III in Laboratory Skills	116
2011	PML30104	Certificate III in Laboratory Skills	15
2011	30803QLD	Certificate II in Leadership Support	7
2011	CHC40608	Certificate IV in Leisure and Health	1
2011	21793VIC	Certificate IV in Liberal Arts	1
2011	CUL20104	Certificate II in Library/Information Services	2
2011	CUL30104	Certificate III in Library/Information Services	4
2011	CUE20103	Certificate II in Live Production, Theatre & Events	44
2011	CUE30203	Certificate III in Live Production, Theatre & Events (Technical Ops)	1
2011	MEM30805	Certificate III in Locksmithing	1
2011	WRB20204	Certificate II in Make-up Services	546
2011	81052ACT	Certificate I in Mandarin	11
2011	81053ACT	Certificate II in Mandarin	53
2011	81054ACT	Certificate III in Mandarin	7
2011	MSA10107	Certificate I in Manufacturing (Pathways)	21
2011	MCM20105	Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology	92
2011	MSA20208	Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology	32
2011	AUR20605	Certificate II in Marine	1
2011	AUR30505	Certificate III in Marine	1
2011	MEM30705	Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction	1
2011	HLT40307	Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice	3
2011	MTM10207	Certificate I in Meat Processing (Meat Retailing)	2
2011	MTM20300	Certificate II in Meat Processing (Meat Retailing)	1
2011	MTM20307	Certificate II in Meat Processing (Meat Retailing)	4
2011	MTM30807	Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Retailing)	13

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	CUF30107	Certificate III in Media	3158
2011	21706VIC	Certificate IV in Ministry	2
2011	30771QLD	Certificate III in Ministry & Theology	156
2011	22126VIC	Certificate IV in Ministry (Youth)	1
2011	22020VIC	Certificate II in Modelling	30
2011	AUR21005	Certificate II in Motorsport	1
2011	CUS20109	Certificate II in Music	453
2011	CUS30101	Certificate III in Music	307
2011	CUS30109	Certificate III in Music	492
2011	CUS40109	Certificate IV in Music	31
2011	CUS30301	Certificate III in Music Industry (Business)	4
2011	CUS20101	Certificate II in Music Industry (Foundation)	49
2011	CUS30201	Certificate III in Music Industry (Technical Production)	536
2011	LMF40308 Certificate IV in Musical Instrument Making & Repair	14	
2011	LMF31408	Certificate III in Musical Instrument Making & Repairing	4
2011	WRB20104	Certificate II in Nail Technology	88
2011	HLT43407	Certificate IV in Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing)	1
2011	AUR20805	Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment	2
2011	AUR30705	Certificate III in Outdoor Power Equipment	5
2011	SR020206	Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation	1390
2011	SR030206	Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation	3
2011	SR040206	Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation	2
2011	SR030306	Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation (Multiple activites)	1
2011	CPC30608	Certificate III in Painting & Decorating	7
2011	21824VIC	Certificate III in Performing Arts	3
2011	CUV40403	Certificate IV in Photoimaging	57
2011	LMF20602	Certificate II in Picture Framing	12
2011	LMF30802	Certificate III in Picture Framing	1
2011	RII31309	Certificate III in Pipe Laying	2
2011	BCP30103	Certificate III in Plumbing	4
2011	CPC32408	Certificate III in Plumbing	103

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	22138VIC	Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-Apprenticeship)	17
2011	21642VIC	Certificate II in Plumbing (Prevocational)	446
2011	91454NSW	Certificate III in Preparation for Vocational & Further Study	1
2011	ICP20405	Certificate II in Printing & Graphic Arts	4
2011	ICP20205	Certificate II in Printing & Graphic Arts (Desktop Publishing)	36
2011	ICP20105	Certificate II in Printing & Graphic Arts (General)	20
2011	ICP40210	Certificate IV in Printing & Graphic Arts (Multimedia)	25
2011	ICP40205	Certificate IV in Printing & Graphic Arts (Multimedia)	65
2011	ICP20205	Certificate II in Printing & Graphic Arts(Desktop Publishing)	54
2011	MSA20107	Certificate II in Process Manufacturing	3
2011	RTE20603	Certificate II in Production Horticulture	2
2011	RTE31603	Certificate III in Production Horticulture	9
2011	PUA21004	Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue)	24
2011	PUA20701	Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting Operations)	102
2011	PUA20400	Certificate II in Public Safety (SES Rescue)	19
2011	PUA30601	Certificate III in Public Safety(Firefighting & Emergency Operations	1
2011	RGR30208	Certificate III in Racing (Advanced Stablehand)	10
2011	RGR40208	Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey)	14
2011	RGR20108	Certificate II in Racing (Stablehand)	25
2011	RGR30108	Certificate III in Racing (Trackrider)	4
2011	THC30104	Certificate III in Recreational Vehicle Manufacturing	12
2011	UEE31307	Certificate III in Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning	1
2011	UEE21507	Certificate II in Renewable Energy	13
2011	UEE21510	Certificate II in Renewable Energy	20
2011	39207QLD	Certificate IV in Residential Drafting	25
2011	40357SA	Certificate IV in Residential Drafting	1
2011	SIR20207	Certificate II in Retail	1512
2011	SIR30207	Certificate III in Retail	928
2011	WRB20304	Certificate II in Retail Cosmetic Services	270
2011	SIB20110	Certificate II in Retail Make-up & Skin Care	4
2011	SIR40207	Certificate IV in Retail Management	1

