

# 2021 Early School Leavers survey

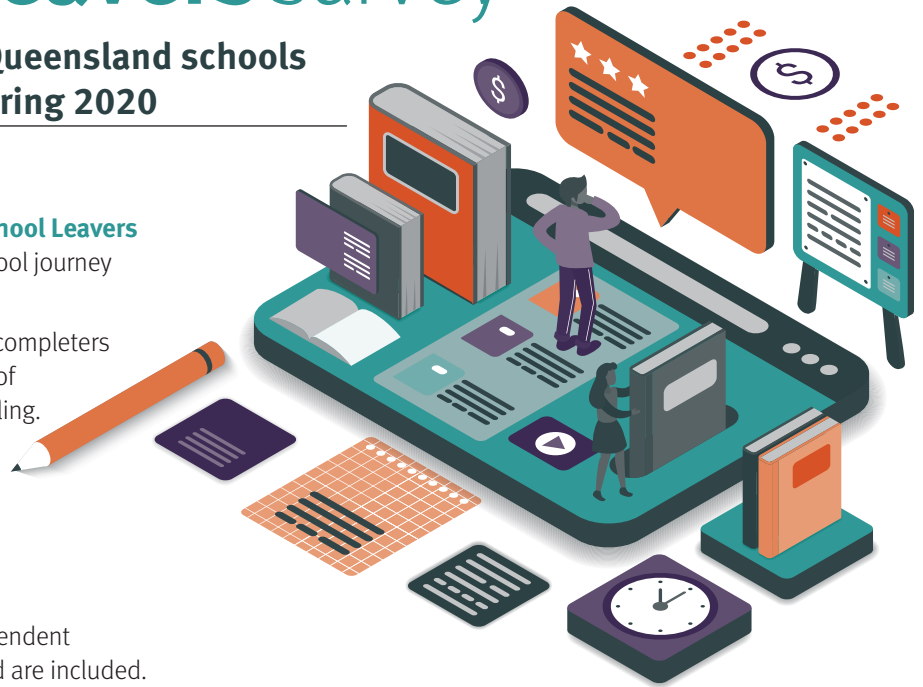
## Destinations of students who left Queensland schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2020

Since 2007, the Department of Education's **Early School Leavers** survey has captured information about the post-school journey of students who leave school early.

This survey is a companion to the survey of Year 12 completers and together they provide a comprehensive picture of students in the year following the end of their schooling.

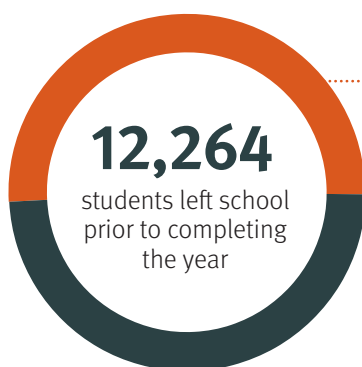
Insights gained from these surveys assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

All students who attended State, Catholic and Independent schools, and TAFE secondary colleges in Queensland are included.



### 2021 Early School Leavers survey

Over 180,000 students were enrolled in Years 10-12 in Queensland schools at the start of 2020



**6,291**  
respondents

**51.3%**  
response rate

2090 left in Year 10

3046 left in Year 11

1155 left in Year 12

### Find out more



For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website [www.qld.gov.au/earllyschoollleavers](http://www.qld.gov.au/earllyschoollleavers)



