| April 2007 | What Young People Are Thinking |
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## 1. Executive summary

## About "What Young People are Thinking"

- What Young People are Thinking is based on a national telephone survey of 803 Australians aged 18 to 24 . The broad objective of the survey was to provide some insights into the attitudes, opinions and experiences of Australia's young adults, as far as work and study are concerned - with a key emphasis on contrasting young people who are "fully engaged" (those who either work or study full time) vs those who are not fully engaged. What Young People are Thinking acts as a complement to The Dusseldorp Skills Forum's comprehensive annual report, How Young People are Faring.


## What young people are doing - and links with education

Based on 2001 Census data, 63 percent of 18 to 24 year olds are fully engaged ${ }^{1}$ (including 38 percent who work full time, and 26 percent who study full time). The key segments among the remaining 37 percent who are not fully engaged, are those who are not working or studying ( 20 percent), and those who work part time but are not studying (13 percent).

■ Results from What Young People are Thinking reveal clear correlations between levels of engagement and levels of personal and parental education:

- $\quad$ Significantly more young people who have completed Year 12 (69 percent) are fully engaged than those who have not (42 percent). In fact a majority of early school leavers are not fully engaged, with 37 percent not working or studying at all. [The level of full engagement is also higher among those who attended a non-government school for their final year (73 percent) than among those who attended a government school (58 percent)].
- Levels of full engagement are also higher than average among those with at least one parent having completed a post secondary qualification.

[^0] Section 4.1.1

- Completion of Year 12, higher levels of parental education and attendance at a non-government school are also correlated with a greater tendency for young people to engage in at least some type of post school education - either through a university, TAFE, or other type of institution.

■ Interestingly when young people reflect on the school they attended in their last year, most feel their school did an excellent, very good or good job at providing them with a good education. However, about 30 percent are more critical and this is higher among males, those not fully engaged, early school leavers and those who attended a government school.

Whether or not these assessments by young people reflect any objective reality about the quality of education provided by their schools is unknown. It is also unknown if those with a critical view lay blame with their school for any shortcomings in their persona outcomes - either at school or later. Nonetheless, the fact remains that there is an undeniable correlation between young people's level of engagement and the type of school they attended, and whether they completed Year 12 or left school earlier.

- A majority of those who did not continue with any type of studies directly after school, say it was their preferred choice not to. However about one-in-ten 18 to 24 year olds did not enter post school study and say that, given a choice, they would have preferred to continue with studies. The barriers they cite are broad ranging and include financial reasons - both general financial difficulties, with some mentioning the cost of study specifically; not qualifying to get into courses; lack of transport or issues of distance (more prevalent in country areas), as well as family reasons. Other barriers included not knowing what they wanted to do, as well as admissions of laziness or lack of motivation.


## 1. Executive summary (cont'd)

## Overall feelings about life at the moment - and the future

- What Young People are Thinking reveals quite a positive picture concerning young people's current general life satisfaction, and also in relation to their optimism about their personal future. The vast majority, including both fully engaged and not fully engaged:
- say they are satisfied with their life overall (half feel very satisfied);
- are confident that everything will "work out OK" for them in their working life and career in the years ahead;
- are confident they will be financially secure in the future - and believe they will achieve a standard of living as good as, or better than their parents'.
- Still on the future, most 18 to 24 's say they have either thought a "great deal", or "quite a bit" about the type of occupation or career they want. Equally most also say they have decided on one specific occupation or career, or have a clear choice of two or three in mind. Only about one-in-ten say they have not thought much about it and haven't much idea of what they want to do - with this situation being more prevalent among early school leavers (16 percent) than Year 12 graduates (7 percent).


## Attitudes concerning financial situation and employment

- Although the fully engaged and not fully engaged share similar levels of overall life satisfaction, there is a more pronounced difference when it comes to their current financial situation (in which about four-in-ten of those not fully engaged are dissatisfied) or employment situation (half those not in a paid job are dissatisfied).
- Interestingly, as far as their financial situation is concerned, the level of dissatisfaction among part time and casual workers (36 percent) reflects more closely the views of those not in paid employment at all, rather than full time workers (the vast majority of whom are satisfied with their financial situation)

In keeping with this, satisfaction levels among full time students, who predominately either work part time/ casual jobs or have no job at all, are also comparatively low. This is one of a few contrasts highlighted by What Young People are Thinking between 18 to 24's who work part time or casual jobs versus those who work full time.

- Given the choice:
- four-in-ten part time/ casual workers say they would prefer to have a full time job ( 50 percent among part time/ casual workers who are not doing any studies, 27 percent among students);
- eight-in-ten of those not in a paid job at all say they would prefer to be in paid employment ( 83 percent of those not currently doing any studies, and 74 percent among students who are not working).
- The barriers they cite that prevent them from achieving their preferences are:
- Not surprisingly for students, study commitments are the key, obvious issue. So for some, their stated preferences for employment are no more than wishful thinking - particularly those saying they would like to have a full time job. Nonetheless, some say they would like to have casual or part time employment and consequently, other barriers such as lack of supply of suitable jobs, or lack of time or motivation to find a job, also come through.
- For those who are not studying, the issues are more broad ranging. The primary factors for those not in a paid job at all are (i) childcare demands, mainly engagement in child rearing themselves rather than the cost or availability of other childcare options (ii) lack of supply of suitable jobs (iii) lack of experience or qualifications, and (iv) transport difficulties.


## 1. Executive summary (cont'd)

- At a lower level are disability, medical or health reasons, or lack of time or motivation to find a suitable job. For those working part time or casual jobs who would prefer a full time job, lack of supply of suitable jobs is the main issue raised, with far fewer mentioning transport/ distance issues, and even fewer lack of qualifications or experience.


## The full time job search experience

■ What Young People are Thinking also explored the broader experiences of all those 18 to 24 year olds who had looked for a full time job at least some time since leaving school - including those who currently work full time.

The self-assessment of the vast majority is that they are very, or quite good at the overall process involved, such as searching for and identifying jobs, writing resumes, applications and attending job interviews. Those not fully engaged are equally confident about their overall ability in this area as those fully engaged. However, breaking this down into specific elements, and some of the potential barriers to successfully getting a job, shows that the process is not without its problems for young people - and highlights some key differences by level of engagement.

- $\quad$ The last time they looked for a full time job, about half say that lack of specific relevant job skills or relevant work experience were either major or minor problems. Four-in-ten also felt to some degree that lack of confidence and not performing well in jobs interviews was a problem. Poor academic results are cited by far fewer (about a quarter).
- In a number of areas, those not fully engaged experienced a higher level of difficulty than those fully engaged, particularly in relation to having relevant experience, relevant skills, lack of self confidence, and the ability to perform well in job interviews. Poor academic results were also more of a problem for this group.


## Life in the workforce

- With around two thirds of 18-24 year olds currently doing some type of full time, part time or casual job, What Young People are Thinking also explored their impressions and experience of the workforce generally, as well as their feelings about their current job.
- A large majority of young workers say their experience of the workforce so far has either met ( 58 percent) or exceeded (33 percent) their expectations. General opinion about their workforce experience is similar for full time versus part time or casual workers, however full time workers are a little more positive, with more saying it has been a lot better than they thought it would be.
- Among the few 18 to 24 workers who have found the workforce disappointing ( 9 percent), the most common source relates to "conditions". These include concerns about levels of pay, inconsistent or unpredictable shifts and working conditions aspects generally cited as disappointing by more casual workers than full time workers. Other broad areas of dissatisfaction include staff management and treatment of staff, and the level of interest, difficulty or pressure associated with the work itself.
- Reflecting on their current job and how it relates to the type of occupation or career they want, a majority of full time workers regard their position as either directly in line with their chosen career (43 percent) or as at least providing some relevant experience ( 34 percent). A sizeable group however, are in a job they consider to be just a "filler" to make money (22 percent).
- A large proportion of 18-24 year olds in part time or casual work regard their job just as a "filler" ( 50 percent) however, importantly, this proportion is high regardless of whether they are a studying full time (60 percent) or not (42 percent). Among part time and casual workers, only one in five ( 21 percent) regard their job as directly in line with their chosen occupation or career and, among casuals only, it is even lower (14 percent).
- A large majority of young workers say they are satisfied with their current job (82 percent), with four in ten being very satisfied (41 percent). Specific areas showing the highest level of satisfaction are the overall duties and tasks young people are doing in their jobs, their supervisors, opportunities for training and learning, sense of achievement, and terms and conditions (such as hours, leave and sick pay but excluding pay). Areas with higher levels of dissatisfaction are opportunities for promotion and level of pay (relative to their skills and experience).
- Similar to overall impressions and experience of the workforce, there is variation in opinion by level of engagement in paid employment. Part time and casual workers have a lower level, or strength, of satisfaction in relation to both their job overall, as well various specific aspects, most particularly opportunities for promotion, opportunities for training/ learning, the level of challenge in jobs and conditions of employment such as hours, leave and sick pay. However as far as pay is concerned, the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction are much the same among full time and part time/ casual workers. Part time and casual workers who also study full time, have a lower level, or strength of satisfaction than other workers on some very fundamental areas such as the overall duties and tasks that make up their job; the sense of achievement they derive from it, and their supervisors.


## Life as a student

Among the one in three 18-24 year olds currently doing university, TAFE, apprenticeship or some other type of studies, What Young People are Thinking looked at their impressions and experience of being a student, as well as their feelings about their current course.

- A large majority say their experience of being a student so far has either met ( 40 percent) or exceeded ( 43 percent) their expectations. Among the few who have found it disappointing (16 percent), negative sentiment is expressed in relation to quality of teaching and level of student-teacher interaction and support; the nature of - and unmet expectations about - course content; and, broader lifestyle concerns about time management, life balance and increased stress.
- Full time students are much more positive about their study experience than part time students, with half saying it has exceeded expectations, including one in four who say it is a lot better than expected. In contrast, a majority of part time students have found it to be about what they expected. However, level of disappointment, and reasons for disappointment with being a student, do not differ by level of attendance or the type of institution (that is, university versus other institutions).
- Reflecting on their current course, students have very high levels of satisfaction of above 85 percent with their study overall (including 48 percent very satisfied), and with the quality of their course content and their lecturers and tutors. Most believe in the value of the qualification they are working towards, with more than nine in ten saying it will be valuable to their future working life and career (including 75 percent who have a strong belief in its value to them).


