

Fact sheet

Aboriginal Year 12 completers and early school leavers

2021 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of findings from the 2021 NSW Destinations and Experiences Survey relating to 2 different groups of Aboriginal recent school leavers: Year 12 completers and early school leavers. In this fact sheet, Aboriginal refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This fact sheet was produced in collaboration with the Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships Directorate.

Survey sample

- In 2021, 1,251 Aboriginal Year 12 completers and 690 Aboriginal early school leavers completed the survey.
- There were some sociodemographic differences in 2021 between Aboriginal survey participants and non-participants. These differences were controlled for through weighting.
- Since 2014, response rates for Aboriginal early school leavers have risen and fallen between 21% and 29% (27% in 2021), while the response rates for Aboriginal Year 12 completers have fluctuated more widely from 43% to 59% (56% in 2021).

Post-school destinations of Aboriginal school leavers in 2021

In 2021, 80.8% of Aboriginal Year 12 completers and 69.8% of Aboriginal early school leavers were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



Post-school destinations of non-Aboriginal school leavers in 2021

In 2021, 93.8% of non-Aboriginal Year 12 completers and 84.3% of non-Aboriginal early school leavers were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers

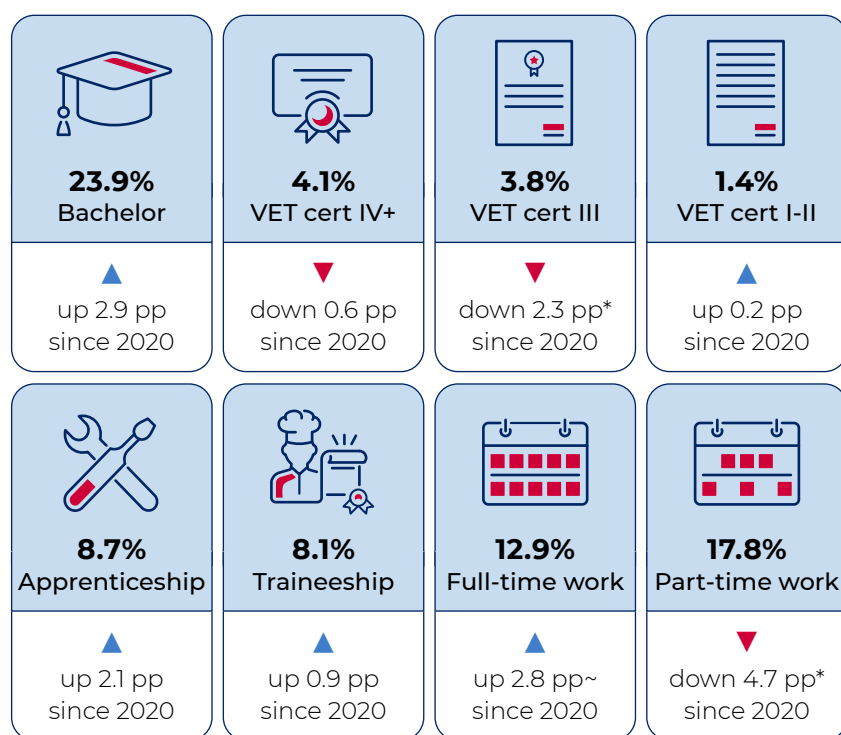


Early school leavers



* NILFET means not in the labour force, education or training.

