

Foreword

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) are a series of nationally representative surveys of young people, which follow their transitions from compulsory schooling to post-school education and into employment. The survey program is administered by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

LSAY commenced in 1995 and follows over 10 000 young Australians from each of six cohorts from the ages of 15 to 25. As one of the few longitudinal surveys in the world with multiple cohorts, LSAY gives researchers and policymakers insight into the diverse pathways taken by young people in Australia and how these have changed over time.

This publication presents research highlights from the past 25 years of the LSAY program, with a focus on schooling, VET in schools programs, the influences of socioeconomic status and demographics on later opportunities, and pathways taken from school into further education and the workforce. This publication is not an exhaustive reflection of LSAY's long research history but aims to showcase the value of the data. Research has been chosen to demonstrate the broad utility of LSAY, and we are grateful to the authors both within and outside NCVER for agreeing to showcase their research.

More than 300 studies have been published using LSAY data, and an additional 2400 studies have cited work published under the LSAY research program. Interest in LSAY data continues to increase, with 2018 and 2019 setting consecutive records for numbers of applications from prospective researchers.

The past two and half decades of LSAY research have generated a wealth of interesting, insightful, and sometimes surprising findings. With the newest cohort incorporating even more diverse modules about life experiences and the issues facing those making the transition from secondary school through to employment, LSAY continues to be an invaluable resource for learning about the experiences of young people in Australia.

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