Summary of 2024 early school leavers survey

Please note that the survey could be completed either online or via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and certain questions are conditional, meaning leavers are only asked them based on their responses to previous questions.

A. Current status	
A3	**The first few questions are about what you've been doing since leaving school. To begin with, did you leave school before you completed Year 12 last year?** 1. Yes 2. No, I never left high school 3. No, I am doing the International Baccalaureate (IB) 4. No, I completed Year 12 and was awarded a HSC 5. No, I completed Year 12 but was not awarded a HSC 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
A4	**Have you returned to secondary or high school studies this year?** 1. No 2. Yes, I have returned to secondary school studies this year/I never left high school 3. Yes, I am doing the IB 4. Yes, but I have changed schools this year 5. Yes, but I am now doing the HSC in TAFE 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Probe for further detail should respondent say 'yes' – that is, probe for correct code 2–5. Home schooling should be coded as '4' and 'home schooled' specified. If never left code as '2'.	
A5a	**Do you currently have a paid job?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Paid work includes apprenticeships, traineeships, self-employment, family business or farm, as long as work is paid. Casual, intermittent work is also included.	
A5b	**Are you currently looking for work?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)

A. Current status	
A5c	**Have you experienced any of the following challenges in finding a job? Please select all that apply.** 1. There were no suitable jobs available 2. I have limited access to transport 3. I have ongoing health reasons 4. I have been discriminated against when seeking a job 5. I have other responsibilities that prevent me/them finding a job (for example, carer duties) 6. I have an unstable or unsafe housing situation 7. I don't have enough experience for the job I/they applied for 8. I don't have the resources to apply for a job (for example, technology, internet, finances) 9. I don't know how to apply for a job 10. I haven't had the help I need to apply for a job 11. I haven't had time to find a job 12. No challenges 13. (Not sure) 14. (Prefer not to say)
A5d	**If it was available, would you visit your school (or a school in your area) to seek help in looking for a job?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
A5e	**What encouraged you to say yes to visiting a school? Please select all that apply.** 1. It is close to my/their home 2. I feel comfortable in a school environment 3. I feel comfortable speaking with staff because they are familiar to me 4. I am willing to try this if it can help me/them gain a job 5. Other 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)

A. Current status	
A5f	**What made you say no to visiting a school? Please select all that apply.** 1. It is too far away from my/their home 2. I do not feel comfortable in a school environment 3. I do not feel comfortable speaking with staff at school 4. I do not want to visit school for this type of support 5. I would contact staff via email or phone and would not need to visit the school 6. Other 7. (Not sure) 8. (Prefer not to say)
C1	**Is your paid job part of an apprenticeship or traineeship?** 1. Yes, apprenticeship 2. Yes, traineeship 3. No / neither 4. (Not sure) 5. (Prefer not to say)
A6	**Are you currently studying or enrolled in further study including a traineeship or apprenticeship or at TAFE?** 1. Yes – currently studying 2. Yes – enrolled but not yet started (including deferred / gap year) 3. No 4. (Not sure) 5. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Should respondent indicate that they are doing 'on the job' training or similar, clarify whether the training contributes to a qualification (indicating that they may be enrolled in a traineeship). If not, code as 'no'.	

B. Influences and aspirations	
B1	**What is the main reason why you left school early?** 1. Work or career reasons 2. Didn't like school or teachers 3. Was not interested in going (bored) 4. Not coping well at school or failed or failing subjects or too hard 5. School was not for me or not a good environment for learning 6. School did not offer VET options 7. School did not offer subject choices I wanted 8. I was bullied 9. Family commitments (not including pregnancy) 10. Pregnancy 11. Asked to leave (expelled) or got in trouble 12. School couldn't cater for my disability 13. Financial hardship 14. Wanted to study elsewhere or TAFE or different course 15. Moved away from area 16. Travel time (too long a commute) 17. Physical illness or sickness 18. Mental health issues 19. Other (please specify) 20. I felt I would not meet the HSC minimum standard 21. To undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship 22. (Not sure) 23. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Record first mention here and other mentions at next question.	