## 1. Executive summary (cont'd)

- Similar to their overall impressions and experience of being a student, full time students have a higher level, or strength, of positive opinion in relation to: satisfaction with their study overall and quality of course content; and the perceived future value of their qualification. Interestingly, students at universities and other institutions differ in their degree of strong satisfaction with lecturers and tutors, with non-university students being more positive, however, the overall satisfaction level does not differ and there are no other trends in opinion by institution type.


## Managing work and study

- Among the one in five 18-24 year olds currently attempting to balance work and study commitments, about half find it very or fairly difficult to manage, while the remaining half say they find it very or fairly easy. They are much more likely to feel their studies are negatively impacted by their work (61 percent), than vice versa (25 percent).
- Opinions vary depending upon the level of work versus study with full time students/ part time or casual workers more likely to feel they experience difficulty balancing both domains and that their studies suffer as a consequence, compared with full time workers/ part time students (and apprentices). While an equal, large majority of both groups do not feel their work suffers as a consequence of their studies, the number who do is also higher among full time students. Not unexpectedly, those combining work and study with living away from home also find it more difficult to manage, than those living at home.


## What can the Government do for young people?

- At the completion of the survey, young people were asked an open ended question concerning the types of things they feel the government could be doing to help them obtain the skills, knowledge or experience they'd like to have.
- A little over half provided a comment, with the cost of education emerging as the key area (mentioned by 30 percent of $18-24$ year olds), including reducing the end-cost to students through means such as free education or lower tuition fees/ HECS fees, increased financial assistance through subsidies for work-related studies, student allowances or loans, or more education funding generally. Interestingly, within this broad area of education costs, apprenticeships and traineeships were singled out specifically by some young people as needing more Government attention (8 percent).


## A note about the "unemployed"

- The survey results contain only a very small sample of young people ( $\mathrm{n}=56$ ) who were not studying or working who had been actively looking for work in the past four weeks. Nonetheless their opinions are as would be expected, with about 80 percent dissatisfied with their employment situation and over half dissatisfied with their financial situation.
- Perhaps a little more so than others not fully engaged, they cite poor academic results, lack of relevant experience, and lack of specific relevant skills being a problem for them in looking for full time work. Despite this, only 15 percent say they are dissatisfied with life overall, and like other young people, most remain optimistic about their longer term future, including their financial security.


## 2. Background \& objectives

- The Dusseldorp Skills Forum's (DSF) annual report, "How Young People are Faring", provides a comprehensive review on the status of young peoples' level of engagement in work and study.
- As a complement to the "How Young People are Faring" series, DSF commissioned Newspoll to conduct quantitative research into "What Young People are Thinking". This follows previous qualitative research conducted by Saulwick and Muller on the same subject.

■ What Young People are Thinking is aimed at providing some insight into the attitudes, opinions and experiences of Australia's 18 to 24 year olds, as far as work and study are concerned - with a key emphasis on contrasting young people who are "fully engaged" (those who either work or study full time) vs those who are not fully engaged.

- Specifically, the research explored:
- young peoples' reflections on school, the pathways they followed after school, and barriers to post school education;
- levels of satisfaction with life in general, employment, work and study;
- the level of optimism among young people in relation to their future working life and financial security;
- how much young people have thought about the type of occupation or career they want;
- how many of those who are not in a paid job, or who work part time or casual jobs, would like to be working more - and if so, what barriers do they encounter?
- the full time job search experience;
- the extent to which those studying and working find it easy or difficult to manage the dual demands;
- young peoples' views on how the government may be able to help them obtain any skills, knowledge or experience they would like to have.


## 3. Methodology

■ The survey was conducted nationally, by telephone, among 803 people aged 18-24 years who were no longer at secondary school.

■ Interviewing was conducted over the period of 16 October November 1, 2006 by fully trained and personally briefed interviewers.

- To ensure the sample included those people who tend to spend a lot of time away from home, a system of call backs and appointments was used.
- To reflect the population distribution, results were post-weighted to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census data on age, sex, labour force participation, study participation, and area.
- Notes on statistical significance
- At the 95 percent level of confidence, the maximum margin of error for results based on the total sample of 803 respondents, is +/- 3 percent. However this maximum is greater for results among sub-segments which are based on smaller samples.
- Appendix A provides more information about error margins, including those involved when comparing segments.
- All differences highlighted in the text of this report based on comparisons between segments are statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence.


# 4. Research findings 

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs not fully engaged

### 4.1.1 What young people are doing

- As a backdrop to the opinions and attitudes of young people in relation to work and study, it is important to consider what young people are doing in work and study.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides at least two sources of information on this: the Census, and the on-going series of Labour Force surveys.
- A comparison of the 2001 Census with Labour Force results for the 12 months ending October 2006, shows that in some respects the two data sources provide a different picture of young peoples' level of engagement.
- Although both indicate a high proportion of 18 to 24 year olds are in paid employment, the Census shows 38 percent are in full time employment but the Labour Force 48 percent.
- For study, the Census shows 26 percent to be studying full time, but the Labour Force survey, 30 percent.
- Consequently the proportion of young people who are "fully engaged" (that is, either work full time or study full time), is somewhat lower based on the Census ( 63 percent) than the Labour Force survey (75 percent)
- Conversely the group not fully engaged is larger based on Census data (37 percent) than Labour Force data (25 percent).
- A minor difference between the two sources is that the Census data shown in Figure 1 exclude 18 to 24 's who are still at school, while the Labour Force statistics do not. However if those still at school are included, the number who are not fully engaged based on the Census decreases by only 1 percent to 36 percent.

Figure 1
18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS - WORK AND STUDY



Census data excludes those still at school, while Labour Force includes those still at schoo

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

- Of course the two data sets were collected roughly four to five years apart. However at no time since 2001 has Labour Force data shown the number of young people not fully engaged to be anywhere approaching the 37 percent shown in the Census ${ }^{1 .}$ Consequently the differences lay somewhere in methods of data collection rather than differences in time. Perhaps the important observation though is that both sources show a significant portion of 18 to 24 's are not fully engaged either in work or study.
- Figure 2 provides a segment map based on Census data, revealing that:
- The largest single group are those working full time but not studying at all (31 percent).
- Well over half those who are studying are also in some type of paid employment (predominantly part time employment) - and are therefore are dealing with the dual demands of each domain.
- Breaking down the 37 percent not fully engaged, the largest single group are those not working or studying at all (20 percent), followed by those who are in part time employment, but not studying (13 percent). The remaining two segments (having part time engagement in either work or study but not both) each account for only 2 percent of 18 to 24 year olds.
- Because The Census can provide such a complete picture of young peoples' level of engagement, the results of the Newspoll survey were post weighted by Census data on age, sex, area, labour force participation and current participation in study.

18 to 24 year olds not working or studying

- Results of the Newspoll survey indicate that the 20 percent who are neither working nor studying, break down further into the following main activities:
- 10 percent are doing "home duties" or caring for children (these activities accounting for the bulk of females in this segment);
- 4 percent are having "a career break" or extended holiday (more common among males);
- $\quad 2$ percent are involved in unpaid volunteer work and 1 percent are caring for an aged, ill or disabled person.

Figure 2
18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS NOT AT SCHOOL - WORK AND STUDY (Census 2001)


[^1]
### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.2 Levels of engagement among demographic groups

- The division of fully engaged vs not fully engaged among 18-24 year olds does not differ greatly by sex, age, or residence in the five mainland capitals vs other areas. Across each of these segments, a majority are fully engaged and, among those not fully engaged, the largest group are those who do not work or study at all.
- There is however a strong positive relationship between education background and current level of engagement, with increased levels of engagement where there are higher levels of personal and parental education.
- $\quad$ Significantly more young people who have completed Year 12 (69 percent) are fully engaged than those who have not (42 percent). In fact a majority of early school leavers are not fully engaged, with 37 percent not working or studying at all.
- Levels of full engagement are also higher than average among those with at least one parent having completed a post secondary qualification ( 74 percent among those with a University educated parent, and 69 percent among those having a parent with TAFE or other post school qualification).
- Still on education background, the level of full engagement is higher among those who attended a non-government school for their final year ( 73 percent) than among those who attended a government school (58 percent).


[^2]
### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.3 Reflections on school

Looking back at school, a majority of 18-24 year olds believe the school they attended in their final year did a "good job" in giving them a good education, though around 30 percent are critical, describing the performance of their school as only fair, or poor.

- Opinion differs by education background and current level of engagement. Those now fully engaged are more favourably disposed, almost half rating it as having done an excellent or very good job (47 percent), compared with about one in three not fully engaged (32 percent). Among this latter group, a higher proportion rate their school as having done only a fair or poor job (37 percent).
- A more marked difference is apparent by type of school attended and last school year completed.
- Almost six in ten non-government school graduates say their school did a very good or excellent job, compared with only one third of government school graduates (58 percent vs 33 percent). Among this latter group, a higher proportion rate their school as having done only a fair or poor job (37 percent).
- Comparing early school leavers with those who completed Year 12, the contrast is even starker, with a majority of early school leavers saying their school did only a fair or poor job in giving them a good education ( 58 percent).
- There are also differences by gender, with more females (45 percent) than males ( 37 percent) rating their school as having done a very good, or excellent job. Among males, almost as many, 34 percent, rate their school as having done only a fair or poor job, significantly more than among females, 24 per cent.

■ Whether or not these assessments by young people reflect any objective reality about the quality of education provided by their schools is unknown. It is also unknown if those with a critical view lay blame with their school for any shortcomings in their personal
outcomes - either at school or later. Nonetheless the fact remains that there is an undeniable link between young peoples' level of engagement and the type of school they attended, and whether they completed Year 12, or left school earlier.


