

# On Track 2019: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

## About the study

Since 2003 the annual On Track survey has followed the outcomes of Victorian students who finish Year 12 and those who leave school before completion. Between April and July 2019, the Department surveyed 26,851 students who completed Year 12 (46 per cent of the Year 12 cohort) and 2,130 students who had left school in Years 10, 11 or 12 (13 per cent of the non-completer cohort). This included 15,285 female, 13,674 male and 22 gender X (undefined) respondents. Gender X respondents' data are included in the analysis below.

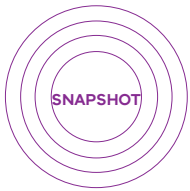


## KEY FINDINGS 2019

**The 2019 On Track survey results are consistent with those of previous years. While results in this snapshot focus on 2019, comparisons are made back to 2015.**

Destination patterns still hold in the outcomes for young people after school based on whether or not they completed Year 12. Differences in post-school destinations also hold true when looking at different student demographics, for example gender, residential location and school sector.

<p>Young people who complete Year 12 are significantly more likely to continue their education and training journey than seek employment in the workplace</p>	<p>75%</p>	<p><i>A large majority enrol in a Bachelor degree at university</i></p>	<p>54%</p>
<p>Differences in the destinations of young people who do not complete Year 12 are not as stark, with a smaller majority continuing on to education and training</p>	<p>54%</p>	<p><i>Many of these young people choose to take up an apprenticeship or traineeship</i></p>	<p>33%</p>



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		2015	2019
While overall rates of young people entering further education and training have remained stable, there has been some movement within individual pathways.	Lower proportions of Year 12 completers are continuing their education through a Certificate or Diploma.	16%	13%
	There has been an increase in the proportion of Year 12 non-completers choosing to become an apprentice or trainee.	28%	33%

		Year 12 completers	Year 12 non-completers
One similarity between the two groups is in preferred employment destinations, with preferences also reflecting those reported in 2015.	Food, Hospitality and Tourism' and 'Sales/Store person' remain the two most popular employment fields among Victorian young people, regardless of their level of school completion.	59%	55%

		2015	2019
While general trends are continuing for post-school destinations, there have been some slight changes in study choices.	Health is now the preferred course of study for students who completed Year 12.	17% #2	19% #1
	Society and Culture has become the preferred course of study for those who did not complete Year 12.	13% #2	16% #1



