

# Summary of 2023 early school leavers survey

<b>A. Current status</b>	
<b>A3</b>	<p><b>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?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No, I did not leave school before completing Year 12</li> <li>3. No, I am doing the International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>4. No, I completed Year 12 and was awarded a HSC</li> <li>5. No, I completed Year 12 but was not awarded a HSC</li> <li>6. (Not sure)</li> <li>7. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>A4</b>	<p><b>Have you returned to secondary or high school studies this year?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No</li> <li>2. Yes, I have returned to secondary school studies this year / I never left high school</li> <li>3. Yes, I am doing the IB</li> <li>4. Yes, but I have changed schools this year</li> <li>5. Yes, but I am now doing the HSC in TAFE</li> <li>6. (Not sure)</li> <li>7. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> 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'.</p>	
<b>A5a</b>	<p><b>Do you currently have a paid job?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. (Not sure)</li> <li>4. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> Paid work includes apprenticeships, traineeships, self-employment, family business or farm, as long as work is paid. Casual, intermittent work is also included.</p>	
<b>A5b</b>	<p><b>Are you currently looking for work?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. (Not sure)</li> <li>4. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>A. Current status</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Is your paid job part of an apprenticeship or traineeship?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Yes, apprenticeship</li><li>2. Yes, traineeship</li><li>3. No / neither</li><li>4. Not sure)</li><li>5. (Prefer not to say)</li></ol>
<b>A6</b>	<b>Are you currently studying or enrolled in further study including a traineeship or apprenticeship or at TAFE?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Yes –currently studying</li><li>2. Yes –enrolled but not yet started (including deferred / gap year)</li><li>3. No</li><li>4. (Not sure)</li><li>5. (Prefer not to say)</li></ol>
<b>Interviewer note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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’.</li></ul>	

**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. (Not sure)
22. (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? 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. Other (specify)
22. (Not sure)
23. (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.

<b>C. Employment</b>	
<b>C3</b>	<p><b>Would you prefer to be working more hours?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. (Not applicable)</li> <li>4. (Not sure)</li> <li>5. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>C4</b>	<p><b>What is your main job?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sales assistant (general)</li> <li>2. Checkout operator</li> <li>3. Kitchen hand</li> <li>4. Storeperson</li> <li>5. Café worker</li> <li>6. Waiter</li> <li>7. Building and plumbing labourer</li> <li>8. Bar attendant / barista</li> <li>9. Other job</li> <li>10. (Not sure)</li> <li>11. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> The main job is the one in which you work the most hours at in an average week.</p>	
<b>C4b</b>	<p><b>What is your main job?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full title of main job</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> 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).</p>	
<b>C4a</b>	<p><b>Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Full text box)</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>C. Employment</b>	
<b>C5</b>	<p><b>What apprenticeship are you doing?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carpenter and joiner</li> <li>2. Motor mechanic</li> <li>3. Plumber</li> <li>4. Electrician</li> <li>5. Hairdresser</li> <li>6. Chef</li> <li>7. Metal fitter / turner / machinist</li> <li>8. Structural steel and welding trades worker</li> <li>9. Butcher and smallgoods maker</li> <li>10. Cabinetmaker</li> <li>11. Air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic</li> <li>12. Bricklayer and stonemason</li> <li>13. Gardener</li> <li>14. Other</li> <li>15. (Not sure)</li> <li>16. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>C5b</b>	<p><b>What apprenticeship are you doing?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full title of main job</li> <li>2. (Not sure / prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> 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).</p>	
<b>C5a</b>	<p><b>Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?</b> <b>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.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Full text box)</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>C6</b>	<p><b>What traineeship are you doing?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Childcare</li> <li>2. Café worker</li> <li>3. Office administration (general clerk)</li> <li>4. Retail operations (sales assistant (general))</li> <li>5. Farm, forestry and garden worker</li> <li>6. Gardener</li> <li>7. Concreter</li> <li>8. Other</li> <li>9. (Not sure)</li> <li>10. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>C. Employment</b>	
<b>C6b</b>	<p><b>What traineeship are you doing?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full title of main job</li> <li>2. (Not sure / prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> 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).</p>	
<b>C6a</b>	<p><b>Can you please describe the title of your job and the main tasks and duties you have in that role?</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Full text box)</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>C8</b>	<p><b>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?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unpaid work</li> <li>2. Home duties</li> <li>3. Looking after child / children</li> <li>4. Travel or holiday / gap year</li> <li>5. Illness / unable to work</li> <li>6. Pregnant / preparing for birth</li> <li>7. Study / training</li> <li>8. Carer for another person</li> <li>9. Waiting for course to start / looking to enrol</li> <li>10. Unemployed and looking for work</li> <li>11. Recreational activities (such as socialising, hobbies, playing sport or video games)</li> <li>12. Doing nothing</li> <li>13. Other (please specify)</li> <li>14. (Not sure)</li> <li>15. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>D. Study</b>	
<b>D2</b>	<p><b>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?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Postgraduate level (PhD, master's)</li> <li>2. Graduate diploma / graduate certificate</li> <li>3. Bachelor degree</li> <li>4. Advanced diploma / associate degree / diploma</li> <li>5. Certificate IV</li> <li>6. Certificate III</li> <li>7. Certificate II</li> <li>8. Certificate I</li> <li>9. Apprenticeship</li> <li>10. Traineeship</li> <li>11. Other (please specify)</li> <li>12. (Not sure)</li> <li>13. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> We're interested in the highest level qualification you are currently studying or enrolled to study. This includes apprenticeships, traineeships or study at TAFE.</p>	
<b>D2a</b>	<p><b>What level is your apprenticeship or traineeship?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced diploma / associate degree / diploma</li> <li>2. Certificate IV</li> <li>3. Certificate III</li> <li>4. Certificate II</li> <li>5. Certificate I</li> <li>6. Other (please specify)</li> <li>7. (Not sure)</li> <li>8. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>D3a</b>	<p><b>What type of education institution do you attend / will you be attending?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TAFE or government VET provider</li> <li>2. Private training college or adult and community education provider</li> <li>3. University</li> <li>4. Other (please specify)</li> <li>5. (Not sure)</li> <li>6. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>