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.4 Study pathways after leaving school

- For the majority of today's 18-24 years olds, school was not the end of studying. After taking any breaks or holidays after finishing school, three quarters ( 74 percent) say they went on to do some type of study, siphoning off equally into university studies (37 percent) or into TAFE, apprenticeship or other studies ( 37 percent). About one-in-four say they decided to get a job and not do any studies at all, and very small group (2 percent) decided not engage either in study or paid employment.
- Those who did not go directly into some type of studies, divide into two groups:
- those who, given the choice would have preferred to do some studies ( 9 percent of all 18 to 24 year olds); and,
- those who say it was in fact their preferred choice not to continue into further studies (17 percent of all 18 to 24 year olds).
- Not surprisingly, there is a strong relationship between post school paths and levels of personal and parental education and the type of school attended. There are also some interesting trends in relation to current level of engagement (Figure 6).
- Among young people who completed Year 12, a large majority went on to study straight from school ( 79 percent) with university studies being the most common pathway (46 percent). In comparison, fewer early school leavers went straight onto further study and this was either TAFE, apprenticeship studies or studies with some other type of institution ( 55 percent). Although a higher than average proportion of early school leavers, who did not go on to study, would have preferred to (16 percent), not continuing with study was the preferred choice for most of that sub-group (28 percent).


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.4 Study pathways after leaving school

Similarly, there is a strong relationship between parental education level and young people's post-school pathway. The proportion of $18-24 \mathrm{~s}$ who continued straight from school with further study is higher among those whose parents have a post-school qualification. Among those with at least one degree-qualified parent it is 83 percent, with a majority going to university ( 55 percent). For other young people, the proportion going on to university is substantially lower, with post school study more likely to be TAFE, apprenticeship or other studies. Of note is that among those whose parents have only completed year 11 or below, a majority still went on to some type of post-school study themselves (61 percent), including 19 percent who went to university.

- Still on education background, the proportion who went on to study when they finished school is also higher than average among those who attended a non-government school for their final year of school ( 85 percent), with most progressing to university ( 59 percent). In contrast, among those who attended a government school it is significantly lower (68 percent), with TAFE, apprenticeship or other studies being more prevalent than University studies.
- Looking at what 18-24 year olds did when first leaving school, in the context of their current level of engagement, there is a significantly higher level of post-school study among the fully engaged than those not fully engaged ( 79 percent vs 66 percent) and a much higher proportion having gone straight to university (47 percent vs 19 percent). TAFE, rather than Uni, was the destination for most of those now not fully engaged, who went on to study straight from school.
- In relation to gender, while a similar proportion of males and females went on to some type of post school study, their destinations differed. Not surprisingly, more males (11 per cent) than females ( 5 percent) began apprenticeships, however more females ( 41 percent) than males ( 33 percent) entered university.

PATH STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL - AND PREFERENCE TO STUDY OR NOT


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

- There is a fairly consistent proportion of around one-in-ten across each segment who say they would have preferred to go on further studies who did not. The tendency for having a specific preference not to go on to further studies is more prevalent among males, those not fully engaged, early school leavers, those attending government schools, and those with parents not attending post school education.


### 4.1.5 Barriers to post school studies

- The reasons cited by young people for not following their preferred option and continuing with study straight after school include both external barriers related to their individual circumstances, as well as more personal issues of motivation and career planning.

■ Key external barriers included financial reasons - general financial difficulties and with some mentioning the cost of study; not qualifying to get into courses, lack of transport or issues of distance (more prevalent in country areas), as well as family reasons. Other more individual barriers included not knowing what they wanted to do, as well as laziness or lack of motivation.

■ Financial reasons were more of a barrier for those at a government school in their final year, while childcare reasons were more of a barrier for early school leavers than those completing year 12.

WHAT THINGS PREVENTED YOU FROM DOING FURTHER STUDIES?

\%
TOTAL WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DO FURTHER STUDIES
DID NOT GET INTO COURSE
2

TOTAL FINANCIAL REASONS
Lack of funds / financial difficulties Cost of going to Uni/ HECS too expensive
Wanted to earn money

Needed money / to help out family

DID NOT KNOW WHAT I WANTED TO DO / COURSES TO DO LAZINESS / COULD NOT BE BOTHERED LACK OF INTEREST / MOTIVATION 1

TOTAL DISTANCE / TRANSPORT ISSUES
Distance from home / to uni / TAFE
No license / can't get to places / lack of transport
CHILDREN / PREGNANT / LACK OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES
PERSONAL REASONS / FAMILY MATTERS
OTHER

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.6 Overall feelings about life at the moment

- Almost universally ( 95 percent), 18-24 year olds say they are satisfied with their life overall at the moment, with almost half saying they are very satisfied. There is only a slight difference on general life satisfaction between those who are fully engaged and those who are not.
- A much smaller majority of young people are satisfied with their current financial situation (69 percent), and although there is a significant difference in opinion by level of engagement, the contrasts are even more stark, not surprisingly, by employment status.
- A very high proportion of full time workers are satisfied with their financial position -82 percent, including 31 percent very satisfied.
- However among those who work in part time or casual jobs, levels of satisfaction are much lower (64 percent satisfied; 13 percent very satisfied), and levels of dissatisfaction higher ( 36 percent vs 17 percent for full time workers). Indeed opinions among part time and casual workers reflect more closely the views of those not in paid employment at all rather than full time workers.
- In keeping with this, satisfaction levels among full time students, who predominantly either work part time/ casual jobs or have no job at all, are comparatively low (62 percent satisfied; 39 percent dissatisfied).
- Among those not in a paid job, the proportion who are dissatisfied with their employment situation ( 55 percent) is even higher than the number dissatisfied with their financial situation. This is particularly the case among those who are not working or studying. As shown in Section 4.1.9, given

SATISFACTION WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.6 Overall feelings about life at the moment

the choice, about 80 percent of those not working would prefer to be in a paid job. Among those not in a paid job, a majority of males ( 63 percent) are dissatisfied with their employment situation, higher than for females, among whom opinion is more evenly split, with 48 percent dissatisfied and 51 percent satisfied.

- On their current availability of leisure time, the overall level of satisfaction among 18-24 year olds (71 percent) is similar to the level of satisfaction found for their financial situation. Not surprisingly though, this aspect of life is less satisfactory for those fully engaged (both full time workers and full time students) than those not fully engaged ( 67 percent vs 79 percent). Similarly, groups generally more likely to be "time poor" express lower levels of satisfaction, e.g. those in a combination of work and study (65 percent) or living away from home (64 percent). Interestingly, females are less satisfied with this aspect of their life than males (66 percent vs 77 percent), with more than one third of females saying they are dissatisfied ( 35 percent). Contributing to this may be the higher proportion of females than males who live away from home.


## A note about the unemployed

- The survey results contain only a very small sample of young people ( $n=56$ ) who were not studying or working who had been actively looking for work in the past four weeks. Nonetheless their opinions are as would be expected, with about 80 percent dissatisfied with their employment situation and over half dissatisfied with their financial situation. Despite this, only 15 percent say they are dissatisfied with life overall, and as will be seen later, most remain optimistic about their longer term future.

Figure 8b
SATISFACTION WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.7 Feelings about the future

Similar to their satisfaction with the present, there is also a high level of optimism about the future among 18 to 24 year olds in relation to their working life and career ahead, and their financial security.

- Confidence that things will work out okay for their working life and career in the years ahead is high (88 percent) with four in ten very confident. In trends similar to satisfaction with their current life, levels of confidence are only slightly higher among the fully engaged ( 90 percent) than those not fully engaged ( 84 percent). Interestingly, although based on a small sample, a majority of the unemployed also appear confident things will work out okay for them in the future (77 percent), however their level of confidence is still somewhat lower than for other groups.
- Confidence about their future financial security is also high among 18-24 year olds ( 86 percent) with 35 percent very confident. Although levels are high for both fully engaged and not fully engaged young people, the gap on this issue is more pronounced.
- Among those fully engaged, although full time students are less happy than full time workers about their current financial situation, their confidence about financial security in the future is very high (89 percent). Also encouraging is that, while still somewhat lower than other groups, a majority of the unemployed are confident they will be financially secure in the future ( 74 percent).

CONFIDENCE THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT OK IN WORKING LIFE AND CAREER IN THE YEARS AHEAD
And still thinking about the future. At the moment, how confident do you feel that everything will work out OK for you in your working life and career in the years ahead?


CONFIDENCE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY IN THE FUTURE How confident do you feel that you will be financially secure in the future?


BASE: TOTAL ( $\mathrm{n}=803$ ), FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=546$ ), NOT FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=257$ )

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.7 Feelings about the future

- A large majority of 18-24 year olds expect their own standard of living to be at least as good as their parents' ( 89 percent), with almost one in three saying it will be better ( 32 percent).
- Regardless of level of engagement, a majority believe their future standard of living will be at least as good as their parents' including those currently unemployed. Nonetheless, those not fully engaged are a little less optimistic than their fully engaged counterparts, with a slightly higher proportion saying they expect it will be not as good ( 14 percent vs 7 percent), and the unemployed remain the least optimistic (18 percent).

Figure 11
EXPECTED STANDARD OF LIVING COMPARED WITH PARENTS
Now thinking about your parents' standard of living, compared with the standard of living you expect to achieve for yourself in the future. Do you think your standard of living will be....?


BASE: TOTAL ( $\mathrm{n}=803$ ), FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=546$ ), NOT FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=257$ )

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.8 Career planning

- On the issue of career planning, a majority of 18-24 year olds believe it is important for people of their age to be thinking carefully about career plans (79 percent). Few believe it is "too early, with plenty of time to get serious about it later" (19 percent). Interestingly, there is no significant difference in opinion by level of engagement and, across age groups only slightly more people aged 18-21 (21 percent) feel it is too early than 22-24 year olds (15 percent).
- This general view on the importance of career planning is backed up with most young people saying they have in fact thought about it, and most having a good idea of what they want to do.
- Eighty percent of 18 to 24 year olds say they have thought either a great deal ( 48 percent) or quite a bit ( 32 percent) about the type of occupation or career they want - and this is true among both fully engaged and not fully engaged young people. Very few (3 percent) say they have not thought about it at all, though 17 percent admit to only having thought about it "only a little bit really".
- Equally, 80 percent say they have already either decided on one specific occupation or career (31 percent), or have narrowed it down to a clear choice of two or three (49 percent). The remainder either have not really narrowed down their career choice too much at all, (14 percent), or have very little idea, if any, of what they want to do (6 percent). Again, there is no significant difference in the level of decision making among fully engaged vs not full engaged young people.

Figure 12
CAREER PLANNING - NOW OR LATER?
Still thinking about your future. Which one of the following comes closest to your view?