**Queensland**  
Government

# Post-school engagement

## Engagement in education, employment or training

**71.3%**<sup>1</sup> in education, employment or training

**37.7%**  
in education  
or training

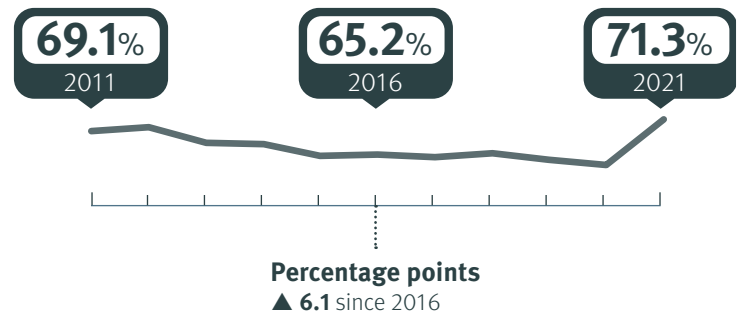
**33.7%**  
in employment only

**28.7%**  
not in education,  
employment or  
training



All early school leavers were assigned to a **main destination**. This categorisation system prioritises education related destinations over other destinations. For example early school leavers who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination. Apprentices and trainees are reported as being in education or training.

The survey was conducted in August/September 2021, a time when the economy was beginning to recover from the **COVID-19** recession.



## Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

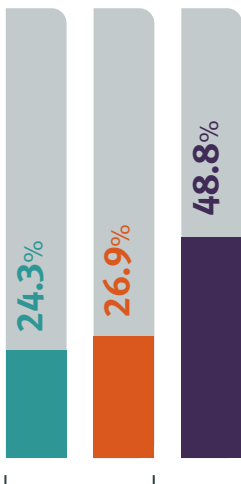


in employment only



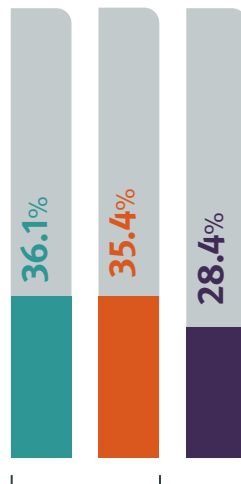
not in education,  
employment or training

### Indigenous



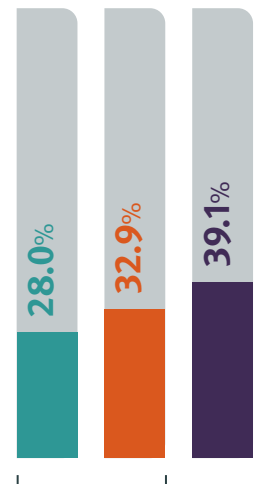
**51.2%**  
of 773  
**Indigenous** respondents<sup>2</sup>  
were engaged

### Regional and Remote



**71.6%**  
of 3093  
**regional and remote**  
respondents<sup>3</sup> were engaged

### Disadvantaged



**60.9%**  
of 1661  
respondents from  
**disadvantaged** areas<sup>4</sup>  
were engaged

<sup>1</sup> Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point

<sup>2</sup> Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (37.1%)

<sup>3</sup> Students who were not living in a 'Major Cities' category area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure

<sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

# Post-school engagement

## Why are they leaving?

◆ Percentage point change

### Single most important reason for leaving school and how they are engaged now



in education or training



in employment only



not in education, employment or training

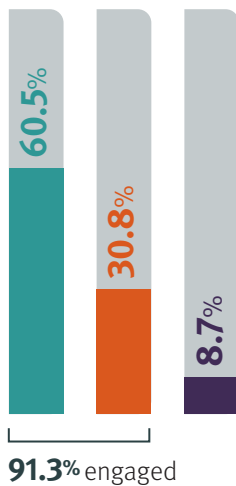
#### To get a job/apprenticeship



24.8%

1560 respondents

▲ 2.4 since 2016



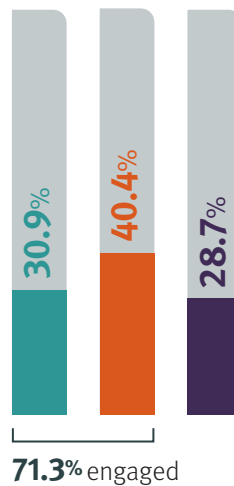
#### Did not like school



17.8%

1117 respondents

▼ 0.3 since 2016



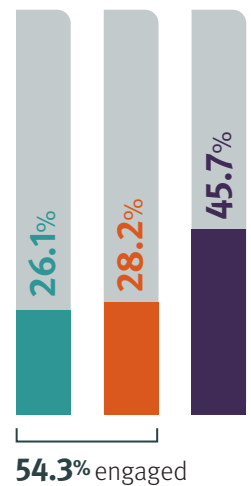
#### Health reasons



11.9%

751 respondents

▲ 2.5 since 2016



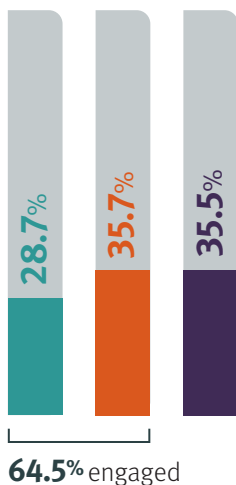
#### Behaviour of other students disrupted my study



8.4%

529 respondents

▼ 1.9 since 2016



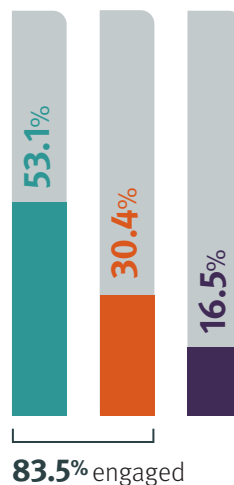
#### Study options did not meet my needs



7.3%

461 respondents

▼ 0.4 since 2016



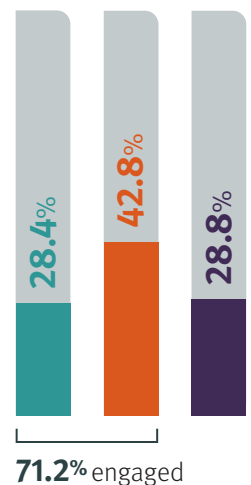
#### Difficult academically



7.2%

451 respondents

No change since 2016



### Females

70.0% in education, training or employment



More likely than males to leave school due to health reasons;

18.0% compared to 8.0%

### Males

72.2% in education, training or employment



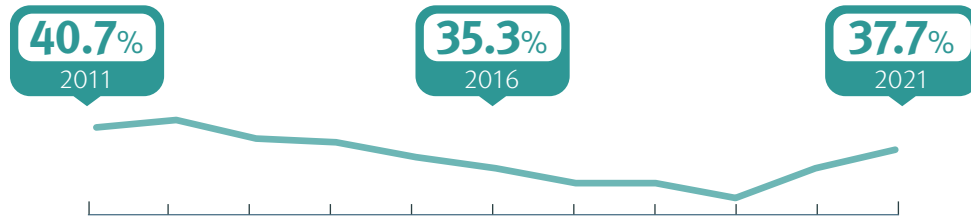
More likely than females to leave school to get a job/apprenticeship;