<b>D. Study</b>	
<b>PRED4</b>	<p><b>Are you undertaking a double degree?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. (Not sure)</li> <li>4. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>D3c</b>	<p><b>Are you / will you be studying full-time or part-time?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full-time</li> <li>2. Part-time</li> <li>3. (Not sure)</li> <li>4. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> 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.</p>	
<b>D4</b>	<p><b>What field of education is the closest match to your first degree / degree / course or area of study?</b></p> <p><b>If you are undertaking a double degree, please indicate your other field of education at the next question.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural and physical sciences (such as statistics, astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, zoology, marine science, microbiology, pharmacology)</li> <li>2. Information technology (such as computer graphics, systems analysis)</li> <li>3. Engineering and related technologies</li> <li>4. Architecture and building</li> <li>5. Agriculture, environmental and related studies</li> <li>6. Health (such as medicine, nursing)</li> <li>7. Education (such as teaching)</li> <li>8. Management and commerce (such as accounting, marketing, banking and finance)</li> <li>9. Society and culture (such as law, political science, police studies, librarianship, philosophy, religious studies, sports coaching)</li> <li>10. Creative arts (such as graphic design, performing arts, journalism, photography, floristry, jewellery making)</li> <li>11. Food, hospitality and personal services (such as butcher, baker, hospitality)</li> <li>12. Mixed field programs (such as employment skills, general education, social skills programs)</li> <li>13. Other (specify)</li> <li>14. (Not sure)</li> <li>15. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer note:</b> If you are studying an arts degree but have not yet chosen a major please select 'Society and culture'.</p>	

**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)

**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)

<b>E. Demographics</b>	
<b>E2</b>	<p><b>Do you speak a language other than English at home?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. (Not sure)</li> <li>4. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>E10</b>	<p><b>Do you have any disabilities or additional learning needs?</b>  <b>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.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Not sure</li> <li>4. Prefer not to say</li> </ol>
<b>E11</b>	<p><b>What disability or additional learning needs do you have? Select all that apply.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Autism</li> <li>2. Learning or intellectual disability</li> <li>3. Speech or language impairment</li> <li>4. Physical disability / injury</li> <li>5. Deaf</li> <li>6. Hearing impairment / hard of hearing</li> <li>7. Blind or low vision</li> <li>8. Sensory</li> <li>9. Mental health issues</li> <li>10. Behavioural issues</li> <li>11. Emotional issues</li> <li>12. Other (specify)</li> <li>13. (Not sure)</li> <li>14. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

### **G. Parental SES**

Now we are coming to the last section of the survey. <I am / 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.

**When answering the following questions please think about your family situation. If you have a blended or mixed family please think about your parents or step-parents living in the same household. If your family is separated and you live with one parent, please answer in relation to that parent and the parent who does not live with you.**

## G. Parental SES

### 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 there is a female guardian / male guardian, ask about guardians.
- If, for example, there is 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.

