

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Finding your first real job: The impact of education

This description created:	January 2009
Project no.	NY08105
Theme:	Students and individuals – Careers and pathways – Pathways after compulsory education Students and individuals – Learner groups – Young people
Project type:	Research – national managed research program
Project approach:	Quantitative
Time frame:	February 2009 – November 2009
Principal researchers:	Prof Sue Richardson, National Institute of Labour Studies (NILS), Flinders University Prof Kostas Mavromaras, NILS Dr Laurence Lester, NILS Mr Darcy Fitzpatrick, NILS Ms Lulu Sun, NILS
Research contact:	Prof Sue Richardson Director National Institute of Labour Studies Flinders University sue.richardson@flinders.edu.au
NCVER contact:	Ms Michelle Circelli Senior Research Officer, Research Management michelle.circelli@ncver.edu.au

LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH (LSAY) RESEARCH INNOVATION AND EXPANSION FUND ANALYSIS GRANTS PROGRAM:

This project has been funded under the Research Innovation and Expansion Fund (RIEF) Analysis Grants Program. The RIEF has been established to provide researchers with the opportunity to use data from the LSAY and to widen the community of researchers with experience in this data. The Analysis Grants Program is one element of the RIEF and complements the broader LSAY Analytical Program (www.lsay.edu.au) being conducted by NCVER on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

The aim of the research is to understand the impact that different levels and types of education have on the experience of job search and on its outcomes. Particular attention will be paid to how the duration and outcomes of search differ for youth who undertake a) an apprenticeship, b) a Certificate III that is not an apprenticeship, c) a degree, and d) leave school without completing year 12. All analysis will distinguish the experience of women from that of men.

RESEARCH QUESTION:

The main research question which the research will address is:

How do different levels and types of education impact on the experience of job search and on its outcomes?

In contrast to previous research, this project will:

- use the longitudinal feature of the LSAY data to investigate the important causes of successful first employment at a causal level;
- include young people who entered higher education after leaving school in order to give a more complete picture of the impact of education on early career experience; and
- examine outcomes for young people both with and without university degrees.

METHODOLOGY:

There are two main stages to the project:

- *Literature review and data familiarisation*
A review of literature will be conducted (relating to education-to-work transition models) from national and international perspectives. This stage will also be used to become familiar with the LSAY data. During this stage, the terms 'successful' employment or 'real' job will be defined as there appears to be no consistent definition in the literature that determines the first period of employment. A closer examination of the LSAY data will also be undertaken to determine whether it would be possible to investigate the influences of unemployment duration and accepted wage on the duration of individuals' first period of employment. The Y95 dataset will be used in this project.
- *Model development and estimation*
This stage will be used to develop the most appropriate education-to-work model to use in duration analysis and to then estimate the model.

THE ORGANISATION:

The National Institute of Labour Studies (NILS) is one of Australia's leading independent research centres. Operating from Flinders University, we have been serving government agencies at national and State level, overseas governments, large companies, trade unions and other groups for over 30 years. We are multidisciplinary, having high level research skills in economics (both theoretical and applied), demography, statistics, industrial relations, sociology, geography, and psychology. The multidisciplinary character of our research team provides us with a diverse and flexible analytical capacity. This capacity encompasses high-level skills in the analysis of survey and census data using sophisticated quantitative techniques. Our remit is labour studies broadly defined, and we conduct projects on a range of diverse topics, such as the youth labour market, skills and skill formation, workforce planning in major industries (e.g., mining), immigration, work and health, and particular workforces (e.g., community services, health, mining). We continuously review trends and developments in the Australian labour market and demographics, and place these in an international context. We do independent scholarly research, which continually refreshes and deepens our understanding of contemporary labour market issues. NILS edits and publishes an academic journal, The Australian Bulletin of Labour, and NILS staff undertake independent scholarly research.