32.1% compared to 13.6%

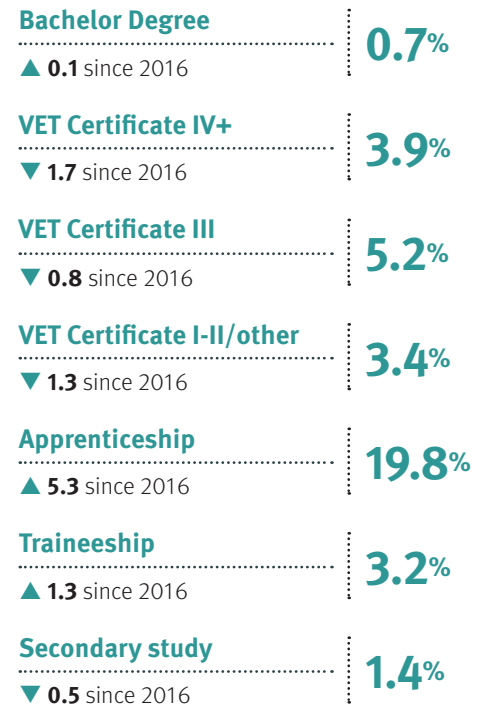
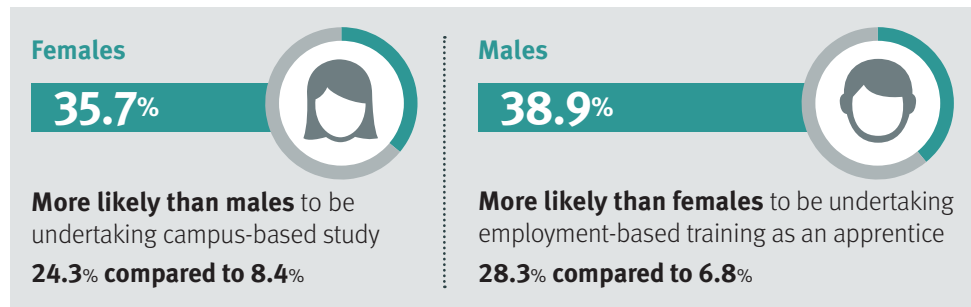
# Main destination

## In education or training

▲ Percentage point change



Between 2020 and 2021 there was an decrease or no change in all education and training categories, except **apprenticeships** which increased from 14.9% to 19.8%. This corresponds with targeted government support and stimulus in areas such as construction.



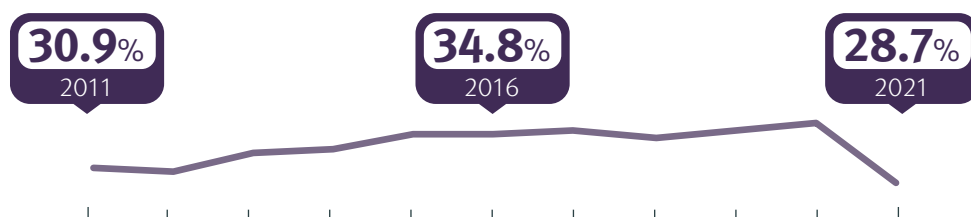
## In employment only



The increase in the proportion of early school leavers in employment indicates that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy is less severe on young people than it was in 2020. Those in **employment only** have returned to pre-pandemic levels.



## Not in education, employment or training



While there were 1805 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 35.2% of these have had a job since leaving school and almost 10% were waiting for a job or study course to begin. A 7.0 percentage point decrease in those seeking work indicates that there are more jobs available than there were in 2020.

# Destination:

## Education and training



### Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

**3.7%**

▼ 1.1 since 2016

TAFE

**49.3%**

▲ 6.5 since 2016

Private training provider

**29.1%**

▼ 4.4 since 2016

Other institution

**17.9%**

▼ 1.1 since 2016

### In education or training

Females

**35.7%**



More likely than males to study in the field of Food, Hospitality and Personal Services

Males

**38.9%**



More likely than females to study in the field of Engineering and Related Technologies

### What are they studying?<sup>5</sup>



Engineering and Related Technologies

**25.0%**  
593

230

Automotive

128

Mechanical & Industrial

116

Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and Building

**19.5%**  
462

441

Building

21

Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and Personal Services

**14.1%**  
334

173

Personal Services

161

Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

**7.1%**  
169

103

Human Welfare

25

Sport and Recreation

11

Justice and Law Enforcement

<sup>5</sup> Field of study categories are based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (broad, narrow and detailed).