B. Influences and aspirations	
B2	**Were there other reasons that influenced your decision to leave school early? Please select all that apply.** 1. Work or career reasons 2. Didn't like school or teachers 3. Was not interested in going (bored) 4. Not coping well at school or failed or failing subjects or too hard 5. School was not for me or not a good environment for learning 6. School did not offer VET options 7. School did not offer subject choices I wanted 8. I was bullied 9. Family commitments (not including pregnancy) 10. Pregnancy 11. Asked to leave (expelled) or got in trouble 12. School couldn't cater for my disability 13. Financial hardship 14. Wanted to study elsewhere or TAFE or different course 15. Moved away from area 16. Travel time (too long a commute) 17. Physical illness or sickness 18. Mental health issues 19. I felt I would not meet the HSC minimum standard 20. No other reason (exclusive) 21. To undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship 22. Other (specify) 23. (Not sure) 24. (Prefer not to say)

C. Employment	
C2	**Earlier you mentioned that you currently have a paid job. The next few questions are all about your job. How many hours on average a week do you work in your job?** 1. (Numeric box) hours (range 0–168) 2. (Not sure) 3. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If you are working more than one job, please provide total hours worked in paid employment.	

C. Employment	
C3	**Would you prefer to be working more hours?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not applicable) 4. (Not sure) 5. (Prefer not to say)
C4	**What is your main job?** 1. Sales assistant (general) 2. Checkout operator 3. Kitchen hand 4. Storeperson 5. Café worker 6. Waiter 7. Building and plumbing labourer 8. Bar attendant / barista 9. Other job 10. (Not sure) 11. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: The main job is the one in which you work the most hours at in an average week.	
C4b	**What is your main job?** 1. Full title of main job 2. (Not sure) 3. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If the job title entered is not on the list, please click next and record full job title and tasks and duties on the next screen (probe for as much detail as possible).	
C4a	**Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?** **Think about what you do on an average workday, or how you would describe this job to someone who has never heard of it before.** 1. (Full text box) 2. (Not sure) 3. (Prefer not to say)

C. Employment	
C5	**What apprenticeship are you doing?** 1. Carpenter and joiner 2. Motor mechanic 3. Plumber 4. Electrician 5. Hairdresser 6. Chef 7. Metal fitter / turner / machinist 8. Structural steel and welding trades worker 9. Butcher and smallgoods maker 10. Cabinetmaker 11. Air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic 12. Bricklayer and stonemason 13. Gardener 14. Other 15. (Not sure) 16. (Prefer not to say)
C5b	**What apprenticeship are you doing?** 1. Full title of main job 2. (Not sure / prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If the job title entered is not on the list, please click next and record full job title and tasks and duties on the next screen (probe for as much detail as possible).	
C5a	**Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?** **Think about what you do on an average workday, or how you would describe this job to someone who has never heard of it before.** 1. (Full text box) 2. (Not sure) 3. (Prefer not to say)
C6	**What traineeship are you doing?** 1. Childcare 2. Café worker 3. Office administration (general clerk) 4. Retail operations (sales assistant (general)) 5. Farm, forestry and garden worker 6. Gardener 7. Concreter 8. Other 9. (Not sure) 10. (Prefer not to say)

C. Employment	
C6b	**What traineeship are you doing?** 1. Full title of main job 2. (Not sure / prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If the job title entered is not on the list, please click next and record full job title and tasks and duties on the next screen (probe for as much detail as possible).	
C6a	**Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?** **Think about what you do on an average workday, or how you would describe this job to someone who has never heard of it before.** 1. (Full text box) 2. (Not sure) 3. (Prefer not to say)
C8	**You said earlier that you do not currently have a paid job and that you are not looking for work. What would you say is your main activity?** 1. Unpaid work 2. Home duties 3. Looking after child / children 4. Travel or holiday / gap year 5. Illness / unable to work 6. Pregnant / preparing for birth 7. Study / training 8. Carer for another person 9. Waiting for course to start / looking to enrol 10. Unemployed and looking for work 11. Recreational activities (such as socialising, hobbies, playing sport or video games) 12. Doing nothing 13. Other (please specify) 14. (Not sure) 15. (Prefer not to say)

