

## What is LSAY?

LSAY aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the pathways of young people from compulsory schooling to further education, training and employment and allows for examination of factors predicting particular outcomes. The survey has an employment and education focus, but also tracks other relevant transition factors and is designed to support government programmes and policies in the area of youth.

### LSAY and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has been contracted to manage LSAY since 2007. LSAY is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, with support from state and territory governments.

LSAY is a large, nationally representative longitudinal survey of Australian youth that follows young people over a 10 year period as they transition from school into study, work and other destinations.

## Who are the cohorts?

Approximately 10,000 school students aged 15 are initially recruited into the study through OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). These young people are surveyed each year until they turn 25, allowing changes to their circumstances to be observed. LSAY includes 6 cohorts: the Y95 cohort, Y98, Y03, Y06, Y09 and Y15 cohorts.

<b>Y95</b>	1995–2006	<b>Y06</b>	2006–2016
<b>Y98</b>	1998–2009	<b>Y09</b>	2009–2019
<b>Y03</b>	2003–2013	<b>Y15</b>	2015–2025

## Current LSAY modules

### School

- Subjects studied - including VET subjects
- Post-school plans
- Early school leavers

### Post-school study

- TAFE and registered training organisation (RTO) enrolment
- University enrolment
- Apprenticeship and traineeship enrolment
- Reasons for withdrawing or deferring from study

### Employment

- Job history
- Months worked
- Occupation and industry classifications
- Job satisfaction

### Income

- Paid employment
- Government pensions or benefits
- Any other regular source

### Looking for work

- Months looking for work
- Job search activity
- Job search experience

### Household demographics

- Captures respondent's living arrangements

### Health\*

- Physical health is captured in a single question, the Short Form 1 Health Survey (SF-1)
- Mental health is captured using a shortened version of the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6)

### Future modules considered for inclusion in later waves

- Disability status
- Reasons for taking a gap year
- Influence and barriers to choosing STEM courses
- Indigenous status
- Children
- Grit
- Self-esteem
- Entrepreneurship
- Digital literacy
- Gender role attitudes
- Financial literacy
- Leisure interests
- Reasons for disengagement from employment, education and training

## Collecting the data

Data are collected by Wallis Market and Social Research through both telephone interviews and online via web based survey software. The online mode was introduced in 2012, with this option growing in popularity year on year.



Phone interviews



Online survey

## New content for a new cohort

For the Y15 cohort, a number of new internationally comparable measures have been introduced. These will explore young people's transitions from school to post-school destinations.

### Soft skills

- Based on the Framework for 21st Century Skills:
- creativity and innovation
  - problem solving
  - critical thinking
  - oral communication
  - teamwork.

### Personality assessment

The 'Big Five' personality factors of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism\* and openness will be captured using the Big Five Inventory 10 (BFI-10), which was also successfully adapted for use in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

### Wellbeing

The 5-item OECD subjective measure of wellbeing has been selected for inclusion in LSAY – 3 of the 5 items will be excluded until wave 4 when respondents are 18 years old.

### Career advice and decision making

This includes plans for the short and longer term, the major influences on respondents aspirations, confidence of completing their current or future study, barriers to completing study and activities undertaken to assist in planning for the future.

### Caring for others

Explores how much time respondents care for others – including children, the elderly and people with a long-term health problem or disability.

### Self-control\*

Measured using an adapted version of the Brief Self-Control Scale (BSCS).

### Volunteering

Captures participation in volunteering for organisations such as charities, sporting teams and environmental groups.

### Self-esteem\*

The single item self-esteem measure (SISE), has been selected for inclusion in LSAY.

### Engagement in education

Capturing respondents' engagement in both secondary and post-school study.

## New survey, new research opportunities

### New measures

With the introduction of these new measures, NCVER predicts increased interest in the LSAY dataset from experts in these areas.

These new measures will contribute to further understanding of the factors that impact young people's pathways and will help to inform policy around their futures.

The Y15 survey is currently in the field and data will be available in late 2017.

### Accessing LSAY data

LSAY data is freely available upon request through the Australian Data Archive (ADA). Just fill out the data request and undertaking forms available on the ADA website: [www.ada.edu.au/longitudinal/lsay](http://www.ada.edu.au/longitudinal/lsay)

**Contact us**  
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\* From wave 4 onwards when respondents are 18 years old.