Post-school destinations of Aboriginal Year 12 completers in 2021

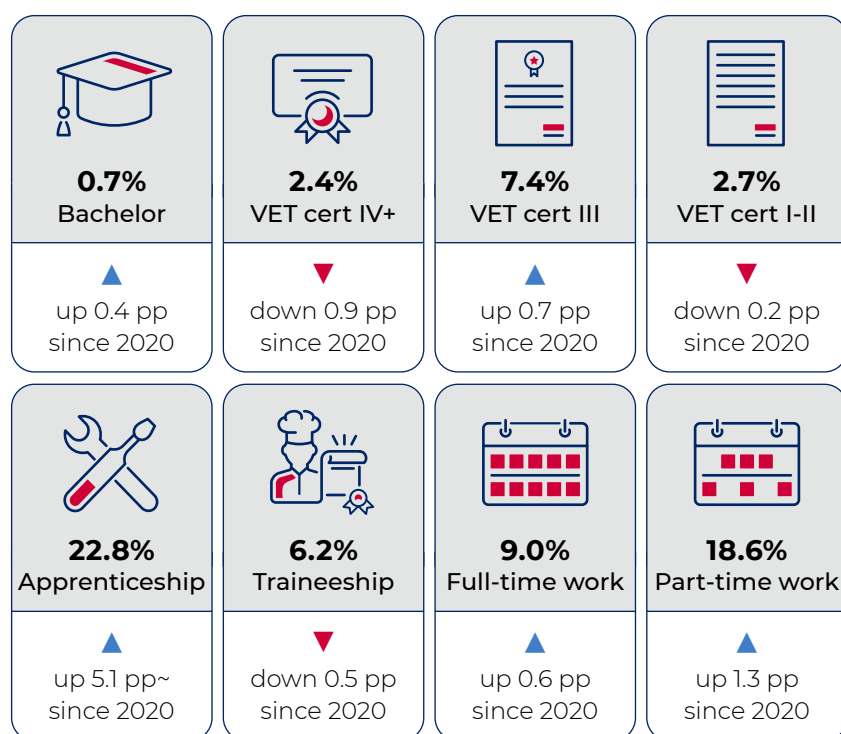


Compared to 2020, there were fewer Aboriginal Year 12 completers doing a VET cert III or part-time work in 2021, while there were more Year 12 completers employed in full-time work.

Trends¹ in destinations of Aboriginal Year 12 completers between 2014 and 2021:

- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.5 pp²** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.
- Although part-time work fell between 2020 and 2021, over the period 2014-2021 part-time work has increased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.

Post-school destinations of Aboriginal early school leavers in 2021



Compared to 2020, there were more Aboriginal early school leavers enrolled in apprenticeships in 2021.

Trends in destinations of Aboriginal early school leavers between 2014 and 2021:

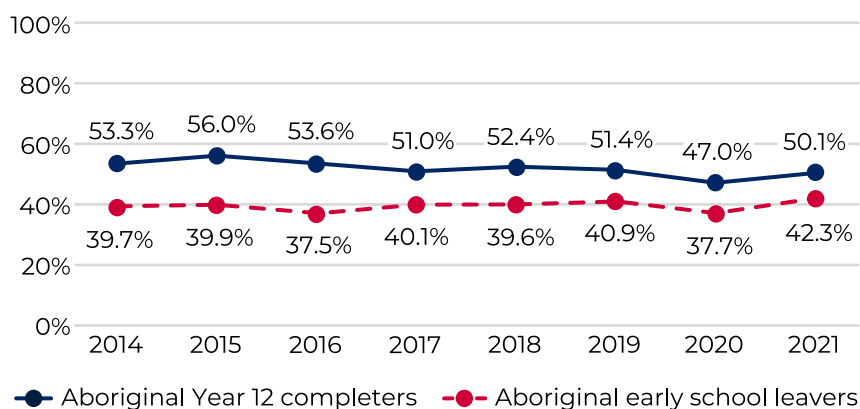
- VET cert I-II enrolments have decreased on average by **1.1 pp** per year.
- The number of Aboriginal early school leavers looking for work has decreased on average by **0.8 pp** per year.
- The number of Aboriginal early school leavers who are NILFET has decreased on average by **1.1 pp** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased on average by **1.4 pp** per year.
- Full-time work has increased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.
- Part-time work has increased on average by **1.2 pp** per year.

Note. Changes in percentage points (pp) that are accompanied by a tilde (~) are statistically significant at a 95% confidence level ($p < .05$), while those accompanied by an asterisk (*) are statistically significant at a 99% confidence level ($p < .01$). In this fact sheet only, we interpret changes at the 95% confidence level as meaningful, because the responding Aboriginal school leaver sample is somewhat smaller than other sub-samples reported in Destinations. Use caution when comparing this fact sheet's findings to earlier Aboriginal school leaver fact sheets and other 2021 fact sheets that report changes at the 99% confidence level. Statistical significance is determined by both the size of the groups being compared and the percentage point difference between them.

¹ We report on significant overall trends at the 95% confidence interval. Trending data still fluctuates from year to year and should not be confused with a consistent increase or decrease over time.

² pp = percentage points.

In education or training



The proportion of Aboriginal Year 12 completers in education or training has gradually decreased since 2014 (average growth rate = -0.9 pp per year). The proportion of Aboriginal early school leavers in education or training has remained stable during this time. Similar overall trends are evident for non-Aboriginal Year 12 completers (-0.9 pp per year) and early school leavers.