D. Study	
D2	**Earlier you mentioned that you are currently studying or enrolled to study. The next few questions are all about your studies. What level of study is it?** 1. Postgraduate level (PhD, master's) 2. Graduate diploma / Graduate certificate 3. Bachelor degree 4. Advanced diploma / Associate degree / Diploma 5. Certificate IV 6. Certificate III 7. Certificate II 8. Certificate I 9. Apprenticeship 10. Traineeship 11. Other (please specify) 12. (Not sure) 13. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: We're interested in the highest level qualification you are currently studying or enrolled to study. This includes apprenticeships, traineeships or study at TAFE.	
D2a	**What level is your apprenticeship or traineeship?** 1. Advanced diploma / Associate degree / Diploma 2. Certificate IV 3. Certificate III 4. Certificate II 5. Certificate I 6. Other (please specify) 7. (Not sure) 8. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Most apprenticeships are a Certificate Level III.	
D3a	**What type of education institution do you attend / will you be attending?** 1. TAFE or government vocational education and training (VET) provider 2. Private training college or adult and community education provider 3. University 4. Other (please specify) 5. (Not sure) 6. (Prefer not to say)

D. Study	
PRED4	**Are you undertaking a double degree?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
D3c	**Are you / will you be studying full-time or part-time?** 1. Full-time 2. Part-time 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If you expect to complete all the course work in the time it typically takes to complete the course respond full-time. If you are taking fewer subjects/units and taking longer than the typical time to complete the course respond part-time.	
D4	**What field of education is the closest match to your first degree / degree / course or area of study?** **If you are undertaking a double degree, please indicate your other field of education at the next question.** 1. Natural and physical sciences (such as statistics, astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, zoology, marine science, microbiology, pharmacology) 2. Information technology (such as computer graphics, systems analysis) 3. Engineering and related technologies 4. Architecture and building 5. Agriculture, environmental and related studies 6. Health (such as medicine, nursing) 7. Education (such as teaching) 8. Management and commerce (such as accounting, marketing, banking and finance) 9. Society and culture (such as law, political science, police studies, librarianship, philosophy, religious studies, sports coaching) 10. Creative arts (such as graphic design, performing arts, journalism, photography, floristry, jewellery making) 11. Food, hospitality and personal services (such as butcher, baker, hospitality) 12. Mixed field programs (such as employment skills, general education, social skills programs) 13. Other (specify) 14. (Not sure) 15. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: If you are studying an arts degree but have not yet chosen a major please select 'Society and culture'.	

D. Study	
D4a	**What field of education is the closest match to your second degree?** 1. Natural and physical sciences (such as statistics, astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, zoology, marine science, microbiology, pharmacology) 2. Information technology (such as computer graphics, systems analysis) 3. Engineering and related technologies 4. Architecture and building 5. Agriculture, environmental and related studies 6. Health (such as medicine, nursing) 7. Education (such as teaching) 8. Management and commerce (such as accounting, marketing, banking and finance) 9. Society and culture (such as law, political science, police studies, librarianship, philosophy, religious studies, sports coaching) 10. Creative arts (such as graphic design, performing arts, journalism, photography, floristry, jewellery making) 11. Food, hospitality and personal services (such as butcher, baker, hospitality) 12. Mixed field programs (such as employment skills, general education, social skills programs) 13. Other (specify) 14. (Not sure) 15. (Prefer not to say)
D4ac	**What field of education is the closest match to your first degree / degree / course or area of study?** **Options of narrow fields of education based on previous answer.**
D4bc	**What field of education is the closest match to your first degree / degree / course or area of study?** **Options of narrow fields of education based on previous answer.**

M. Early entry offers	
M0	**While in Year 12, did you plan on going to university?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
The next few questions are about early entry offers you may have applied for or received from universities.	
M1	**How many university early entry offers did you apply for?** 0. None 1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5+ 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
M2	**How many early entry offers did you receive?** 0. None 1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5+ 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
M3	**How many early entry offers did you accept?** 0. None 1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5+ 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: Accepting an offer refers to early entry offers you accepted before you sat the HSC.	