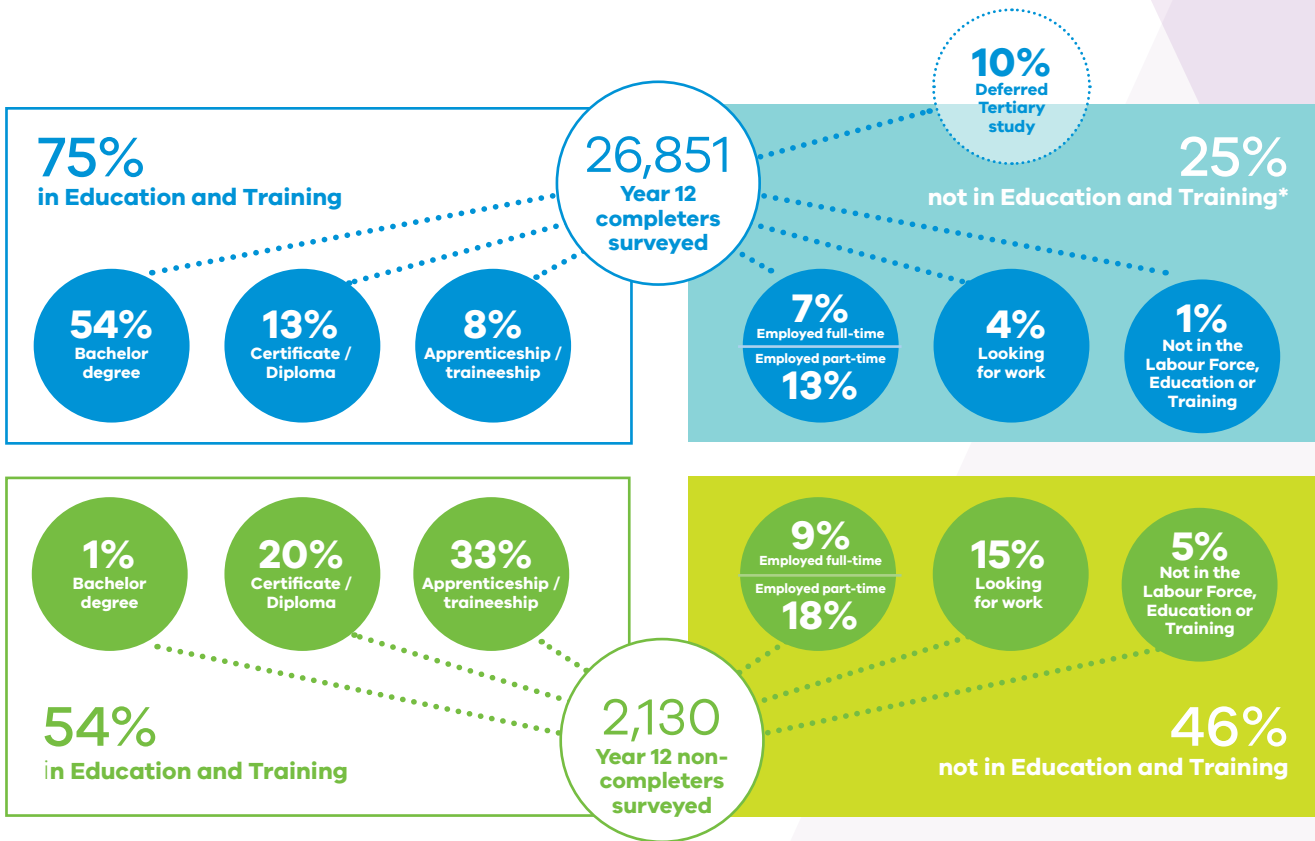
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Destination patterns of Year 12 completers and non-completers differ.

Despite minor fluctuations across years, young people who complete Year 12 continue to pursue further education or training opportunities at greater proportions than those students who leave school prior to Year 12 completion. In 2019, three quarters of Year 12 completers were enrolled in education or training six months after finishing school, compared with just over half of those who left school early.

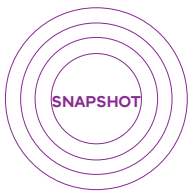
A significantly greater number of students who complete Year 12 continue their studies through a Bachelor degree than any other education or training pathway. At just under 55 per cent in 2019, this figure has remained stable for the last five years.

Young people who left school in 2018 prior to completing Year 12 were more likely to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship than other Year 12 non-completers since 2015 (just under one-in-three in 2018 compared to 28 per cent in 2015). This figure has been steadily increasing over the past five years, with an associated drop in the proportion of those undertaking a Certificate/Diploma.



\*Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Note: Please note that (a) data relating to total proportions of Year 12 completers does not include students who had deferred tertiary study (10% in 2019, a figure consistent with previous reports) and (b) throughout the report, total percentages may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

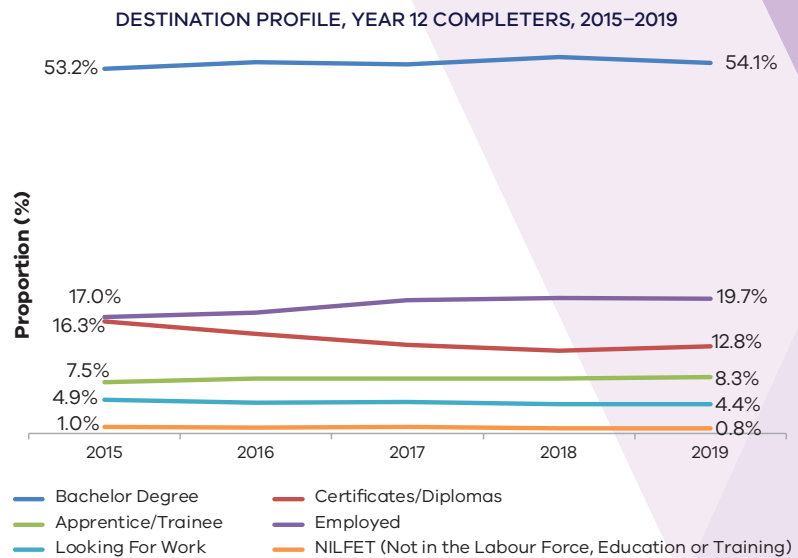
<sup>1</sup>Formerly referred to as early leavers.