HOW MUCH THOUGHT ABOUT TYPE OF OCCUPATION/ CAREER WANT
Now thinking about your future, and in particular your working life and career in the years ahead. (PAUSE) How much, if at all, have you thought about the specific type of occupation, or


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.8 Career planning

- This means that a large majority of 18-24 year olds (69 percent) have:
- given their future career at least quite a bit of thought; and,
- have one specific occupation or career, or a clear choice of two or three in mind.
- A further 11 percent, despite having not thought too much about it, also have one specific occupation or career, or a clear choice of two or three in mind

■ Very few young people are in a position where they have given it little or no thought and have not narrowed down their choice much at all ( 9 percent). The remainder (11 percent), despite putting at least quite a bit of thought into it, have had little success in narrowing down their preferred options.

Figure 14
THE DIFFERENT STAGES YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AT WITH THEIR CAREER PLANS


HOW MUCH ALREADY DECIDED ON OCCUPATION OR CAREER
Which one of the following best describes how much you have already decided on the occupation or career you want? Would you say you...?


- There is comparatively little variation in the size of these four segments by level of engagement or other demographic factors. However early school leavers are more likely to have only given their career choices a little thought, or none at all (29 percent) than those who have completed year 12 (18 percent).
- Consequently a higher proportion of early school leavers (16 percent) than year 12 completers ( 7 percent) fall into the small segment of those who have given their career little thought and have not narrowed down their choice much at all.


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.9 Outside the fulltime workforce

Looking just at those outside the full time workforce, around three in ten 18-24 year olds are in part time or casual employment (28 percent) and a further one in three are not in paid employment at all (34 percent).

- Among those working part time or casual jobs, 38 percent say, given a choice, they would prefer to be in a full time job - though a majority (61 percent) are happy to remain in part time or casual work - particularly among students (73 percent). Conversely among those not studying, almost half would prefer be in a full time job.
- Looking at those who are not in paid employment at all, a large majority ( 79 percent) would prefer to have paid job - including 42 percent who, ideally would like a full time job. Again the preference for working more is stronger among those not studying.

Figure 16
PREFER TO WORK FULL TIME OR REMAIN PART TIME/ CASUAL?
At the moment, if you had the choice, would you most prefer to have a full time job, or continue with part time or casual work?


PREFER TO HAVE A PAID JOB OR REMAIN NOT IN PAID EMPLOYMENT?
At the moment, if you could have your choice, would you prefer to be in paid employment or to remain not in paid employment? [And would you most prefer to work full time or part time?\}


■ Males are more likely to most want a full time job, though the preference among females is weighted more towards having part time or casual work.

- As will be seen in the next sections though, to some degree the stated desire for full time work is, at least for full time students, no more than wishful thinking - because in reality, the commitments of full time study are the obvious, simple barrier to full time work as an option.


### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.10 Barriers to full time work

■ The key barriers to joining the full time work force cited by young people in part time or casual work are:

- current study commitments (mainly among full time students); or,
- a perceived lack of employment opportunities, due to competition for a limited number of full time positions generally, as well as in specific fields.

■ Comparatively few cite lack of qualifications or skills ${ }^{1}$ as a barrier, with as many mentioning transport difficulties.

[^3]Figure 18
WHAT THINGS PREVENT YOU FROM HAVING A FULL TIME JOB? What things in particular prevent you from having a full time job? What other things?

|  | WORK PART TIME/ CASUAL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | TOTAL | STUDY | NOT STUDY |
| TOTAL PREFER FULL TIME JOB | 38 | 27 | 50 |
| STUDYING / DOING FULL TIME <br> UNI / YET TO FINISH UNI / TAFE | 12 | 21 | 2 |
| TOTAL LACK OF |  |  |  |
| EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | 15 | 8 | 23 |
| Can't find anything / not a lot out there / limited positions / lots of competition | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Hard to find work in specific field | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Did not like jobs available | 1 | * | 2 |
| No full time positions at current work | 3 | * | 5 |
| TOTAL TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES | 3 | * | 5 |
| Do not have vehicle / license | 2 | * | 4 |
| Want a job close to home / not too far | 1 | - | 1 |
| TOTAL LACK OF |  |  |  |
| QUALIFICATIONS / SKILLS / EXPERIENCE | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Lack of qualifications / need qualification to commence full time employment | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Lack of skills / experience | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CURRENT WORK ALMOST FULL TIME HOURS | S 1 | - | 3 |
| WAITING TO START FULL TIME JOB | 1 | - | 3 |
| ON CONTRACT WITH EMPLOYER | 1 | - | 2 |
| NOT SURE WHAT I WANT TO DO YET | 1 | - | 2 |
| OTHER | 7 | 4 | 10 |

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.11 Barriers to the workforce

Similar to barriers preventing part timers and casuals from gaining fulltime work, key barriers to young people not in paid employment joining the workforce include current study commitments or, among those not studying, a lack of general or field-specific employment opportunities.

- Not unexpectedly, the other major barrier faced by this group is childcare demands, mainly engagement in child rearing themselves rather than the cost or availability of other childcare options.
- Lack of experience/ qualifications ${ }^{2}$ and, interestingly, transport difficulties rate a greater mention as a barrier amongst those outside the workforce than part timers/casuals who would prefer to be full time, while lack of time and motivation is also cited as a barrier to gaining a job. Health issues or disabilities also prevent some of this group from entering the workforce.

2. It is worth noting that aided questioning about the full time job search experience found 30 percent of those not fully engaged saying that lack of relevant work experience was a major problem for them the last time they looked for full time work; and 21 percent that lack of specific relevant job skills was a major problem see Section 4.1.12, Figure 22.

WHAT THINGS PREVENT YOU FROM BEING PAID EMPLOYMENT?
What things in particular prevent you from being in paid employment? What other things?

|  | NOT IN PAID JOB |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | TOTAL | STUDY | NOT STUDY |
| TOTAL PREFER TO BE IN PAID EMPLOYMENT | 79 | 74 | 83 |
| TOTAL STUDY COMMITMENTS / OR |  |  |  |
| QUALIFICATION NOT COMPLETED | 16 | 34 | 3 |
| TOTAL LACK OF JOBS / |  |  |  |
| SUITABLE JOBS | 17 | 16 | 17 |
| Hardly any jobs around / no jobs in my area | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Lack of jobs in specific field | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Can't find job with required flexibility for schedule | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Can't find job want to do / like | 1 | 2 | - |
| Waiting for response on application / lack of response from applications | 3 | - | 4 |
| TOTAL RAISING CHILDREN / COST OF CHILDCARE | 15 | 2 | 25 |
| Raising children / having a baby | 13 | 2 | 21 |
| Childcare / cost of childcare |  |  |  |
| / can't get anyone to watch child | 2 | - | 4 |
| TOTAL LACK OF EXPERIENCE / QUALIFICATIONS | 9 | 4 | 12 |
| Lack of experience | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| Lack of qualifications | 2 | - | 3 |
| TOTAL LACK OF TIME / MOTIVATION | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| Work ethic / motivation to get job / laziness / attitude | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Have not had time / no time to look | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Have not had time yet to look | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES / LIMITATIONS | 7 | 2 | 11 |
| Don't have license / own car | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| Lack of transport / have to use public transport | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| DISABILITY/ MEDICAL/ HEALTH REASONS | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| AGE/ SENIORITY RELATED REASONS | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| NO SPECIFIC REASON / JUST NOT FOUND ONE YET | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| WAITING TO START NEW JOB | * | - | 1 |
| CONCERNS WITH PREVIOUS |  |  |  |
| BAD EXPERIENCE/ POOR TREATMENT | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| OTHER | 7 | 13 | ${ }^{3} 25$ |

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.12 The full time job search experience

- The research explored the broader experiences of all those 18 to 24 year olds who had looked for a full time job at least some time since leaving school - including those who currently work full time.
- Most believe they are good at the overall process involved, such as searching for, identifying jobs, writing resumes, applications and attending job interviews ( 83 percent). One in six believe they are very good at it (16 percent).

Of note is that those not fully engaged are equally confident about their overall ability in this area as those fully engaged, and (based on a small sample) even among the unemployed, a large majority 89 percent) say they are good at the job search process. However, breaking this down into specific elements, and some of the potential barriers to successfully getting a job, shows that the process is not without its problems for young people - and highlights some key differences by level of engagement.

- Interestingly, slightly more females (87 per cent) believe they are good at the overall process involved in looking for full time work than males (79\%).


## Figure 20

HOW GOOD ARE YOU AT THE FULL TIME JOB SEARCH PROCESS?
Now thinking about the whole process of looking for a full time job - from searching for and identifying jobs, to writing CV's and resumes, applications and attending job nterviews (PAUSE). Overall, how good at the process do you feel you are? Would you say you are...?


BASE: TOTAL ( $\mathrm{n}=590$ ), FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=406$ ), NOT FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=184$ )

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.12 The full time job search experience

■ Areas where about half of 18-24 year old job seekers had a problem last time they looked for full time work centred on the actual skills and experience they had to offer.

■ This included lack of relevant work experience (54 percent), in fact one in five had a major problem with this, and lack of specific relevant job skills (51 percent). Poor academic results (24 percent) were much less of a problem. Many had problems with personal skills important to marketing themselves to potential employers, such as lack of self confidence ( 43 percent), not being able to perform well at job interviews ( 38 percent) and preparing CVs and applications ( 35 percent). Around one in four believe they encountered some form of discrimination ( 25 percent).

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED LAST TIME LOOKED FOR JOB
Thinking about the last time you looked for full time work, please tell me if you personally found each of the following things to be a major problem for you, a minor problem, or not a problem for you at all.


BASE: THOSE LOOKED FOR FULL TIME JOB SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL: TOTAL ( $\mathrm{n}=590$ )

### 4.1 Contrasting the fully engaged vs the not fully engaged (cont'd)

### 4.1.12 The full time job search experience

- In a number of these problem areas, those not fully engaged experienced a higher level of difficulty last time they looked for fulltime work, than did their fully engaged counterparts, experiencing major problems with lack of relevant work experience (30 percent) and lack of specific job skills (21 percent). About half of those not fully engaged had a problem with lack of confidence, and their interview performance, and around one in three with discrimination and poor academic results, significantly higher than among the fully engaged. Further to this, among the unemployed (based on a small sample), the proportions experiencing problems in these areas were generally higher still.
- There are also some interesting gender differences with almost half of females ( 48 percent) saying lack of confidence was a problem for them, significantly higher than among males (39 percent), while more males than females cited poor academic results as a problem (29 percent vs 18 percent).