M. Early entry offers	
M4	**Did you accept an early entry offer for the course you most preferred?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
For the next questions, please think about the best offer you accepted.	
M5	**Which application process did you use to gain this offer?** 1. Direct application to a university 2. The Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) 3. The Educational Access Schemes (EAS) 4. Equity scholarships 5. Other (please specify) 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
M6	**In approximately what month last year did you receive this offer?** 1. March 2. April 3. May 4. June 5. July 6. August 7. September 8. October 9. November 10. (Not sure) 11. (Prefer not to say)
M7	**In approximately what month last year did you accept this offer?** 1. March 2. April 3. May 4. June 5. July 6. August 7. September 8. October 9. November 10. (Not sure) 11. (Prefer not to say)

M. Early entry offers	
For the next questions, please think about the best offer you accepted.	
M8	**Please select the conditions that you needed to meet to enrol in this course. Select all that apply.** 1. Completing the HSC 2. Completing the International Baccalaureate 3. Minimum ATAR 4. Specific subject band(s) 5. Selecting the early entry offer course as your first preference in your UAC application 6. Other specific university criteria 7. (Not sure) 8. (Prefer not to say)
M9	**On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not stressed at all and 10 is extremely stressed, how stressed were you about/regarding your studies ...** **a) Before receiving this offer** **b) After receiving this offer** **c) After accepting this offer** 0. 0 Not stressed at all 1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 6. 6 7. 7 8. 8 9. 9 10. 10 Extremely stressed 11. (Not sure) 12. (Prefer not to say)

M. Early entry offers	
M10	**On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is extremely low and 10 is extremely high, what was your effort level regarding your studies ...** **a) Before receiving this offer** **b) After receiving this offer** **c) After accepting this offer** 0. 0 Extremely low 1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 6. 6 7. 7 8. 8 9. 9 10. 10 Extremely stressed 11. (Not sure) 12. (Prefer not to say)

E. Demographics	
Now we have a few questions about you. **If necessary:** This is important for us to know so that we can understand what people from similar backgrounds are doing after leaving school.	
E3	**How do you describe your gender?** 1. Man / male 2. Woman / female 3. Non-binary 4. I use a different term (specify) 5. (Prefer not to say)
E1	**Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?** 1. Aboriginal 2. Torres Strait Islander 3. Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 4. No / neither 5. (Not sure) 6. (Prefer not to say)
E2	**Do you speak a language other than English at home?** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)
E10	**Do you have any disabilities or additional learning needs?** **This includes mental health, behavioural or emotional issues. We are particularly interested in those that have lasted, or are likely to last, 6 months or more.** 1. Yes 2. No 3. (Not sure) 4. (Prefer not to say)

E. Demographics	
E11	**What disability or additional learning needs do you have? Please select all that apply.** 1. Autism 2. Learning or intellectual disability 3. Speech or language impairment 4. Physical disability / injury 5. Deaf 6. Hearing impairment / hard of hearing 7. Blind or low vision 8. Sensory 9. Mental health issues 10. Behavioural issues 11. Emotional issues 12. Other (specify) 13. (Not sure) 14. (Prefer not to say)

G. Parental SES

Now we are coming to the last section of the survey. We are going to ask some routine questions about your background. Remember that all your answers remain confidential.

If necessary: We ask these questions so that we can get an idea of the backgrounds of different groups of people.

The next few questions are about your parents or guardians.

We ask these questions so that we can get an idea of the backgrounds of different groups of people.

Interviewer notes:

- If blended / mixed families, ask about the parents or step-parents living in the same household.
- If separated family where QR lives with one parent in same household, ask about both parents even if one is not in the same household.
- If parent deceased, information may still be collected, but requires some sensitivity. Can otherwise skip through.
- If no parent, but, for example, a female guardian / male guardian, ask about guardians.
- If, for example, no father figure in life at any time, record as such (will skip remaining father questions).
- For Aboriginal students, 'aunties', 'uncles' or 'grandparents' may be the relevant guardian.