Education changes

Aboriginal Year 12 completers

Trends between 2014 and 2021:

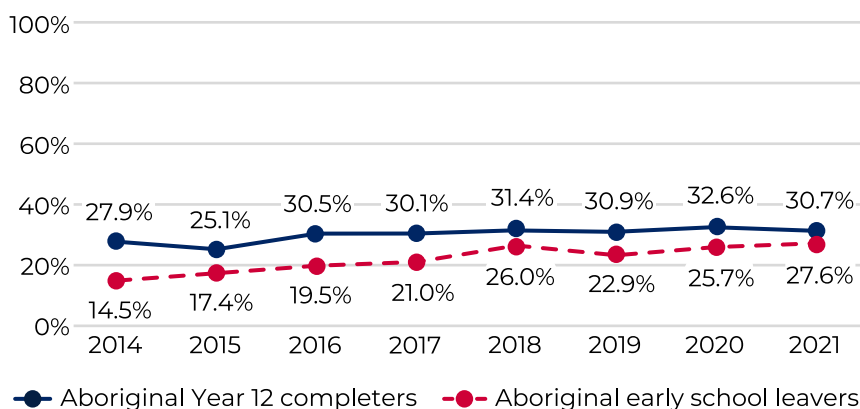
- **Business and management** enrolments have decreased on average by **1.2 pp** per year.
- **Human welfare studies and services** enrolments have decreased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.

Aboriginal early school leavers

Trends between 2014 and 2021:

- **General education program** enrolments have decreased on average by **1.1 pp** per year.
- **Business and management** enrolments have decreased on average by **1.0 pp** per year.
- **Electrical and electronic engineering and technology** enrolments have increased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.

In employment



Since 2014, the proportion of Aboriginal Year 12 completers (average growth rate = 0.8 pp per year) and early school leavers (1.7 pp per year) in employment has increased. Similar trends are evident for non-Aboriginal Year 12 completers (0.8 pp per year) and early school leavers (0.4 pp per year).

Employment changes

Aboriginal Year 12 completers

Trends between 2014 and 2021:

- The proportion of school leavers choosing to be **sales assistants and salespersons** has decreased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.
- The proportion of school leavers choosing to be **sales support workers** has decreased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.
- The proportion of school leavers choosing to be **storepersons** has increased on average by **1.0 pp** per year.

Aboriginal early school leavers

Trends between 2014 and 2021:

- There are no trends in employment categories for Aboriginal early school leavers.

What are the subgroup differences in destinations of Aboriginal Year 12 completers and early school leavers?

Top 5 areas of education Aboriginal Year 12 completers entered post-school in 2021:

1. Teacher education
2. Nursing
3. Human welfare studies and services
4. Business management
5. Building

Top 5 work roles Aboriginal Year 12 completers entered post-school in 2021:

1. Sales assistants and salespersons
2. Hospitality workers
3. Storepersons
4. Food preparation assistants
5. Sales support workers

Top 5 areas of education Aboriginal early school leavers entered post-school in 2021:

1. Building
2. Personal services³
3. Human welfare studies and services
4. Food and hospitality
5. Automotive engineering and technology

Top 5 work roles Aboriginal early school leavers entered post-school in 2021:

1. Sales assistants and salespersons
2. Food preparation assistants
3. Hospitality workers
4. Storepersons
5. Construction and mining labourers

Year 12 completers

Females more likely to be in a:

- Bachelor degree*
- VET certificate III~
- Traineeship*
- ◆ Part-time work*

Males more likely to be in an:

- Apprenticeship*
- Looking for work*
- Full-time work*

School leavers with **higher parental SES**[†] more likely to be in a:

- Bachelor degree*

School leavers with **lower parental SES** more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate III*
- Looking for work*

Government school leavers more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate III~
- ◆ Part-time work*
- Looking for work*

Non-government school leavers more likely to be in a:

- Bachelor degree*

School leavers living in **Greater Sydney** more likely to be in a:

- Bachelor degree*

School leavers living in **Rest of NSW** more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate III*
- ◆ Part-time work*

Early school leavers

Females more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate IV+*
- ◆ Part-time work*
- VET certificate III*

Males more likely to be in an:

- Apprenticeship*
- Full-time work*

School leavers with **lower parental SES** more likely to be:

- Looking for work*
- NILFET~

There were no differences in destinations for school leavers with **higher parental SES**.

Government school leavers more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate I-II*
- Looking for work*

Non-government school leavers more likely to be in a:

- VET certificate IV+~

There were no significant differences between early school leavers living in **Greater Sydney** and **Rest of NSW**.

[†] SES means socioeconomic status.

~ Shows statistical significance at a 95% confidence level.

* Shows statistical significance at a 99% confidence level.

Note. On this page, if a destination category (for example, apprenticeship) does not appear for a group comparison (for example, male/female) then it means that the destination did not differ significantly between those groups.

● In education or training ◆ In employment ■ Looking for work or NILFET

³ Personal services include beauty therapy and/or hairdressing.

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