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	WRR20102	Certificate II in Retail Operations	5
2011	WRR30202	Certificate III in Retail Operations	4
2011	SIR10107	Certificate I in Retail Services	38
2011	RII31409	Certificate III in Road Construction and Maintenance	1
2011	RTE10103	Certificate I in Rural Operations	23
2011	RTE20703	Certificate II in Rural Operations	8
2011	RTE31903	Certificate III in Rural Operations	1
2011	CUF40107	Certificate IV in Screen & Media	80
2011	CPP20207	Certificate II in Security Operations	13
2011	RTE20403	Certificate II in Shearing	1
2011	22003VIC	Certificate II in Signage	35
2011	CPC32108	Certificate III in Signage	1
2011	91347NSW	Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training	62
2011	21956VIC	Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)	336
2011	21530VIC	Certificate II in Small Business(Operations/Innovation)	70
2011	CUS40209	Certificate IV in Sound Production	7
2011	81080ACT	Certificate I in Spanish	3
2011	81082ACT	Certificate III in Spanish	2
2011	91422NSW	Certificate II in Spoken and Written English	31
2011	91423NSW	Certificate III in Spoken and Written English	33
2011	SRO40106	Certificate IV in Sport & Recreation	417
2011	SRS30506	Certificate III in Sport (Athlete Support Services)	3
2011	SRS20206	Certificate II in Sport (Career Orientated Participation)	27
2011	SRS30206	Certificate III in Sport (Career Oriented Participation)	7
2011	SRS20306	Certificate II in Sport (Coaching)	82
2011	SRS30306	Certificate III in Sport (Coaching)	407
2011	SRS40206	Certificate IV in Sport (Coaching)	2
2011	SRS40506	Certificate IV in Sport (Development)	1
2011	SRS30406	Certificate III in Sport (Officiating)	37
2011	SR020106	Certificate II in Sport and Recreation	107
2011	SRO30106	Certificate III in Sport and Recreation	472

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	22098VIC	Certificate II in Sustainable & Emerging Technologies	9
2011	CUS30209	Certificate III in Technical Production	758
2011	LMT41107	Certificate IV in Textile Design & Development	6
2011	LMT30407	Certificate III in Textile Fabrication	1
2011	LMT30107	Certificate III in Textile Production	1
2011	91361NSW	Certificate III in Theatre & Screen Performance	14
2011	SIT20107	Certificate II in Tourism	87
2011	SIT30107	Certificate III in Tourism	68
2011	SIT30507	Certificate III in Tourism	7
2011	SIT30407	Certificate III in Tourism (Visitor Information Services)	1
2011	TAE40110	Certificate IV in Training & Assessment	1
2011	21671VIC	Certificate I in Transition Education	232
2011	TDA40203	Certificate IV in Transport & Distribution (Aviation Flight Ops)	3
2011	TLI21107	Certificate II in Transport and Logistics (Logistics Operations)	1
2011	TLl31107	Certificate III in Transport & Logistics (Logistics Operations)	1
2011	TLl20107	Certificate II in Transport and Logistics(Warehousing & Storage)	173
2011	TLl30107	Certificate III in Transport & Logistics (Warehousing & Storage)	11
2011	LMF31002	Certificate III in Upholstery	1
2011	RUV40404	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing	3
2011	CUV10103	Certificate I in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft	56
2011	CUV20103	Certificate II in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft	146
2011	CUV30103	Certificate III in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft	129
2011	CUV40103	Certificate IV in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft	94
2011	21625VIC	Certificate I in Vocational Preparation	133
2011	22012VIC	Certificate I in Vocational Preparation	1455
2011	CPC31208	Certificate III in Wall & Ceiling Lining	4
2011	CPC31308	Certificate III in Wall & Floor Tiling	1
2011	NWP20107	Certificate II in Water Operations	13
2011	NWP10107	Certificate I in Water Sustainability	23
2011	SIR20307	Certificate II in Wholesale	8
2011	RTE31403	Certificate III in Wool Clip Preparation	1

