



Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

COHORT REPORT

THE 2003 LSAY COHORT OF 15 YEAR-OLDS: 17 YEAR-OLDS IN 2005

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**THE 2003 LSAY COHORT OF 15 YEAR-OLDS:
17 YEAR-OLDS IN 2005**

This report provides details of the experiences of the 2003 cohort of 15 year-olds of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) in 2005. 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 2005, when the age of respondents was 17 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 2005, 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 2005 and in 2003

| Background characteristic | Number in 2003 (n) | Distribution in 2003 (%) | Number in 2005 (n) | Distribution in 2005 (%) | Per cent retained in sample (%) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Gender</i> | | | | | |
| Male | 5276 | 51 | 4437 | 51 | 84.1 |
| Female | 5094 | 49 | 4254 | 49 | 83.5 |
| <i>Indigenous Australians</i> | | | | | |
| Indigenous | 195 | 2 | 134 | 2 | 68.4 |
| Non-indigenous | 10175 | 98 | 8557 | 98 | 84.1 |
| <i>Country of birth</i> | | | | | |
| Australia | 9019 | 88 | 7469 | 87 | 82.8 |
| Other | 1217 | 12 | 1109 | 13 | 91.1 |
| <i>Home Language</i> | | | | | |
| English | 9405 | 91 | 7828 | 91 | 83.2 |
| Other | 886 | 9 | 809 | 9 | 91.3 |
| <i>Type of school attended in 2003</i> | | | | | |
| Government | 6334 | 61 | 5293 | 61 | 83.6 |
| Catholic | 2317 | 22 | 1959 | 23 | 84.6 |
| Independent | 1719 | 17 | 1439 | 17 | 83.7 |
| <i>Location of school attended in 2003</i> | | | | | |
| Metropolitan | 6196 | 60 | 5311 | 61 | 85.7 |
| Provincial | 2265 | 22 | 1819 | 21 | 80.3 |
| Rural/remote | 1909 | 18 | 1561 | 18 | 81.8 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>10370</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>8691</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>83.8</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 2005 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 2005?

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Table 1.1.1 Education and training status of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2005, by level of education and training and gender

| Level of education and training | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Secondary school</i> | | | |
| Year 10 or below | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Year 11 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Year 12 | 54 | 59 | 57 |
| Year 13 | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total secondary school</i> | <i>62</i> | <i>65</i> | <i>63</i> |
| <i>Higher education</i> | | | |
| University full-time | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| University part-time | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total higher education</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Vocational education and training</i> | | | |
| TAFE full-time | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| TAFE part-time | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Apprenticeship | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Traineeship | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total vocational education and training</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> |
| Other education and training | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total in education and training</i> | <i>76</i> | <i>78</i> | <i>77</i> |
| <i>Not currently in education and training</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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 2005, by education and training status and gender**

| | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| In education and training | | | |
| Not working | 45 | 38 | 41 |
| Hours worked per week in main job | | | |
| 1-5 hours | 9 | 12 | 10 |
| 6-10 hours | 19 | 24 | 22 |
| 11-15 hours | 9 | 13 | 11 |
| 16-20 hours | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 21 or more hours per week | 13 | 8 | 10 |
| 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>3109</i> | <i>3025</i> | <i>6134</i> |
| Median hours worked per week | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Median gross weekly earnings | \$105 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Not in education and training | | | |
| Not working | 26 | 25 | 25 |
| Hours worked per week in main job | | | |
| 1-5 hours | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 6-10 hours | 7 | 13 | 10 |
| 11-15 hours | 7 | 12 | 9 |
| 16-20 hours | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 21 or more hours per week | 49 | 36 | 43 |
| 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 not in education and training</i> | <i>1328</i> | <i>1229</i> | <i>2557</i> |
| Median hours worked per week | 38 | 20 | 30 |
| Median gross weekly earnings | \$288 | \$200 | \$250 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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 2005, by gender

| Employment status | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| In a full-time job at time of interview | 21 | 12 | 17 |
| In a part-time job at time of interview | 38 | 52 | 45 |
| Unemployed at time of interview | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Outside the labour force and full-time study at time of interview | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 36 | 32 | 34 |
| Mean number of months employed during 2005 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 6.5 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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 previous 12 months. 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 2005, by gender