G. Parental SES	
E4_NEW	**What was the highest level of schooling completed by your mother (or female caregiver)?** **If necessary:** • If your 2 main caregivers are male, what was the highest level of schooling completed by your first male caregiver? • 'Did they complete Year 12 or did they leave before then?' • 'If you're not sure, that's okay.' 1. Year 9 or equivalent or below 2. Year 10 or equivalent 3. Year 11 or equivalent 4. Year 12 or equivalent 5. (No mother / female guardian figure in life at any time) 6. I have not had contact with my mother or a female guardian 7. (Not sure) 8. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer note: For persons who never attended school, mark 'Year 9 or equivalent or below'.	
E5_NEW	**What is the highest post-school qualification your mother (or female caregiver) has completed, if any?** **If necessary:** • If your 2 main caregivers are male, what was the highest post-school qualification your first male caregiver completed? • 'If you're not sure, that's okay.' 1. No post-school qualification 2. Certificate I to IV (including trade certificate) 3. Diploma / Advanced Diploma 4. Bachelor degree or above 5. (Not sure) 6. (Prefer not to say)

G. Parental SES

E6_NEW	**Which group best describes your mother's (or female caregiver's) occupation?** **If necessary:** • If your 2 main caregivers are male, what is your first male caregiver's occupation? 1. Was not in paid work in the last 12 months 2. Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers 3. Tradespeople, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staffNEW 4. Other business managers, arts / media / sportspersons and associate professionals 5. Senior management in large business organisation, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)

Interviewer notes:
- If your mother / female / first caregiver is retired or stopped work in the last 12 months, choose the group in which they used to work.
- If they are deceased, please think about what they were doing before they passed away.
- Avoid part-time or hobby jobs in retirement. Ensure that QR understands question is about 'occupation' not 'industry'. If respondent says 'doesn't have a job because disabled or injured', then code to 1.

E7_NEW	**What was the highest level of schooling completed by your father (or male caregiver)?** **If necessary:** • If your 2 main caregivers are female, what was the highest year of school your second female caregiver completed? • 'Did they complete Year 12 or did they leave before then?' • 'If you're not sure, that's okay.' 1. Year 9 or equivalent or below 2. Year 10 or equivalent 3. Year 11 or equivalent 4. Year 12 or equivalent 5. (No father / male guardian figure in life at any time) 6. I have not had contact with my father or a male guardian 7. (Not sure) 8. (Prefer not to say)

Interviewer note:
For persons who never attended school, mark 'Year 9 or equivalent or below'.

G. Parental SES	
E8_NEW	**What is the highest post-school qualification your father (or male caregiver) has completed, if any?** **If necessary:** • If your 2 main caregivers are female, what was the highest post-school qualification your second female caregiver completed? • 'Have they gone to University or TAFE, or completed a trade?' • 'If you're not sure, that's okay.' 1. No post-school qualification 2. Certificate I to IV (including trade certificate) 3. Diploma / Advanced Diploma 4. Bachelor degree or above 5. (Not sure) 6. (Prefer not to say)
E9_NEW	**Please choose the group that best describes your father's (or male caregiver's) occupation?** • If your 2 main caregivers are female, choose the group that best describes your second female caregiver's occupation?.' 1. Was not in paid work in the last 12 months 2. Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers 3. Tradespeople, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff 4. Other business managers, arts / media / sportspersons and associate professionals 5. Senior management in large business organisation, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals 6. (Not sure) 7. (Prefer not to say)
Interviewer notes: • If your father / male / second caregiver is retired or stopped work in the last 12 months, choose the group in which they used to work. • If they are deceased, please think about what they were doing before they passed away. • Avoid part-time or hobby jobs in retirement. Ensure that QR understands question is about 'occupation' not 'industry'. If respondent says 'doesn't have a job because disabled or injured', then code to 3.	