Year	OTFE certificate code	Certificate title	Enrolments
2011	RTE20303	Certificate II in Wool Handling	2
2011	21672VIC	Certificate I in Work Education	60
2011	22128VIC	Certificate I in Work Education	3
2011	22076VIC	Certificate II in Work Preparation	5
2011	CHC10102	Certificate I in Work Preparation	10
2011	30627QLD	Certificate II in Workplace Practices	15
2011	CHC40602	Certificate IV in Youth Work	1
2011	CHC41808	Certificate IV in Youth Work	2
2011	CISCO <sub>1</sub>	CISCO Discovery & Exploration	244
2011	21731VIC	Course in Concurrent Study	33
2011	21883VIC	Course in Construction (OH&S Induction)	369
2011	21770VIC	Course in Initial General Education for Adults	111
2011	21896VIC	Course in Recognised Informal Learning	3
2011	WRB50105	Diploma of Beauty Therapy	2
2011	BSB50207	Diploma of Business	1
2011	CHC50908	Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood education & care)	4
2011	21628VIC	Diploma of Dance (Classical Ballet & Performing Arts)	1
2011	SRF50206	Diploma of Fitness	1
2011	HLT51607	Diploma of Nursing	14
2011	CUV50407	Diploma of Photoimaging	43
2011	22111VIC	Diploma of Practical Rabbinics	63
2011	CUF50407	Diploma of Specialist Make-up Services	9
Total			67,048

**Source:** VCAA, 4 September 2012.

# Appendix 2 Respondents requesting referrals

Table A2 Referral status of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by the LLEN area in which their school was located

LLENs		Referral not offered	Referral offered and accepted	Referral offered and refused	Total
Metropolitan LLEN areas					
Banyule Nillumbik	No.	1389	48	165	1602
	%	86 <b>.</b> 7	3.0	10.3	100.0
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston	No.	1854	60	229	2143
	%	86.5	2.8	10.7	100.0
Brimbank Melton	No.	1164	40	113	1317
	%	88.4	3.0	8.6	100.0
Capital City	No.	598	12	40	650
	%	92.0	1.8	6.2	100.0
Frankston Mornington Peninsula	No.	1322	68	284	1674
	%	79.0	4.1	17.0	100.0
Gateway	No.	3079	64	208	3351
	%	91.9	1.9	6.2	100.0
Hume Whittlesea	No.	1541	53	186	1780
	%	86.6	3.0	10.4	100.0
Inner Eastern	No.	2991	48	192	3231
	%	92.6	1.5	5.9	100.0
Inner Northern	No.	1255	51	131	1437
	%	87.3	3⋅5	9.1	100.0
Maribyrnong Moonee Valley	No.	1305	42	116	1463
	%	89.2	2.9	7.9	100.0
Outer Eastern	No.	2168	85	285	2538
	%	85.4	3.3	11.2	100.0
South East	No.	2272	109	260	2641
	%	86.0	4.1	9.8	100.0
WynBay	No.	1142	53	146	1341
	%	85.2	4.0	10.9	100.0
Total, metropolitan LLENs	No.	22080	733	2355	25168
	%	87.7	2.9	9.4	100.0

Table A2 Referral status of Year 12 or equivalent completers, by the LLEN area in which their school was located (continue)

LLENs		Referral not offered	Referral offered and accepted	Referral offered and refused	Total
Non-metropolitan LLEN areas			accepted	retuseu	
Baw Baw Latrobe	No.	1389	48	165	1602
	%	86.7	3.0	10.3	100.0
Campaspe Cohuna	No.	1854	60	229	2143
	%	86.5	2.8	10.7	100.0
Central Grampians	No.	1164	40	113	1317
	%	88.4	3.0	8.6	100.0
Central Ranges	No.	598	12	40	650
	%	92.0	1.8	6.2	100.0
Gippsland East	No.	1322	68	284	1674
	%	79.0	4.1	17.0	100.0
Glenelg Southern Grampians	No.	3079	64	208	3351
	%	91.9	1.9	6.2	100.0
Goldfields	No.	1541	53	186	1780
	%	86.6	3.0	10.4	100.0
Goulburn Murray	No.	2991	48	192	3231
	%	92.6	1.5	5.9	100.0
Highlands	No.	1255	51	131	1437
	%	87.3	3⋅5	9.1	100.0
Murray Mallee	No.	1305	42	116	1463
	%	89.2	2.9	7.9	100.0
NE Tracks	No.	2168	85	285	2538
	%	85.4	3.3	11.2	100.0
North Central	No.	2272	109	260	2641
	%	86.0	4.1	9.8	100.0
North East	No.	1142	53	146	1341
	%	85.2	4.0	10.9	100.0
Northern Mallee	No.	22080	733	2355	25168
	%	87.7	2.9	9.4	100.0
Smart Geelong Region	No.	1379	61	252	1692
	%	81.5	3.6	14.9	100.0
South Gippsland Bass Coast	No.	221	10	56	287
	%	77.0	3.5	19.5	100.0
South West	No.	504	10	84	598
	%	84.3	1.7	14.0	100.0
Wimmera Southern Mallee	No.	169	4	35	208
	%	81.3	1.9	16.8	100.0
Total, non-metropolitan LLENs	No.	169	4	35	208
	%	81.3	1.9	16.8	100.0
Total, Victoria	No.	169	4	35	208
	%	81.3	1.9	16.8	100.0