### How are they studying?



employment-based study as an **apprentice or trainee**

**61.1%**



studying **part-time**

**79.3%**



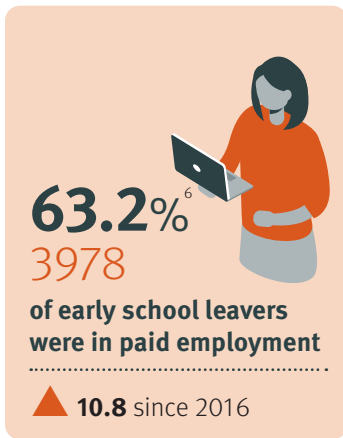
**combining study with paid employment**

**78.6%**

Destination:

# Employment (total)

Percentage point change



## Which industries are they working in?



## In paid employment

Females

57.6%

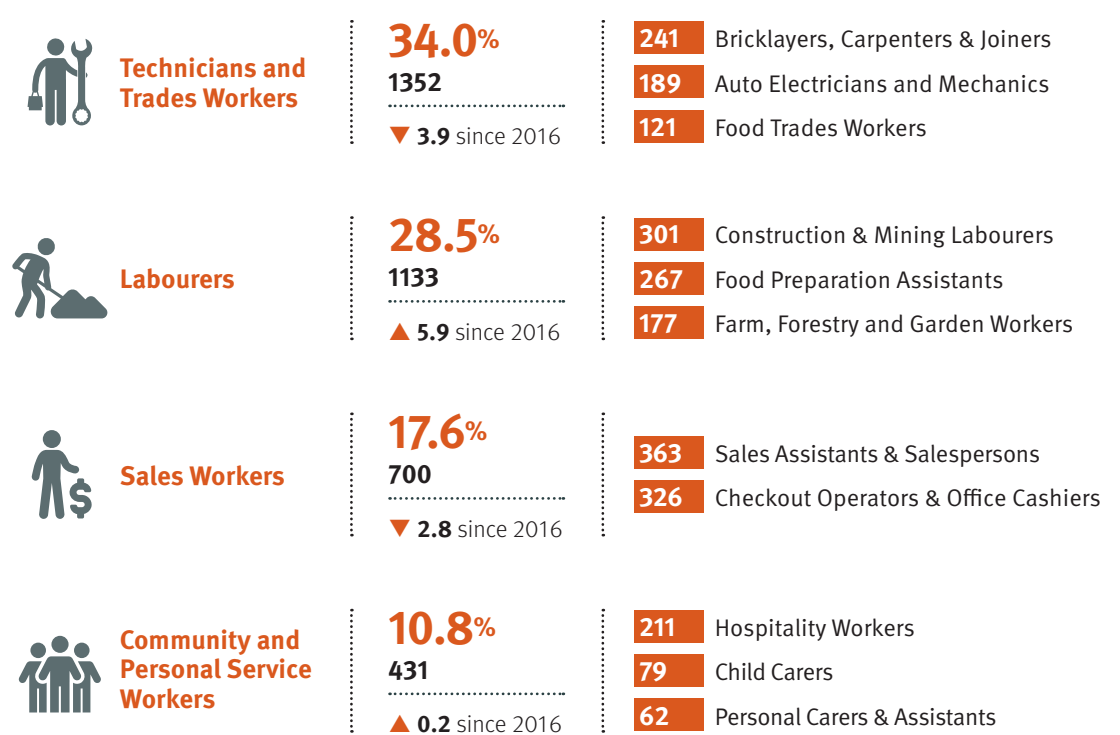
More likely than males to be working as Sales Workers or Community and Personal Service Workers

Males

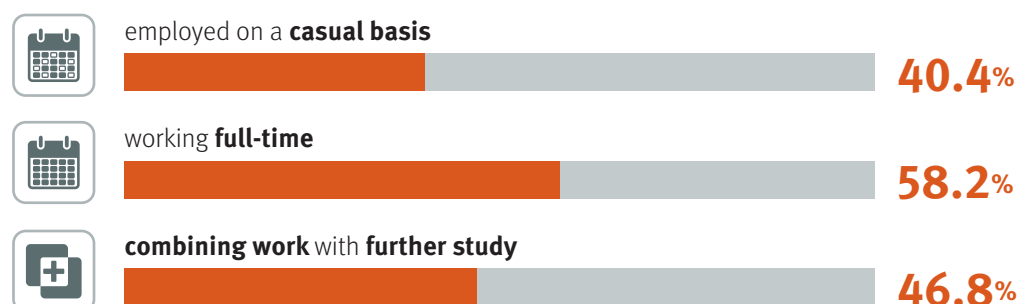
66.9%

More likely than females to be working as Technician and Trades Workers or Labourers