<p><b>E4</b></p>	<p><b>What was the highest year of school your mother (or female caregiver) completed?</b> (If your 2 main caregivers are male, what was the highest year of school your first male caregiver completed?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary schooling only</li> <li>2. Started high school but left before Year 10</li> <li>3. Finished Year 10 / School Certificate / O levels</li> <li>4. Finished Year 12 / HSC / A levels / International Baccalaureate</li> <li>5. No schooling</li> <li>6. No mother or female guardian figure in life at any time / I have not had contact with my mother or a female guardian</li> <li>7. (Not sure)</li> <li>8. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>E5</b></p>	<p><b>What was the highest post-school qualification your mother (or female caregiver) has completed, if any?</b> (If your 2 main caregivers are male, what was the highest post-school qualification your first male caregiver completed?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apprenticeship or trade certificate / TAFE certificate I-IV / VET certificate I-IV</li> <li>2. VET diploma / advanced diploma</li> <li>3. University undergraduate degree / bachelor degree / honours degree / graduate diploma</li> <li>4. Postgraduate degree / master's / doctoral degree / PhD</li> <li>5. Some other qualification (please specify)</li> <li>6. No post-school qualification</li> <li>7. (Not sure)</li> <li>8. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>G. Parental SES</b>	
<b>E6</b>	<p><b>What is your mother's (or female caregiver's) occupation?</b> (If your 2 main caregivers are male, what is your first male caregiver's occupation?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently employed</li> <li>2. Retired</li> <li>3. Unemployed / unable to work due to illness / injury / disability</li> <li>4. Home duties</li> <li>5. Never had a job</li> <li>6. (Not sure)</li> <li>7. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your mother or female / first caregiver is deceased, please think about what they were doing before they passed away.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>E6a</b>	<p><b>Can you please describe the title of your mother's (or female caregiver's) job and the main tasks and duties they have in that role?</b> (If your 2 main caregivers are male, can you please describe the title of their job and the main tasks and duties your first male caregiver has / had in that role?)</p> <p><b>Think about what they do, or did, on an average workday, what kind of company they work for, or how you would describe this job to someone who has never heard of it before.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Full text box)</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>E7</b>	<p><b>What was the highest year of school your father (or male caregiver) completed?</b> <b>If necessary:</b> (If your 2 main caregivers are female, what was the highest year of school your second female caregiver completed?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary schooling only</li> <li>2. Started high school but left before Year 10</li> <li>3. Finished Year 10 / School Certificate / O levels</li> <li>4. Finished Year 12 / HSC / A levels / International Baccalaureate</li> <li>5. No schooling</li> <li>6. No father or male guardian figure in life at any time / I have not had contact with my father or a male guardian</li> <li>7. (Not sure)</li> <li>8. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>

<b>G. Parental SES</b>	
<b>E8</b>	<p><b>What is the highest post-school qualification your father (or male caregiver) has completed, if any?</b></p> <p>(If your 2 main caregivers are female, what was the highest post-school qualification your second female caregiver completed?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apprenticeship or trade certificate / TAFE certificate I–IV / VET certificate I–IV</li> <li>2. VET diploma / advanced diploma</li> <li>3. University undergraduate degree / bachelor degree / honours degree / graduate diploma</li> <li>4. Postgraduate degree / master’s / doctoral degree / PhD</li> <li>5. Some other qualification (please specify)</li> <li>6. No post-school qualification</li> <li>7. (Not sure)</li> <li>8. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<b>E9</b>	<p><b>What is your father’s (or male caregiver’s) occupation?</b></p> <p>(If your 2 main caregivers are female, what is your second female caregiver’s occupation?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently employed</li> <li>2. Retired</li> <li>3. Unemployed / unable to work due to illness / injury / disability</li> <li>4. Home duties</li> <li>5. Never had a job</li> <li>6. (Not sure)</li> <li>7. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Interviewer notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your father or male / second caregiver is deceased, please think about what they were doing before they passed away.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>E9a</b>	<p><b>Can you please describe the title of your father’s (or male caregiver’s) job and the main tasks and duties they have in that role?</b></p> <p>(If your 2 main caregivers are female, can you please describe the title of their job and the main tasks and duties your second female caregiver has / had in that role?)</p> <p><b>Think about what they do, or did, on an average workday, what kind of company they work for, or how you would describe this job to someone who has never heard of it before.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Full text box)</li> <li>2. (Not sure)</li> <li>3. (Prefer not to say)</li> </ol>