

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.4

#### DEST Question No. E044\_06

Senator Carr asked in writing on 07 June 2005

#### Question:

What does the research tell us about the outcomes for students who leave school at the end of Year 10 compared with those who complete Year 12 and those who complete a vocational qualification?

#### Answer:

The ABS *Survey of Education and Work* (ABS Cat. No. 6227.0), conducted annually in May, provides data on the labour force status of people with different levels of education qualifications. The table below shows results from the latest published survey conducted in May 2003 and published in December 2004.

The table shows two key economic indicators for education outcomes ie the incidence of full time employment and the unemployment rate, for those who completed only Year 10 while at school, those who completed Year 12 and those who completed vocational qualifications. This relates to the entire population aged 15-64 years.

<b>Full time employment incidence and unemployment rate of 15-64 year olds by whether completed Year 10, Year 12 or a vocational qualification, 2004</b>		
	<b>Full time employment incidence (%)</b>	<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>
Year 12 – with post-school qualification	64.2	3.5
– with no post-school qualification	45.8	6.6
Year 10 – with post-school qualification	59.7	4.2
– with no post-school qualification	34.8	9.6
Completed vocational qualification*	60.8	4.3

Source: ABS Education and Work 2004 (ABS Cat. No. 6227.0)

\* - vocational qualification refers to Advanced Diploma, Diploma, Certificates I – IV qualifications.

The data suggests that Year 12 completers with post school qualifications performed best in the labour market over the long term. They were closely followed by those with vocational qualifications (at AQF Certificate or Diploma level). Those who left after Year 10 and attained no further post school qualifications performed noticeably worse against these two indicators over the long term.

Recent research based on the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth (LSAY) suggests that employment and earnings outcomes of the non-academically inclined up to the age of 21 years are not improved by completing Year 12 compared to leaving school at Year 10 or Year 11 and taking an apprenticeship or even some other type of job, especially full time (see Dockery, M *Assessing the value of additional years of schooling for the non-academically inclined* ACER, LSAY Research Report No 38, June 2005). However, as the

researchers point out, these finding apply for young people in the very early years of their careers, and the effect of additional years of schooling may be important in the longer term. As the table above suggests, this may be particularly the case for early school leavers who do not complete apprenticeships or other forms of vocational education.