BASE: THOSE LOOKED FOR FULL TIME JOB SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL: FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=406$ ); NOT FULLY ENGAGED ( $\mathrm{n}=184$ )

### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.1 Overall impressions to date

- Around two thirds of 18-24 year olds are currently doing some type of full time, part time or casual paid employment, and a large majority of these workers say their experience so far has either met (58 percent) or exceeded their expectations (33 percent). Less than one in ten have found the workplace disappointing overall.
- General opinion is similar for full time versus part time or casual workers, however full time workers are slightly more positive with more saying the full time workforce has been a lot better than they thought it would be (18 percent) compared with other workers' feelings about the part time and casual workforce (10 percent). A general, overall sense of disappointment among both groups is very low.
- Among part time and casual workers, those who also study full time are a little less positive than others, with only 23 percent having found the workforce to be better than they expected, compared with 33 per cent among those studying part time or not at all. A majority of both groups say it has met their expectations ( 66 and 54 per cent, respectively), with the remaining one in ten being disappointed.
- Interestingly, disappointment with the workforce experience so far was a little higher among females (12 percent) than males (six percent).

Figure 23
OVERALL FEELINGS/ IMPRESSIONS SO FAR ABOUT BEING IN THE WORKFORCE
Which one of the following best describes your feelings and impressions about being in the (full time)/ (part time or casual) work force so far? Overall, would you say it has



### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.2 Why disappointing?

- For those who have been disappointed by the workforce so far, the most common source relates to "conditions". These include concerns about levels of pay, inconsistent or unpredictable shifts and working conditions - aspects generally cited as disappointing by more casual workers than full time workers.
- Other areas of dissatisfaction for young workers include:
- unpleasant or poor staff management, or general concerns
about poor treatment of staff;
- disappointment with the work itself, either being boring and tedious, or difficult and high pressured.


## Figure 24

REASONS FOR WORKFORCE BEING DISAPPOINTING SO FAR

|  | TOTAL | WORK WORK |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| CASUAL |  |  |
| FULL PART TIME/ |  |  | WORK

### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.3 My current job

- A majority of full time workers are currently in a position which they feel is either directly in line with their chosen career ( 43 percent) or at least providing some relevant experience (34 percent), however, a sizeable group are in a job they consider to be a "filler" only (22 percent).
- In contrast, for those working in part time or casual work, about half regard their job as filler work to make money. The proportion who regard their job as directly in line with their chosen occupation or career is low ( 21 percent), and even lower among those in casual jobs (14 percent).
- Further segmentation of part time/ casual workers reveals that a higher proportion of those who also study full time ( 60 percent) regard their job as "a filler" than those who do not ( 42 percent). Conversely, fewer full time students view their job as directly in line with their chosen career ( 15 per cent), compared with those studying part time or not at all ( 26 per cent).


## Figure 25

HOW JOB FITS IN WITH OCCUPATION/ CAREER WANT
Thinking again about your future, and the type of occupation or career you want. Which one of the following best describes your current job as far as fitting in with the



### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.3 My current job

■ Most of today's 18-24 year old workers say they are satisfied with their current job ( 82 percent), with four in ten being very satisfied (41 percent).

- Aside from their overall duties and tasks, areas providing the highest level of job satisfaction are supervision, opportunities for training and learning, sense of achievement, and terms and conditions (excluding pay), with around 80 percent satisfaction on these aspects, and more than one in three very satisfied.
- Satisfaction is lowest in relation to opportunities for promotion (64 percent) with around three in ten workers dissatisfied with this aspect of their job (29 percent), including 12 percent very dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction with their level of pay (relative to their skills and experience) is also quite high compared with other areas - at around one in four (26 percent).

Figure 26
SATISFACTION WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF JOB - TOTAL IN PAID EMPLOYMENT -


### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.3 My current job

- Similar to their overall impressions and experience of the workforce to date, full time workers are more positive than part time/casual workers about their current job, with significantly more saying they are very satisfied ( 45 percent vs 36 percent). Dissatisfaction is higher among part time/casuals ( 22 percent vs 15 percent).
- Most of this difference between the two groups can be accounted for by part time/ casual workers who also study full time, among whom only 28 percent are very satisfied with their job. Nonetheless it's also true that even among this group, overall the vast majority are "satisfied".
- Full time workers have a higher level, or strength of satisfaction, than part time and casual workers across most aspects of their job (Figure 27) with the areas of greatest difference being:
- opportunities for promotion;
- opportunities for training/ learning;
- level of challenge in jobs;
- terms and conditions of employment such as hours, leave and sick pay (but excluding levels of pay, relative to their skills and experience).
- Part time and casual workers who also study full time, have a lower level, or strength of satisfaction, than other workers with some key fundamentals such as the overall duties and tasks that make up their job; the sense of achievement they derive from it, and their supervisors, along with opportunities for promotion.

Figure 27
SATISFACTION WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF JOB


### 4.2 Life in the workforce

### 4.2.4 "Workchoices" and me

Although opinions concerning the Federal Government's Workchoices legislation were not measured as part of the survey, an April 2006 Newspoll, published in The Australian newspaper, provides some relevant information.

- About half of 18 to 34 year old workers felt Workchoices would have some impact on them - including 16 percent who felt they would be better off, and 36 percent who felt they would be worse off. The remainder either did not think it would affect them personally, or did not know if it would.

■ The views of 18 to 34 year olds were broadly representative of all workers aged 18+. However 18 to 34 year olds were more likely than those aged $50+$ to think Workchoices would affect them in some way - either positive or negative.

WORKCHOICES AND ME
THOSE IN PAID EMPLOYMENT -
The Federal Government's changes to Australia's industrial relations system, which it has called WorkChoices, were recently introduced. How do you think the changes to industrial relations will affect you personally? Do you think you will be better, or worse off?

|  | TOTAL <br> $\%$ | $18-34$ <br> $\%$ | $35-49$ <br> $\%$ | $50+$ <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LOT BETTER OFF | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| LITTLE BETTER OFF | 10 | 13 | 10 | 7 |
| TOTAL BETTER OFF | $\mathbf{1 4}$ | 16 | 15 | 9 |
| LITTLE WORSE OFF | 14 | 18 | 13 | 13 |
| LOT WORSE OFF | 16 | 18 | 16 | 13 |
| TOTAL WORSE OFF | $\mathbf{3 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 6}$ |
| NEITHER / UNCOMMITTED | $\mathbf{5 6}$ | $\mathbf{4 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 6}$ | $\mathbf{6 5}$ |

### 4.3 Life as a student

### 4.3.1 Overall impressions to date

■ A little over one in three 18-24 year olds are currently doing university, TAFE, apprenticeship or some other type of study (36 percent), and a large majority of these students say their experience so far has either met ( 40 percent) or exceeded their expectations ( 43 percent). Only about one in six say they have found being a student disappointing.

■ While opinion does not differ significantly by type of institution attending, full time students are much more positive about their experience than part time students, with half saying it has been better than expected, including one in four who think it is a lot better. In contrast, a majority of part timers say that being a student is about what they expected, with only one in four saying it is better.

- However, the proportion who have found the experience of being a student disappointing is the same, regardless of level of attendance.

OVERALL FEELINGS/ IMPRESSIONS SO FAR ABOUT BEING A STUDENT
Which one of the following best describes your feelings and impressions so far about being a student at (educational institution)? Overall, would you say it has been...?
 THOUGHTIT BETTER THAN

ABOUT WHAT EXPECTED
VERY/ALITTLE DISAPPOINTING


### 4.3 Life as a student

### 4.3.2 Why disappointing

- For those who do feel disappointment, the key areas are:
- the quality of teaching and level of student-teacher interaction and support;
- the nature of - and unmet expectations about - course content; and,
- broader lifestyle concerns about time management, life balance and increased stress.

REASONS BEING A STUDENT HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING

| OTHER | TOTAL | FULL | PART | UNI |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | TIME | TIME |  |  |
| TOTAL STUDY HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING | 16 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 17 |
| TOTAL COURSE MATERIAL RELATED | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Too easy / basic / not challenging |  |  |  |  |  |
| /not stimulating / boring / disappointing | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Irrelevance of course / outdated syllabus | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Not as many practical aspects about the course as expected | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Don't have enough time / hours in studio | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| TOTAL TEACHING / TEACHERS | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Quality of teaching / lack of experience / knowledge | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Lack of student / teacher / interaction / communication | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Lack of support / help / willingness to help / hard to get help | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Teacher is never there / not in room / late | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Too much self directed learning / left to work on your own | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |


|  | TOTAL | FULL | PART | UNI |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OTHER |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | TIME | TIME |  |  |
| INADEQUATE FACILITIES |  |  |  |  |  |
| / LACK OF RESOURCES | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| NOT STRUCTURED WELL |  |  |  |  |  |
| / NOT PROPERLY ORGANISED | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| TOTAL LIFESTYLE RELATED | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| TOTAL DEMANDING ON TIME / PRESSURE 3 Hard to balance work / study |  | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| / social lifestyle at the same time | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Demanding / on time / hard to cope with / stress / overwhelming | 2 | 1 | 3 | * | 3 |
| Academic pressure / assignment deadlines / lots of assignments | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | - |
| Don't see friends often / not enough social scene / not met many people | 2 | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| Have not enjoyed new lifestyle | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| UNION FEES / UNI FEES EXPENSIVE |  |  |  |  |  |
| / UNREASONABLE COST EXPECTATIONS | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| LIKED SCHOOL BETTER / LOVED SCHOOL | 2 | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| IMPERSONAL / NOT AS WELCOMING | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |

There are no significant differences by level of attendance or institution attending. And again, these negative sentiments are expressed by comparatively few students.

### 4.3 Life as a student

### 4.3.3 My current study

■ Today's 18-24 year old students have very high levels of satisfaction with their course overall ( 89 percent, including 48 percent very satisfied), as well as with the quality of course content (89 percent) and their lecturers and tutors (86 percent).

- Similar to their overall impressions and experience of being a student to date, part time students are somewhat less positive than their full time counterparts, though a majority are still satisfied. Overall opinions do not differ by institution type (that is, university vs other institutions).
- There is no difference in overall satisfaction levels with course content or with lecturers and tutors among full and part timers, which are each above 80 percent. However the number of full time students who are very satisfied with course content is significantly greater. Students at universities and other institutions differ in their degree of strong satisfaction with lecturers and tutors, with nonuniversity students being more positive.