## What jobs are they doing?<sup>7</sup>



## How are they working?



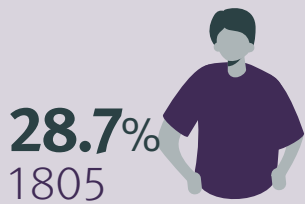
<sup>6</sup> This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 63.2% figure includes 33.7% who were only working and 29.6% who were both working and studying. Those who were working and studying are reported as studying for their main destination.

<sup>7</sup> Occupation categories are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (major and minor groups).

Destination:

# Not in education, employment or training

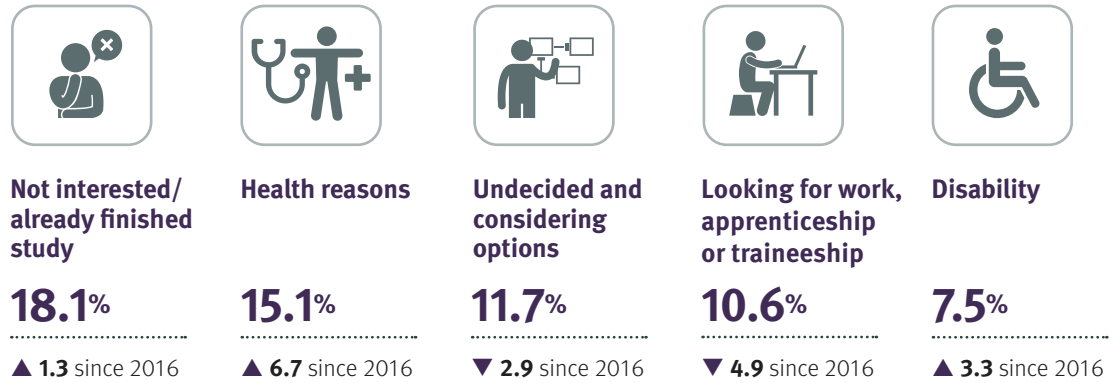
Percentage point change



of early school leavers were not in education, employment or training

6.1 since 2016

## Main reason not studying



## Not in education, training or employment

Females

**30.0%**

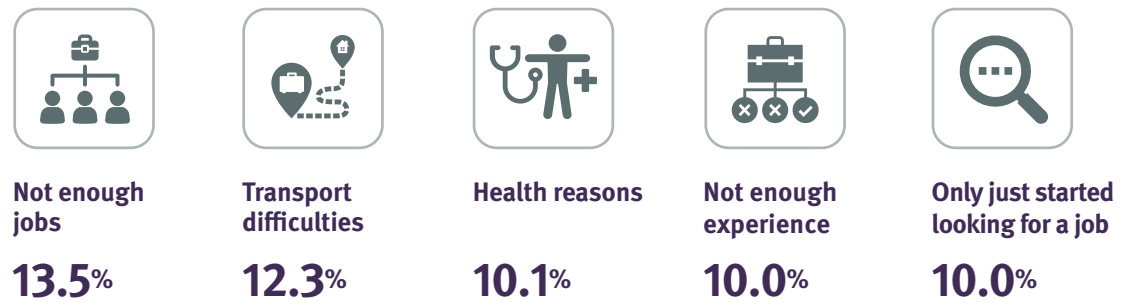
More likely than males to have parenting or family commitments

Males

**27.8%**

More likely than females to not be interested in further study and looking for work

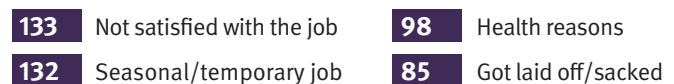
## Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



## Worked since leaving school



### Main reason left previous job



## Not seeking work



### Main reason not seeking work



## Where to from here?