Table A<sub>3</sub> Referral status of early school leavers, by the LLEN area in which their school was located

LLENs		Referral not offered	Referral offered and accepted	Referral offered and refused	Total
Metropolitan LLEN areas					
Banyule Nillumbik	No.	57	7	13	77
	%	74.0	9.1	16.9	100.0
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston	No.	54	11	19	84
	%	64.3	13.1	22.6	100.0
Brimbank Melton	No.	125	19	27	171
	%	73.1	11.1	15.8	100.0
Capital City	No.	58	18	18	94
	%	61.7	19.1	19.1	100.0
Frankston Mornington Peninsula	No.	145	12	47	204
	%	71.1	5.9	23.0	100.0
Gateway	No.	104	6	28	138
	%	75.4	4.3	20.3	100.0
Hume Whittlesea	No.	143	25	39	207
	%	69.1	12.1	18.8	100.0
Inner Eastern	No.	43	10	8	61
	%	70.5	16.4	13.1	100.0
Inner Northern	No.	126	21	44	191
	%	66.0	110	23.0	100.0
Maribyrnong Moonee Valley	No.	85	10	17	112
	%	75 <b>.</b> 9	8.9	15.2	100.0
Outer Eastern	No.	184	21	48	253
	%	72.7	8.3	19.0	100.0
South East	No.	166	32	58	256
	%	64.8	12.5	22.7	100.0
WynBay	No.	105	53	35	156
	%	67.3	10.3	22.4	100.0
Total, metropolitan LLENs	No.	1395	208	401	2004
	%	69.6	10.4	20.0	100.0

Table A<sub>3</sub> Referral status of early school leavers, by the LLEN area in which their school was located (continue)

LLENs		Referral not offered	Referral offered and accepted	Referral offered and refused	Total
Non-metropolitan LLEN areas					
Baw Baw Latrobe	No.	128	8	21	157
	%	81.5	5.1	13.4	100 <b>.</b> 0
Campaspe Cohuna	No.	26	2	6	34
	%	76.5	5.9	17.6	100.0
Central Grampians	No.	8	3	2	13
	%	61.5	23.1	15.4	100.0
Central Ranges	No.	59	4	9	72
	%	81.9	5.6	12.5	100.0
Gippsland East	No.	107	9	29	145
	%	73.8	6.2	20.0	100.0
Glenelg Southern Grampians	No.	40	1	6	47
	%	85.1	2.1	12.8	100.0
Goldfields	No.	182	12	50	244
	%	74.6	4.9	20.5	100.0
Goulburn Murray	No.	64	4	12	80
	%	80.0	5.0	15.0	100.0
Highlands	No.	108	4	18	130
	%	83.1	3.1	13.8	100.0
Murray Mallee	No.	37	1	5	43
	%	86.0	2.3	11.6	100.0
NE Tracks	No. %	36 76.6	0	11 23.4	47 100.0
North Central	No. %	11 64.7	0	6 35⋅3	17 100.0
North East	No.	33	3	11	47
	%	70.2	6.4	23.4	100.0
Northern Mallee	No.	25	2	8	35
	%	71.4	5.7	22.9	100.0
Smart Geelong Region	No.	175	18	36	229
	%	76.4	7.9	15.7	100.0
South Gippsland Bass Coast	No.	32	1	15	48
	%	66.7	2.1	31.3	100.0
South West	No.	75	4	19	98
	%	76.5	4.1	19.4	100.0
Wimmera Southern Mallee	No.	45	4	13	62
	%	72.6	6.5	21.0	100.0
Total, non-metropolitan LLENs	No.	119	80	277	1548
	%	76.9	5.2	17.9	100.0
Total, Victoria	No.	2586	288	678	3552
	%	72.8	8.1	19.1	100.0