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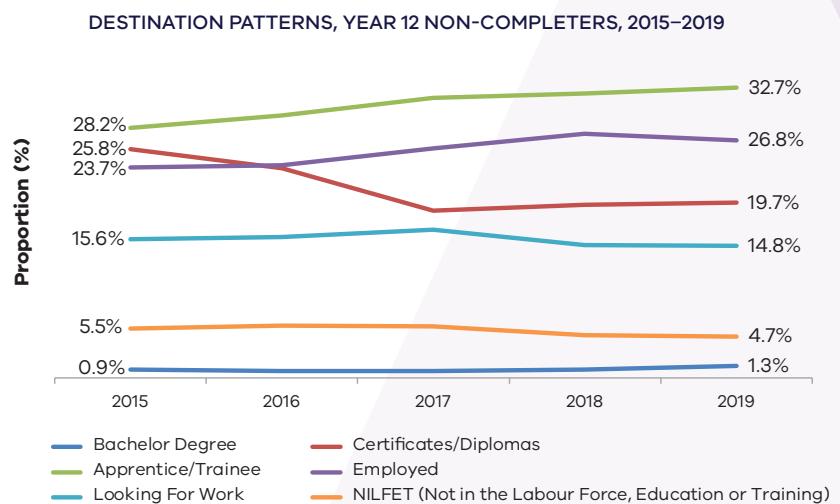
The proportion of students completing Year 12 and pursuing a Certificate or Diploma has dropped over the past five years.

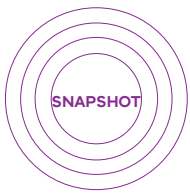
The 2019 On Track survey results show that the proportion of Year 12 completers going on to study a Certificate or Diploma continues to remain low compared to the last five years (13 per cent in 2019 compared with 16 per cent in 2015). This is the most significant change for this cohort over the past five years of the survey; proportions of young people reporting that they were studying a Bachelor degree remain stable (at just over half of all Year 12 completers surveyed) while there has been a near three percentage point increase in those attaining employment and a smaller increase in those undertaking an apprenticeship/traineeship (0.8 percentage point increase since 2015).



The proportion of students not completing Year 12 and going on to an apprenticeship or traineeship continues to increase.

One-third of Year 12 non-completers undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship in the year after they leave school. This proportion has steadily increased since 2015 (33 per cent in 2019 compared to 28 per cent in 2015), driven by growth in the uptake of apprenticeships as opposed to traineeships (where participation has actually declined). The proportion of non-completers undertaking Certificates/Diplomas has decreased substantially over the last five years, dropping from one-in-four in 2015 to one-in-five in 2019, while those in employment has increased by three percentage points.





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Why do students not complete Year 12?	Reason for leaving school early			
		2018	2019	
Commonly cited reasons from students who do not complete Year 12 include 'a feeling that school wasn't good for them', 'they didn't like school' or that 'they found it too hard'. Results for the 2019 cohort show slight differences in the most common 'push' factors for students not completing Year 12 when compared to 2018. 'Work or career reasons' remain the most common 'pull' factor for leaving school without completing Year 12, with 23 per cent of non-completers reporting this as the reason they left school (stable when compared to 22 per cent in 2018). The second most commonly reported 'pull' factor was to study elsewhere, at TAFE, or a different course (5 per cent).	PUSH FACTORS	School was not for me/school was not a good environment/I was not learning	12%	9%
		Did not like school/ teachers/was not interested in going	11%	16%
		Ill health	9%	11%
	PULL FACTORS	Work or career reasons	22%	23%
		Study elsewhere/TAFE/different course	4%	5%