Figure 30
SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF STUDY


Figure 31
DISSATISFIED SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF STUDY


Figure 32


[^4]
### 4.3 Life as a student

### 4.3.4 Perceived value of future qualification

- As well as viewing their study experience very favourably, there is also a strong belief among 18-24 year old students in the value of the qualification they are working towards, with full time students, again, somewhat more positive than part timers but no significant trend by type of institution attending.
- More than nine in ten students believe that having this qualification will be valuable to their future working life and career ( 94 percent), with three quarters saying it will be very valuable.

Figure 33
PERCEIVED VALUE OF FUTURE QUALIFICATION
And thinking about when you finish your course and obtain the qualification you are studying for (PAUSE). How valuable do you think having that qualification will be, as far as your working life and career in the future are concerned? Do you think the qualification will be...?


### 4.4 Managing the combination of work and study

Around one in five 18-24 year olds are currently in some combination of work and study and, about half this group say they find it very, or fairly difficult to manage doing both - while the remaining half say they find it very or fairly easy.

- In attempting to balance both work and study, students are more likely to feel it is their studies that are negatively impacted by their work, rather then their work suffering because of their studies. While 61 percent feel their studies are negatively impacted, even if only a little, only 25 percent feel their work performance suffers because of their dual commitments.
- Opinions vary depending upon the level of work versus study and, not unexpectedly, by residence at home with a parent or guardian versus away from home.
- If anything, it is those studying full time and working part time/ casual jobs rather than full time workers/ part time studiers (or apprentices) who are more likely to feel they experience difficulty balancing both domains, and that their studies suffer as a consequence. An equal, large majority of both groups do not feel their work suffers as a consequence of their studies.
- Although based on a very small sample ( $n=69$ ), a large majority of those combining work and study with living away from home find it difficult to manage (69 percent), significantly higher than among those living at home (45 percent). Related to this is the higher level of difficulty combining work and study among females (58 percent) compared with males ( 44 percent). These trends are similar to gender differences identified earlier in relation to satisfaction with the amount of leisure time available.

Figure 32
MANAGING WORK AND STUDY
Overall, how easy or difficult do you find it managing both study and work?


NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STUDYI WORK
To what extent, if any, do you think your work has any negative impact on your performance in your studies? To what extent, if any, do you think your studies have any negative impact on your performance at work?



### 4.5 What could the Government be doing to help you...?

- At the completion of the survey, young people were asked an open ended question concerning the types of things they feel the government could be doing to help them obtain the skills, knowledge or experience they'd like to have.
- A little over half provided a comment, with the cost of education emerging as the key area (mentioned by 30 percent), including reducing the end-cost to students through lower tuition fees / HECS fees, or subsidies for work-related studies. Related to this are general calls to improve financial assistance for students through increasing the accessibility and amounts available via social security payments and student loans.
- Interestingly, as part of education costs, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities are a specific area highlighted by some young people for more Government attention (8 percent). This includes calls for both greater funding, as well as more assistance at an individual level, such as through subsidies or allowances for work-related tools or equipment. There are also general calls for greater education funding, such as for increased HECS places, as well as increased accessibility to further study and greater variety in the courses offered.
- $\quad$ Some mentioned a need for improved career guidance (7 percent) and more opportunities to gain skills relevant to the workplace (5 percent) - through the topics covered in school or tertiary coursework, as well as through work experience placements while studying.


## Figure 33

## WHAT COULD THE GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP?

Thinking now about the Government, and your own situation concerning employmen or education. What types of things could the Government be doing to help you obtain any skills, knowledge or experience you'd like to have?
TOTAL FREE EDUCATION / LOWER FEES / GREATER SUBSIDISATION TOTAL FREE EDUCATION

Free TAFE / TAFE course

TOTAL LOWER FEES / GREATER SUBSIDISATION OF EDUCATION 13
Lower fees / cheaper education
Reduce / get rid of HECS /make it easier to pay HECS debt / help with HECS
Subsidise / more subsidy for courses / education fees / uni / TAFE fees
Pay for / subsidise courses related to job
Run inexpensive courses / programs
Help with educational costs such as textbooks / transport
TOTAL INCREASED OTHER TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE More Youth Allowance for students / Austudy / make benefits more obtainable Increased student loans

TOTAL MORE FUNDING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS / APPRENTICES More funding of apprenticeships / offer more traineeships / internships More money for apprentices / tool allowance / increase wages

TOTAL INCREASED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION More funding for uni / courses / research More funding for education other (schools, grants, rural students)
TOTAL INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY / AVAILABILITY /
VARIETY OF COURSES / PLACES
More courses that are easier to get into / make it easier to get into uni / TAFE
ncrease HECS places/ Commonwealth supported places
More variety of courses in uni / TAFE
MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK PLACEMENTS / WORK EXPERIENCE Specifically at school Other

MORE INFORMATION / ADVICE ON COURSES / CAREERS / TRAINEESHIPS CONCERNS ABOUT WORKPLACE REFORMS / WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING

DOING A GOOD JOB / SATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY DO ALREADY

## 5. Appendices

## Appendix A: Sampling Error Tolerances

## 1. Sample error margins around a sample proportion

The table below shows the 95 percent confidence interval surrounding sample proportions based on various sample sizes.
For example, based on a sample of 500 people, if $50 \%$ agree with a statement, then we can say there is a 95 percent probability that the true proportion of the population agreeing is $50 \%+/-4 \%$ (ie the true proportion is between $46 \%$ and $54 \%$ ).

| Sample size | Percentage |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5\% | 10\% | 15\% | 20\% | 25\% | 30\% | 35\% | 40\% | 45\% | 50\% | 55\% | 60\% | 65\% | 70\% | 75\% | 80\% | 85\% | 90\% | 95\% |
| 50 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 6 |
| 100 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 150 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 200 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 250 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 300 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 350 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 400 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 450 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 500 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 700 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 1000 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

## 2. Comparing proportions from two mutually exclusive groups

The table below shows the approximate difference required when comparing results between two sample segments before the difference could be said to be statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence

For example, in the current survey, comparing results between males and females (each with a sample of approximately 400 people): if 60 percent of females are satisfied, the level of satisfaction among males would need to be greater than 67 percent (i.e. $60+7$ percent) or less than 53 percent (i.e. 60-7 percent) before we could say that the levels were significantly different at the 95 percent level of confidence.

| Sample <br> size | Percentage |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5\% | 10\% | 15\% | 20\% | 25\% | 30\% | 35\% | 40\% | 45\% | 50\% | 55\% | 60\% | 65\% | 70\% | 75\% | 80\% | 85\% | 90\% | 95\% |
| 50 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 9 |
| 100 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 6 |
| 150 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 200 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 250 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 300 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 350 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| 400 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 450 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 500 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 700 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 1000 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |



$$
\text { Q1 RECORD SEX } \longrightarrow \quad \begin{gathered}
\text { MALE.......... } 1 \\
\text { FEMALE } . . . .2
\end{gathered}
$$

Q2 To make sure we're speaking to a cross-section of people, could you please tell me your age?

18 YEARS.... 19 YEARS..... 20 YEARS... 21 YEARS 22 YEARS.... 23 YEARS.... ${ }^{24}$ REFUSED... .7 $\begin{array}{ll}* \\ * \\ * & \text { Q3 } \\ * & * \\ \text { \# } \\ \text { TERM } \\ \text { (NE3) }\end{array}$
ASK IF NOT REFUSED AGE IE CODE 1-7 IN Q2. CODE 8 TERMINATE WITH THANKS (NE3)
Q3 Do you mainly live...? READ OUT 1-2


ASK IF NOT HAVE PAID Job IE CODE 2-3 IN Q4. CODE 1 IN Q4 GO TO Q9
Q8


Q9 ASK IF (WORK PART TIME / CASUAL) OR (NOT HAVE PAID JOB AND NOT LOOKED FOR FULL TIME WORK IN PAST FOUR WEEKS) IE (CODE 2-4 IN Q6) OR (CODE 2 IN Q8B). OTHERS GO TO Q10



## SK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q12 And apart from school, which of the following
Do you already have...? READ OUT 1-3
A UNIVERSITY DEGREE $\qquad$ $\stackrel{\text { MR }}{\stackrel{-}{\cdots}} 1$

INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF SAME CODE IN Q12 AND
Q10, CONFIRM WITH RESPONENT THAT A QUALIFICATION FROM A TAFE. $\qquad$ .
Q10, CONFIRM WITH RESPONDENT THAT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION APART FROM SCHOOL.... 3 COMPLETED.
ASK IF WORK PART TIME / CASUAL IE CODE 2-4 IN Q6. OTHERS GO TO Q15
Q13 You said you do part time or casual work. At the moment, if you had $\qquad$ $\frac{\text { SR }}{.1}$ * Q14
to have a full time job 2 \# NEXT OR, TO CONTINUE WITH
PART TIME OR CASUAL WORK.... 2 \# NEXT DON'T KNOW ................................ 3 \# SECT
ASK If PREFER FULL TIME JOB IE CODE 1 IN Q13. OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTION
Q14 What things in particular prevent you from having a full time job? What other things? PROBE FULLY
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
NONE / DON'T KNOW....... 99
go to next

## SECTION

Q15 ASK IF NOT HAVE PAID JOB IE CODE 2-3 IN Q4. OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTION At the moment, if you could have your choice, would you prefer...?
READ OUT AAB IF PAID EMPLOYMENT And would you most prefer to

 KNow
B) OR, TO REMAIN $\quad$ NOT IN PAID EMPLOYMENT .... 4 DON'T KNOW............................. 5

ASK IF PREFER TO BE IN PAID EMPLOYMENT IE CODE 1-3 IN Q15. CODE 4-5 GO TO Q17
Q16 What things in particular prevent you from being in paid employment? What other things? PROBE FULLY IF "CAN'T GET A JOB" / "HARD TO GET A JOB" What things would you say are preventing you from getting a job?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
NONE / DON'T KNOW........ 99
Q17 ASK IF (NOT HAVE PAID JOB) AND (NOT STUDYING AT UNI / TAFE I OTHER INSTITUTION)
IE (CODE $2-3$ IN Q4) AND (CODE 4-5 IN Q10)

HOME DUTIES OR LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN S/M OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTION

LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE $\qquad$
$\qquad$
Which one of the following best describes the main DOING UNPAID VOLUNTEER WORK $\qquad$ $\cdots$ activity you're involved in at the moment?
READ OUT 1-5

HAVING A CAREER BREAK OR EXTENDED HOLIDAY ............ 4 OR, SOMETHING ELSE $\qquad$

## SECTION A - ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

A1 Now we'd like to find out how satisfied you are with various aspects of your life. For each of the following, please tell me if Now we'd like to find out how satisfied you are with vari
you are... (READ OUT 1-4). Firstly... READ OUT A-C

|  |  |  |  | NEITHER |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| VERY | SOMEWHAT | SOMEWHAT | OR, VERY | DON'T |
| SATISFIED | SATISFIED | DISSATISFIED | DISSATISFIED | kNOW |
| -..... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| N.......... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ...... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

ASK IF HAVE PAID JOB IE CODE 1 IN Q4. CODE 2-3 IN Q4 GO TO A3
A2 And overall, how satisfied are you with your current job?

