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SETTING THE PACE FACT SHEET 2.

Labour markets and the transition from school

- Victoria has more teenagers, young adults and school-leavers fully engaged in work or study than any other State, according to the *Setting the Pace* report.
- This is largely because more Victorian young people go on to full-time study than their counterparts in other States.
- *Setting the Pace* also tracks the long-term decline of full-time work for teenagers. The proportion of Victorian teenagers in full-time work has dropped from nearly 31 per cent in 1987 to just above 12 per cent in 2004. Among teenagers in work a growing share are working part-time rather than full-time, up from a quarter in 1999 to nearly a third in 2004.
- Nearly 78 per cent of 20 to 24 year old Victorians were in full-time study or work in 2004, compared to the national average of 73.4 percent. The rate of participation increased faster in Victoria, and full-time work has held up better for this group than most other States.
- Despite this generally good news, 11.9 per cent of teenagers, 25.3 percent of school-leavers, and 22.3 percent of young adults (20-24 year olds) in Victoria were in the 'at risk' categories in 2004 (meaning they were either unemployed, working part-time and not studying full-time, or not in the labour force).
- Therefore, while Victoria is doing better than the rest of nation, this level of risk is still not acceptable.
- There is scope to improve the coherence of the initiatives the Government has introduced, and to ensure that every Victorian student leaving school early has intensive personal support and guidance.