Employment preferences have remained relatively consistent, while there has been some variations in chosen fields of study.	Top primary fields of study 2015-2019			
		2015	2017	2019
<p><b>What are Victorian young people choosing to study?</b></p> <p>Health remains the most popular field of study for Victorian Year 12 completers, with one-in-five (19 per cent) undertaking health related studies as part of a Bachelor degree, Certificate or Diploma course at a University or TAFE. There have been some slight decreases in the proportion of Year 12 completers studying Management and Commerce or the Creative Arts when compared to figures for 2015. Despite a slight increase over the past five years, Health remains only the fifth most common field of study amongst Year 12 non-completers, with Society and Culture now the preferred course for this cohort (overtaking Food, Hospitality and Personal Services in 2018).</p> <p>Changes in study preferences may in some way be explained by changing social priorities. For example, heightened awareness of the future need for healthcare workers may partly be driving the increasing numbers of Year 12 completers choosing this course of study.</p>	Year 12 completers	17.3%	18.3%	19.4%
	Year 12 non-completers	13.4%	15.7%	16.3%



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Where are Victorian young people seeking employment?

At the time of the 2019 On Track survey, nearly 6,000 Victorian young people (5,849) were in part-time (3,879) or full-time (1,970) employment, and nearly 1,500 (1,488) were looking for work.

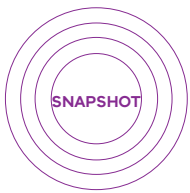
For those in employment, the preferred workforces have remained largely unchanged when compared with previous years. In 2019, the five most popular employment destinations reflected those in 2015 for both cohorts (with a slight variation in ranking). Young people in Victoria who do not continue in education or training are most likely to enter employment in Food, Hospitality and Tourism, Sales Assistants and Store persons, or Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers, regardless of whether they completed Year 12 or left school early.

Increases in the proportions of young people seeking employment in Building and Construction (Year 12 non-completers) and as Labourers, Factory and Machine workers (Year 12 completers) may reflect Victoria's increased investment and focus on improved infrastructure.

### TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS, ON TRACK 2015 AND 2019

	2015	Rank	2019
YEAR 12 COMPLETERS	Sales Assistants and Storepersons <b>31.6%</b>	1	<b>30.7%</b> Food, Hospitality and Tourism
	Food, Hospitality and Tourism <b>30.1%</b>	2	<b>28.4%</b> Sales Assistants and Storepersons
	Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers <b>7.7%</b>	3	<b>9.5%</b> Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers
	Clerks, Receptionists and Secretaries <b>4.1%</b>	4	<b>4.9%</b> Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty
	Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty <b>3.9%</b>	5	<b>4.7%</b> Clerks, Receptionists and Secretaries
YEAR 12 NON-COMPLETERS	Food, Hospitality and Tourism <b>27.7%</b>	1	<b>29.1%</b> Food, Hospitality and Tourism
	Sales Assistants and Storepersons <b>21.0%</b>	2	<b>25.5%</b> Sales Assistants and Storepersons
	Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers <b>13.4%</b>	3	<b>10.4%</b> Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers
	Gardening, Farming and Fishing <b>7.6%</b>	4	<b>8.1%</b> Building and Construction
	Building and Construction <b>6.8%</b>	5	<b>7.2%</b> Gardening, Farming and Fishing

In 2018, Teaching, Childcare and Library was the fourth most common employment destination for Year 12 completers with nearly five per cent of Year 12 completers in employment entering the workforce in these areas. In 2019, Teaching, Childcare and Library no longer featured in the top 5 employment destinations for this group.