> VERY SATISFIED................. 1 SOMEWHAT SATISIED....... 2. SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED.... 3 VERY DISSATISFIED......... 4 NEITHER / DON'T KNOW ...... 5

## ASK IF NOT HAVE PAID JOB IE CODE 2-3 IN Q4. CODE 1 IN Q4 GO TO A4(a)

A3 And overall, how satisfied are you with your current employment situation? PROMPT WITH SCALE IF NECESSARY

> VERY SATISFIED..................... SOMEWHAT SATISFIED......... SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED.... VERY DISSATISFIED............ 4 NEITHER/DONT KNOW......

A4(a) ASK IF (DOING APPRENTICESHIP) OR (STUDYING AT UNI / TAFE / OTHER INSTITUTION) IE (CODE 1 IN Q5) OR (CODE 1-3 IN Q10). OTHERS GO TO A6

Now a question about your studies.
A4(b) ASK IF STUDYING AT UNI IE CODE 1 IN Q10. OTHERS GO TO A4(c) Overall, how satisfied are you with your University course?

4(c) ASK IF STUDYING AT TAFE IE CODE 2 IN Q10. OTHERS GO TO A4(d)
VERY SATISFIED.................. $1 \begin{aligned} & -1(\mathrm{c}) /(\mathrm{e}) \text { - }\end{aligned}$ SOMEWHAT SATISFIED.......... 2 *
SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED .. 3 * A5 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED .. $3 * *$
VERY DISSATISIED.......... $4 *$
NEITHER / DON'T KNOW......5 * Overall, how satisfied are you with your TAFE course?
PROMPT WITH SCALE IF NECESSARY

A4(d) ASK IF STUDYING AT OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IE CODE 3 in Q10. OTHERS GO TO A4(e)

Overall, how satisfied are you with your course at the educational institution you ale aing? PRMPT WTH SCALE IF NECESSARY
A4(e) ASK IF DOING APPRENTICESHIP IE CODE 1 IN Q5. OTHERS GO TO A5
Overall, how satisfied are you with your apprenticeship studies course?
PROMPT WITH SCALE IF NECESSARY

ASK ALL (DOING APPRENTICESHIP) OR (STUDYING AT UNI / TAFE / OTHER INSTITUTION) IE (CODE 1 IN Q5) OR (CODE

And thinking about when you finish your course and obtain the qualification you are stuaying for (PAUSE). How valuable do you think having tha qualification will be, as far as your working life and career in the future are
concerned? Do you think the qualification will be...? READ OUT 1-4

VERY VALUABLE TO YOU
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE...........
OR, NOT AT ALARLY VALUBB.............. OR, NOT AT ALL VALUABLE TO YOU.

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS
A6 New lhents

RONE I DON'T KNOW............... ${ }_{5}^{4}$

A7 Which one of the following best describes how much you have already decided on the occupation or career you want? Would you say
you ? READ OUT 1-4

HAVE ONE, SPECIFIC OCCUPATION OR CAREER IN MIND $\frac{\mathrm{SR}}{1}$ HAVE A PRETTY CLEAR CHOICE OF TWO OR THREE IN MIND........... 2 HAVEN'T REALLY NARROWED IT DOWN TOO MUCH AT ALL ........ 3 OR, YOU REALLY HAVE VERY LITTLE, IF ANY, IDEA OF WHAT YOU WANT TO DO $\qquad$ NONE / DON'T KNOW........................................................................ 5

A8 Still thinking about your future. Which one of Stil thinking about your future. Which one of IT'S IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE OF YOUR AGE TO
the following comes closest to your view?
READ OUT 1-2
BE THINKING CAREFULLY ABOUT CAREER PLANS SR OR, IT'S TOO EARLY FOR PEOPLE OF YOUR AGE
TO BE THINKING CAREFULLY ABOUT CAREER PLA TO BE THINKING CAREFULLY ABOUT CAREER PLANS THERE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT IT LATER... NEITHER / DON'T KNOW $\qquad$ $\cdots$

A9 And still thinking about the future. At the moment, how confident do you feel VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT IT .. hat everything will work out OK for your working life and career in the years ahead? Would you say you feel...? READ OUT 1-4

## VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT NOT PARTICULARLY CONFIDENT OR, NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT NEITHER / DON'T KNOW.

A10 How confident do you feel that you will be financially secure in the future? Would you say you feel...? READ OUT 1-4

VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT IT SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT..... NOT PARTICULARLY CONFI............... 2 OR, NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT NEITHER / DON'T KNOW.

11 Now thinking about your parents' standard of living, compared with the BETTER THAN YOUR PARENTS'..... standard of living you expect to achieve for yourself in the future. Do you
think your standard of living will be....? READ OUT 1-3 NOT AS GOOD AS YOUR PARENTS'
OR, ABOUT THE SAME NONE / DON'T KNOW

W3 was the highest year of schooling that you completed? Was it...? READ OUT 1-4

B4 When you finished school, you may have decided to take a you took, which one of the following
you did? Did you ...? READ OUT 1-5

GET AN APPRENTICESHIP $\qquad$ ... 1 \# NEXT GO TO UNIVERSITY
$\qquad$ \# SECT GO TO TAFE OR SOME OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, NOT AS PART OF AN APPRENTICESHIP .... 3 \# \# DID YOU DECIDE TO GET A JOB OR, DID YOU DECIDE NOT TO GET A $\qquad$ 4 * B5 NONE / DON'T KNOW.
$\qquad$ * * -........................... 6 \# NEXT

## ASK IF DECIDED TO GET JOB AND NOT STUDY OR DECIDED NOT TO GET JOB OR STUDY IE CODE $4-5$ IN B4. CODE

B5 At the time, given a choice, would you have preferred to go on to YES/WOULD HAVE
do studies at University or TAFE, or not
YESEFERRED DOING STUDIES .... 1 * B6
$\qquad$ NO / NOT / DON'T KNOW . \# $\begin{gathered}\text { NEXT } \\ \text { SECT }\end{gathered}$

## ASK IF WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DO STUDIES IE CODE 1 IN B5. CODE 2 GO TO NEXT SECTION

B6 At the time, what things prevented you from doing further studies? What other things? PROBE FULLY
$\qquad$

## SECTION B - ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

B1 Now a question about the school you attended in your last year of high school. In your AN EXCELLENT JOB..... 1 opinion, what kind of job did the school do in giving you a good education? Would you say it A VERY GOOD JOB did...? READ OUT 1-5

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { A GOOD JOB........ } \\
& \text { A FAR JOB....... A POOR JOB. } \\
& \text { OR, } \\
& \text { DONT KNOW }
\end{aligned}
$$

B2 What type of school did you attend in your last year? Was it...?
READ OUT $1-3$
A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL $\qquad$ A CATHOLIC SCHOOL NONE / DON'T KNOW..

## SECTION BB - ASK IF (DOING APPRENTICESHIP OR WORK FULL TIME) OR (LOOKED FOR FULL TIME WORK IN

 PAST FOUR WEEKS OR SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL) IE CODE 1 IN Q5 OR Q6 OR Q8B OR Q9 OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTIONBB1 Now thinking about the whole process of looking for a full time job - from searching for VERY GOOD AT I. ............ and identifying jobs, to writing CV's and resumes, applications and attending job QUITE GOOD....
interviews (PAUSE). Overall, how good at the process do you feel you are? Would you QUITE POORR interviews (PAUSE). Overall, how good at the process do you feel you are? Would you QUITE POOR...................... 3 NEITHER / DON'T KNOW .... 5

BB2 People have told us about some difficulties they face when trying to get a job. Thinking about the last time you looked for full time work, please tell me if you personally found each of the following things to be a major problem for you, a mino problem, or not a problem for you at all. Firstly... READ OUT A-G AND ROTATE A-E
MAJOR

PROBLEM \begin{tabular}{c}
MINOR <br>
PROBLEM

 

NOTA <br>
PROBLEM
\end{tabular} KNO

A) NOT BEING VERY GOOD AT PUTTING 1 -
B) NOT BEING ABLE TO PERFORM $\qquad$ $\ldots . .$.
C) HAVING POOR ACADEMIC RESULTS. $\qquad$ $\ldots . . . . .$.
D) PEOPLE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST YOU FOR ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR SOME OTHER REASON $\begin{array}{llll}2 & 3 & 4\end{array}$
$1-2$
G) LACK OF SPECIFIC, RELEVANT JOB SKILLS
.. .1

ASK IF DISAPPOINTING IE CODES $4-5$ IN C2(a)/(b). CODE 1-3, 6 IN C2(a)/(b) GO TO C4
C3 For what particular reasons do you say it has been disappointing for you? What else? PROBE FULLY
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


ASK ALL HAVE PAID JOB IE CODE 1 IN Q4

| C4 | Do you work for a government organisation, a private organisation, or | SR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | are you self-employed? | GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION .... 1 |
|  |  | PRIVATE ORGANISATION........... |
|  |  | DONT KNOW ................................ |

ASK IF PRIVATE / DON'T KNOW IE CODE 2,4 IN C4. CODE 1,3 GO TO C6


## ASK ALL HAVE PAID JOB IE CODE 1 IN Q4

C6 Now we'd like your opinion about some specific aspects of your job. For each of the following, please tell me if you are .
(READ OUT 1-4). Firstly... READ OUT AND ROTATE A-H, MAINTAINING ORDER G-H

