



# Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

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## COHORT REPORT

### THE 2003 LSAY COHORT OF 15 YEAR-OLDS: 16 YEAR-OLDS IN 2004

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**THE 2003 LSAY COHORT OF 15 YEAR-OLDS:  
16 YEAR-OLDS IN 2004**

This report provides details of the experiences of the 2003 cohort of 15 year-olds of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) in 2004. Information on this cohort was first collected in 2003 when these young people participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A follow-up telephone interview that year collected further information on the cohort. The reference period for this report is 2004, when the age of respondents was 16 years. Information about the activities of the 2003 cohort of 15 year-olds in previous years is available in earlier reports in this series, which are available as free downloads from the LSAY section of the ACER website (<http://www.acer.edu.au>). Summary statistics on the cohort, in 2003 and 2004, are contained in the table below. All figures in this cohort report are based on weighted data.

**Background characteristics of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004 and in 2003**

Background characteristic	Number in 2003 (n)	Distribution in 2003 (%)	Number in 2004 (n)	Distribution in 2004 (%)	Per cent retained in sample (%)
<i>Gender</i>					
Male	5276	51	4781	51	90.6
Female	5094	49	4597	49	90.2
<i>Indigenous Australians</i>					
Indigenous	195	2	147	2	75.1
Non-indigenous	10175	98	9231	98	90.7
<i>Country of birth</i>					
Australia	9019	88	8062	87	89.4
Other	1217	12	1192	13	98.0
<i>Home Language</i>					
English	9405	91	8446	91	89.8
Other	886	9	868	9	97.9
<i>Type of school attended in 2003</i>					
Government	6334	61	5668	60	89.5
Catholic	2317	22	2130	23	92.0
Independent	1719	17	1580	17	91.9
<i>Location of school attended in 2003</i>					
Metropolitan	6196	60	5753	61	92.9
Provincial	2265	22	1958	20	86.4
Rural/remote	1909	18	1667	17	87.3
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>10370</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>9378</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>90.4</i>

Notes: Section columns may not sum to number in sample because of missing data for some groupings. 2003 data weighted for sampling; data for 2004 weighted for sampling and attrition. Type of school based on categories used in original sampling. School location based on MCEETYA Schools Geographic Location Classification, with groupings to allow consistency with earlier LSAY cohorts; these groupings are different from those reported in PISA.

## WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN 2004?

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Table 1.1.1 Education and training status of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004, by level of education and training and gender**

Level of education and training	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
<i>Secondary school</i>			
Year 9 (or below)	<1	<1	<1
Year 10	9	6	8
Year 11	60	63	62
Year 12	17	18	17
<i>Total secondary school</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>Higher education</i>			
University full-time	<1	<1	<1
University part-time			
<i>Total higher education</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>
<i>Vocational education and training</i>			
TAFE full-time	1	1	1
TAFE part-time	<1	<1	<1
Apprenticeship	5	1	3
Traineeship	1	1	1
<i>Total vocational education and training</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Other education and training	<1	<1	<1
<i>Total in education and training</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Not currently in education and training</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Note: Columns may not sum to section totals due to rounding.

**EMPLOYMENT****Table 1.2.1 Weekly hours worked and earnings of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004, by education and training status and gender**

	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
<b>In education and training</b>			
Not working	49	41	45
Hours worked per week in main job			
1-5 hours	7	9	8
6-10 hours	17	24	20
11-15 hours	11	14	12
16-20 hours	6	6	6
21 or more hours per week	11	5	8
No regular hours/unsure	<1	1	1
Waiting to start a job	<1	1	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Number in education and training</i>	<i>4394</i>	<i>4187</i>	<i>8581</i>
Median hours worked per week	12	10	10
Median gross weekly earnings	\$100	\$90	\$100
<b>Not in education and training</b>			
Not working	31	30	30
Hours worked per week in main job			
1-5 hours	2	2	2
6-10 hours	6	9	7
11-15 hours	7	8	8
16-20 hours	5	11	8
21 or more hours per week	47	37	42
No regular hours/unsure	1	2	2
Waiting to start a job	2	1	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Number not in education and training</i>	<i>387</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>797</i>
Median hours worked per week	36	25	30
Median gross weekly earnings	\$250	\$200	\$230
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Notes: The category 'In education and training' combines those at school, university or TAFE with those in apprenticeships, traineeships and other study. 'Not working' includes those who were unemployed and those who were not in the labour force. Median hours worked per week based on those who were working and stated regular hours. Median weekly earnings based on those who were working and provided income details. Hours and earnings based on main job only. Columns may not sum to section totals due to rounding.

**Table 1.2.2 Employment status of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004, by gender**

Employment status	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
In a full-time job at time of interview	12	6	9
In a part-time job at time of interview	40	53	46
Unemployed at time of interview	2	1	2
Outside the labour force and full-time study at time of interview	1	1	1
Other	46	39	42
Mean number of months employed during 2004	4.9	5.7	5.3
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Notes: A full-time job is one in which the person works 30 hours or more per week. Based on the person's main job if working in more than one job. Persons who are unemployed are not working, are looking for work and are able to start work if offered a job. Number of months worked based on 2004 only. January 2004 is the first month for which monthly employment data are available for the 2003 LSAY cohort. Persons outside the labour force and full-time education and training may be engaged in part-time education and training. 'Other' includes persons in full-time education and training and not working.