| Occupation group | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Managers and administrators | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Professionals | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Associate professionals | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | 23 | 4 | 14 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | - - | 1 | <1 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 5 | 21 | 13 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | 10 | 2 | 6 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | 29 | 55 | 42 |
| Labourers and related workers | 24 | 11 | 17 |
| Occupation uncodeable | 1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>2680</i> | <i>2776</i> | <i>5456</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 2005, by type of activity and gender**

| Leisure activity | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Visit library | 11 | 14 | 12 |
| Read books | 36 | 42 | 39 |
| Read newspapers or magazines | 86 | 85 | 85 |
| Use the Internet | 88 | 87 | 87 |
| Play computer or video games | 58 | 19 | 39 |
| Play sport or exercise | 88 | 81 | 85 |
| Community based activity | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Go to church or other place of worship | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Do voluntary work | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| None of the above | <1 | 1 | <1 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</i> |

Note: Columns may sum to more than 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 2005

| Happiness with.... | Very Happy (%) | Happy (%) | Unhappy (%) | Very Unhappy (%) | Unsure (%) |
|--|----------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Work you do at school, at home or in a job | 27 | 66 | 6 | 1 | <1 |
| What you do in your spare time | 48 | 49 | 3 | <1 | <1 |
| How you get on with people in general | 57 | 42 | 1 | <1 | <1 |
| The money you get each week | 24 | 57 | 15 | 3 | 1 |
| Your social life | 58 | 39 | 2 | <1 | <1 |
| Your independence | 51 | 44 | 4 | <1 | <1 |
| Your career prospects | 36 | 57 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Your future | 36 | 59 | 3 | <1 | 2 |
| Your life at home | 51 | 46 | 3 | <1 | <1 |
| Your standard of living | 59 | 39 | 1 | <1 | <1 |
| Where you live | 52 | 3 | 4 | 1 | <1 |
| Your life as a whole | 56 | 42 | 1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | | | <i>8691</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 2005

| Type of accommodation | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| In parents' home | 93 | 92 | 92 |
| With other relatives | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| In a private house as a boarder | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| In a shared house or flat | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| In a hostel | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Somewhere else | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Live alone | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</i> |

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

Table 1.3.4 Relationships among members of the 2003 LSAY cohort in 2005

| Relationship | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Living with a spouse/de facto/partner | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Living with own children | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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 2005, by gender

| | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Year 12</i> | | | |
| Ever in Year 12 | 77 | 84 | 81 |
| Ever in VET subject as part of secondary school | 32 | 31 | 31 |
| <i>Post-school vocational education and training</i> | | | |
| Ever started an Australian Apprenticeship | 13 | 5 | 9 |
| Ever enrolled at a TAFE institution | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| <i>Ever enrolled in post-school VET</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Higher education</i> | | | |
| Ever enrolled at university | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Ever enrolled in post-graduate study | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Ever enrolled in higher education</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Ever enrolled in post-school education and training</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>20</i> | <i>22</i> |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</i> |

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 2005, by gender

| | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Year 12</i> | | | |
| Completed Year 12 | 20 | 22 | 21 |
| <i>Post-school vocational education and training</i> | | | |
| Completed apprenticeship | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Completed traineeship | <1 | 1 | 1 |
| Completed non-apprenticeship certificate | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Completed diploma | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Completed advanced diploma or associate degree | -- | <1 | <1 |
| <i>Completed post-school vocational education and training</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>3</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>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>2</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>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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 2005 of the 2003 LSAY cohort, by gender**

| Employment experience | Males (%) | Females (%) | Total (%) |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Employed in 6 consecutive months during 2005 | 50 | 57 | 53 |
| Not working and looked for work in 6 consecutive months during 2005 | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Outside the labour force and full-time education and training in 6 consecutive months during 2005 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Mean number of months employed since January 2004 | 10.1 | 11.4 | 10.7 |
| <i>Number in sample</i> | <i>4437</i> | <i>4254</i> | <i>8691</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.