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { VERY } \\ & \text { SATISFIED } \end{aligned}$ | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED | OR, VERY DISSATISFIED | NONE kNOW KNOW |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A) THE OVERALL DUTIES AND |  |  |  |  |
| TASKS THAT YOU DO IN YOUR JOB ................. 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B) YOUR SUPERVISOR ...................................... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C) THE SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT YOU GET FROM YOUR JOB........ 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D) YOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTION ......... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E) YOUR OPPORTUNITIES <br> FOR TRAINING AND LEARNING $\qquad$ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F) How Challenging your job is ................... 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

G) HOW MUCH YOU GET

PAID, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
THE OTHER TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF YOUR JO
SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF HOURS
You tork neaver if iours
SICK PAY ENTITLEMENTS AND SO ON $\qquad$ 2
23
3

SECTION D - ASK IF (DOING APPRENTICESHIP) OR (STUDYING AT UNI/ TAFE / OTHER INSTITUTION) IE (CODE 1 IN Q5) OR (CODE 1-3 IN Q10). OTHERS GO TO SECTION

D1 Now some questions about being a student.
D2(a) ASK IF STUDYING AT UNI IE CODE 1 IN Q10. OTHERS GO TO D2(b)
D2(a)/(b)/(c)/(d) Which one of the following best describes your feelings and impressions A LOT BETTER THAN so far about being a student at Uni? Overall, would you say it has YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE..... 1 \# \# been...? READ OUT 1-5 A LITTLE BETTER
THAN YOU THOUGHT.................. 2 \# D
D2(b) ASK IF STUDYING AT TAFE IE CODE 2 IN Q10. OTHERS GO TO ABOUT WHAT YOU EXPECTED...... 3 \# \# ALITTLE DISAPPOINTING ............. 4 * D3 far about being a student at TAFE? Overall, would you say it has OR, VERY DISAPPONTNG......... been...? READ OUT 1-5

2(c) ASK IF STUDYING AT OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IE CODE 3 IN Q10. OTHERS GO TO D2(d)
Which one of the following best describes your feelings and impressions so far about being a student at the educational institution you are
attending? Overall, would you say it has been...? READ OUT 1-5

D2(d) ASK IF DOING APPRENTICESHIP IE CODE 1 IN Q5. CODE 1-3, 6 IN ASK IF DOING APPRENTICESHIP IE COD 1 IN Q5.
D2(a)-(c) GO TO D4. CODE 4-5 IN D2 (a)-(c) GO TO D3 Which one of the following best describes your feelings and impressions oo far about being a student at the place where you do you
apprenticeship studies? Overall, would you say it has been...? $\begin{array}{ll}\text { apprenticeship st } \\ \text { READ OUT } & 1-5\end{array}$

ASK IF DISAPPOINTING IE CODE 4-5 IN D2(a)-(d). OTHERS GO TO D4
D3 For what particular reasons do you say it has been disappointing for you? What else? PROBE FULLY
$\qquad$

## ASK ALL (DOING APPRENTICESHIP) OR (STUDYING AT UNI / TAFE / OTHER INSTITUTION) IE (CODE 1 IN Q5) OR (CODE

 -3 IN Q10)D4 Now about some specific aspects of the course you are studying. For each of the following, please tell me if you are.. (READ OUT 1-4). Firstly... READ OUT AND ROTATE A-B

SECTION E - ASK IF (DOING APPRENTICESHIP) OR (HAVE PAID JOB AND STUDYING) IE (CODE 1 IN Q5) OR (CODE 1 IN Q4 AND CODE 1-3 IN Q10). OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTION

E1 Now do you find it managing both study and work? Would you say you find it...?

VERY EASY EASY FAIRLY EASY... R, VERY DIFFIC.......
OEITHER /DON'T KNOW....... 4
E2 To what extent, if any, do you think your work has any negative impact on your performance in ALOT.. your studies? Would you say your work negatively affects your performance in your studies...? ALITTLE.................. 2
READ OUT 1-3
OR, NOTATALL

E3 And to what extent, if any, do you think your studies have any negative impact on your A LOT....... performance at work? Would you say your studies negatively affect your performance at work...? A LITTLE...
READ OUT $1-3$ OR, NOT AT ALL
DON'T KNOW.....

## SECTION Z - ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Z1 Thinking now about the Government, and your own situation concerning employment or education. What types of things could the Government be doing to help you obtain any skills, knowledge or experience you'd like to have? What else? PROBE FULLY
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
__NONE / DON'T KNOW ....
z2
Now a question about your parents.
What was the highest level of education
completed by your... (PARENT)? Was it.?
A UNIVERSITY DEGREE
$\qquad$ $\frac{\text { - A- }}{\text { FATHER }}$
$\frac{\text { SR }}{1}$
$\frac{\text { MOTHER }}{1}$
$\frac{\text { SR }}{1}$ completed by your... (PARENT)? Was it...?
READ OUT 1 -5. REPEAT QUESTION FOR A-B A QUALIFICATION FROM A TAF
$\cdots$ OTHER TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ..... 3 3
THE EQUIVALENT OF

COMPLETING YEAR 12 AT SCHOOL.................... 4 OR, THE EQUIVALENT OF YEAR 11 OR BELOW AT SCHOOL........................ 5 NONE/ DON'T KNOW | -5 |
| :--- |
| 6 |

INTERVIEWER PROCEED TO IDENTIFIER PART B
RECORD FINISH TIME
RECORD FINISH TIME
RECORD DAY OF INTERVIEW
CALCULATE TOTAL LENGTH OF INTERVIEW \& RECORD IN MINS MONDAY....... 1 TUESDAY....... 2 WEDNESDAY.... 3

RECORD WHETHER FIIST CALL, SECOND CALL, ETC AND WHETHER BASED ON A
PREVIOUSLY MADE APPOINTMENT.

## INTRODUCTION

Good evening. My name is .... (NAME) from Newspoll market research. In the past 18 months we spoke to a member of your household who said that Newspoll could re-contact you for further market research. Today we're conducting a survey about issues affecting young adults.

## IDENTIFIER PART A

Firstly, could I please check if there are any people aged 18-24 living in your household?
IF NO, TERMINATE WITH THANKS AND RECORD AS (NE1) ON CALL SHEET
May I please speak to that person?
IF PERSON NOT AVAILABLE, MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND RECORD ON CALL SHEET. WHEN PERSON COMES TO PHONE, REPEAT INTRODUCTION THEN PROCEED For this particular survey, we're speaking to people who are no longer at high school or doing any high school studies. Can I jus
check that you are no longer at high school or doing any high school studies. IF NO LONGR AT SCHOOL, PROCEED. IF
STILL AT SCHOOL TERMINATE WITH THANKS (NE2) STILL AT SCHOOL TERMINATE WITH THANKS (NE2)
RECORD NAME

DIRECTORY:
PAGE NO: ORIGINAL/REPLACE

The survey should take 10-15 minutes depending on your answers. Please be assured your responses are completely confidential, and the information you provide will only be used for research purposes. This call may be monitored for quality control. INTERVIEWER PROCEED TO Q1 ON FRONT PAGE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

## IDENTIFIER PART B

Z3 Can I please check that the number I rang was...?
RECORD TELEPHONE NUMBER (RIGHT JUSTIFY)

$$
A \overline{R E A} \overline{C O D E}
$$

$$
---\overline{\text { NUMBER }}--
$$

If my supervisor finds any errors with my work, we may need to call you within the next few days to have this corrected.

| Z4 If we need to, may we also contact you for quality control purposes? | YES...... 1 |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | NO $\ldots \ldots .2$ |

CLOSE
Just to remind you my name is ... (NAME) from Newspoll. This research was conducted on behalf of the Dusseldorp (PRO: DUss ELL-DORP) Skills Forum and was carried out in compliance with the Market and Social Research Privacy Principles. If you would liLe details about privacy or to check about Newsopll, I can give you those now. Would you like them?
IF "YES", CLARIFY IF PRIVACY OR PHONE NUMBERS AND READ APPROPRIAT SCRIT BELOW.

PRIVACY Your personal details will be removed from your responses in about two weeks. Within this time, however, you may request that your personal details be deleted.
PHONE NUMBERS If you have a pen and paper handy, the numbers are

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Newspoll toll free: } \\
& \text { Market Research Society } 646506 \\
& \hline 1300
\end{aligned}
$$

Market Research Society: 1300364830
Thank you for your time.
INTERVIEWER RETURN TO SECTION Z - CLASSIFICATION TO COMPLETE CALL DETAILS AND INTERVIEWER CERTIFICATION

NTERVIEWERS' NOTE:- If respondent asks for name of client company, say:
"I can give you that name at the end of the interview. If I tell you now, it may influence your answers to some of the questions. Is it OK at the end.
If respondent insists on company name at start of interview, say:
"Yes, I can give you that name now, but we won't be able to proceed with the interview. Is that what you'd like?"


[^0]:    1. Differences between Census and Labor Force Survey estimates on levels of engagement are outlined
[^1]:    1. Trend analysis by the Dusseldorp Forum
    2. $\quad$ Newspoll, What young people are thinking survey
[^2]:    BASE: TOTAL ( $\mathrm{N}=803$ ); MALE ( $n=409$ ); FEMALE ( $n=394$ ); 18-19 ( $n=206$ ); 20-21 ( $n=233$ ); 22-24 ( $n=364$ ); CAP CITY ( $n=536$ ); ( YEAR 11 OR BELOW ( $n=1633$ ); HIGHEST SCHOOLING YEAR 11 OR BELOW ( $n=157$ )
    SCHOOL

[^3]:    . Although this open-ended question revealed few mentions concerning lack of qualifications/ skills, aided questioning about the full time job search experience found 30 percent of those not fully engaged saying that lack of relevant work experience was a major problem for them the last time they looked for full time work; and 21 percent that lack of specific relevant job skills was a major problem see Section 4.1.12, Figure 22.

[^4]:    BASE: THOSE STUDYING: TOTAL ( $n=342$ ); FULL TIME ( $n=205$ ); PART TIME ( $n=137$ ); AT UNI ( $n=212$ ), OTHER ( $n=130$ )