**Table 1.2.3 Occupation groups of the 2003 LSAY cohort employed in 2004, by gender**

Occupation group	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Managers and administrators	<1	<1	<1
Professionals	1	1	1
Associate professionals	5	3	3
Tradespersons and related workers	17	3	10
Advanced clerical and service workers	<1	1	<1
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	5	17	11
Intermediate production and transport workers	12	2	7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	31	61	47
Labourers and related workers	28	13	20
Occupation uncodeable	--	--	--
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>2470</i>	<i>2702</i>	<i>5172</i>

Notes: Occupation groups are based on the second edition of the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations* (ASCO) (ABS, 1997). Groups are based on the person's main job only. Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Includes those who did not provide information on hours or earnings.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES

**Table 1.3.1 Participation in spare-time leisure activities at least once a week by the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004, by type of activity and gender**

Leisure activity	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Visit library	10	13	11
Read books	35	46	40
Read newspapers or magazines	84	82	83
Use the Internet	87	84	85
Play sport or exercise	92	82	87
Community based activity	15	16	15
None of the above	1	1	1
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Note: Columns do not sum to 100% because cohort members can participate in more than one activity.

**Table 1.3.2 Happiness with various aspects of their lives for the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004**

Happiness with....	Very Happy (%)	Happy (%)	Unhappy (%)	Very Unhappy (%)	Unsure (%)
Work you do at school, at home or in a job	25	66	8	1	<1
What you do in your spare time	51	46	3	<1	<1
How you get on with people in general	54	45	1	<1	<1
The money you get each week	26	56	15	3	<1
Your social life	56	41	2	<1	<1
Your independence	46	48	5	1	<1
Your career prospects	33	58	7	1	1
Your future	35	60	3	<1	2
Your life at home	50	47	3	<1	<1
Your standard of living	55	43	1	<1	<1
The way the country is run	10	60	20	5	4
The state of the economy	10	64	13	2	11
Where you live	48	47	4	1	<1
Your life as a whole	54	44	2	<1	<1
<i>Number in sample</i>			<i>9378</i>		

Note: Rows may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 1.3.3 Type of accommodation among members of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004**

Type of accommodation	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
In parents' home	96	96	96
With other relatives	2	1	2
In a private house as a boarder	<1	1	1
In a shared house or flat	1	2	1
In a hostel	<1	<1	<1
Somewhere else	1	1	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Note: Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 1.3.4 Relationships among members of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2004**

Relationship	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Living with a spouse/de facto/partner	1	1	1
Living with own children	<1	<1	<1
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>



## WHAT HAVE THEY DONE SO FAR?

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Table 2.1.1 Participation in Year 12 and post-school education and training by the 2003 LSAY cohort to 2004, by gender**

	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
<i>Year 12</i>			
Ever in Year 12	20	22	21
Ever in VET subject as part of secondary school	27	26	27
<i>Post-school vocational education and training</i>			
Ever started an Australian Apprenticeship	6	2	4
Ever enrolled at a TAFE institution	1	2	1
<i>Ever enrolled in post-school VET</i>	7	4	5
<i>Higher education</i>			
Ever enrolled at university	<1	<1	<1
Ever enrolled in post-graduate study	- -	- -	- -
<i>Ever enrolled in higher education</i>	<1	<1	<1
<i>Ever enrolled in post-school education and training</i>	7	4	6
<i>Number in sample</i>	4781	4597	9378

Note: Participation in Year 12 includes those who did Year 12 at a TAFE institution. 'Australian Apprenticeship' includes apprenticeships and traineeships. Columns sum to more than 100% because cohort members may have enrolled in more than one type of education and training. Categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 2.1.2 Completion of Year 12 and post-school education and training by the 2003 LSAY cohort to 2004, by gender**

	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
<i>Year 12</i>			
Completed Year 12	2	3	3
<i>Post-school vocational education and training</i>			
Completed apprenticeship	<1	<1	<1
Completed traineeship	<1	<1	<1
Completed non-apprenticeship certificate	<1	<1	<1
Completed diploma	<1	--	<1
Completed advanced diploma or associate degree	--	<1	<1
<i>Completed post-school vocational education and training</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Certificate levels (apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship)</i>			
Completed Certificate I	<1	<1	<1
Completed Certificate II	<1	<1	<1
Completed Certificate III	<1	<1	<1
Completed Certificate IV	<1	<1	<1
Completed Certificate (level unknown)	<1	<1	<1
<i>Completed any certificate</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>	<i>&lt;1</i>
<i>Higher education</i>			
Completed bachelor degree	--	--	--
Completed graduate diploma or graduate certificate	--	--	--
Completed post-graduate degree	--	--	--
<i>Completed higher education</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>Completed a post-school qualification</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Notes: Completion of Year 12 includes those who did Year 12 study at a TAFE institution. Those who have completed more than one certificate, diploma or degree are included in this table, and may be counted more than once. Certificate levels in this table include those obtained through apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship VET study; similar information was not available for all apprentices and trainees in earlier LSAY cohorts.

**EMPLOYMENT****Table 2.2.1 Employment experience in 2004 of the 2003 LSAY cohort, by gender**

Employment experience	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Employed in 6 consecutive months during 2004	44	51	47
Not working and looked for work in 6 consecutive months during 2004	1	2	1
Outside the labour force and full-time education and training in 6 consecutive months during 2004	4	4	4
Mean number of months employed since January 2004	4.9	5.7	5.3
<i>Number in sample</i>	<i>4781</i>	<i>4597</i>	<i>9378</i>

Note: Those employed in 6 consecutive months may have been employed part-time or full-time in any of those months. Persons outside the labour force and full-time education and training may have been engaged in part-time education and training during the period. January 2004 is the first month for which monthly employment data are available for the 2003 LSAY cohort.