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**Post-school destinations change according to different student characteristics.**

The On Track survey provides information on post-school pathways by selected student characteristics, including gender, location and English speaking background. For both cohorts of students (those who complete Year 12 and those who don't) the following trends can be seen:

- males are more likely to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship, while females are more likely to pursue further education\*
- higher proportions of students with a language background other than English enrol in a Bachelor degree or Certificate /Diploma than those of English-speaking backgrounds
- young people in non-metropolitan Victoria are more likely to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship than their metropolitan counterparts.

*\*Please note that data represented by gender is described as male and female. This analysis does not include respondents who identified as undefined gender or incomplete responses. Statewide results include all respondents (male, female, undefined, self-described and incomplete responses).*

**Perceptions of careers advice and education vary for Year 12 completers and non-completers.**

In 2019, young people who completed Year 12 found careers advice more useful than non-completers overall (77 per cent of completers reporting somewhat/very useful compared with 65 per cent of non-completers). However, for Year 12 completers, this proportion has declined over time from a high of 82 per cent in 2018.

Attendance or participation in career activities is mixed across the two groups. Generally speaking, higher proportions of Year 12 completers engaged with career activities, the only exception being TAFE taster programs or information sessions organised through the student's school. 45 per cent of young people who did not complete Year 12 attended such a program, compared to 34 per cent of Year 12 completers.

The top three activities of choice for each group of students have remained the same (albeit with some movement in ranking) over the last five years.

	2019 results and rank			
	Year 12 completers	RANK		Year 12 non-completers
Search on-line for career options at school	80%	1	2	57%
Receive written material about career and study options	78%	2	1	64%
Have a one-on-one talk with the school's career advisor	76%	3	3	56%

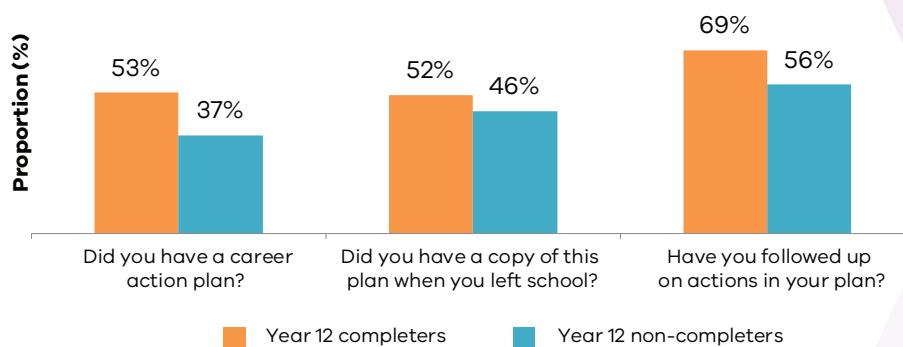


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Of those students who answered questions relating to Career Action Plans...

...around half the Year 12 completer group (53 per cent or 166 students) and around one-third of those students who did not complete Year 12 (37 per cent or 35 students) completed a Career Action Plan prior to the end of 2018. Of all students who completed a plan, around half took a copy of the plan with them when they left school. There was a slight difference between the two groups in following up on actions contained within their plan: the proportion of Year 12 completers who responded positively to this question in the 2019 On Track survey is thirteen percentage points higher than that for those students who did not go on to complete Year 12.

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS WITH A CAREER ACTION PLAN BY COMPLETION STATUS, 2019



Differences in student pathways between school sectors remain evident.

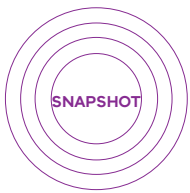
Students from the non-government sector continue to complete their schooling and pursue a Bachelor degree at greater proportions than students from Victoria's government schools. Subsequently, students from the government sector are more likely to undertake a Certificate/Diploma, apprenticeship or traineeship, or be employed six months after leaving school.

2019 On Track results show that close to two-thirds of students who left a non-government school after completing Year 12 went on to study a Bachelor degree, compared to just under one-half of students from the government sector. The proportion of students from government schools in a Bachelor degree six months after school's end is also under the Victorian average (54 per cent).

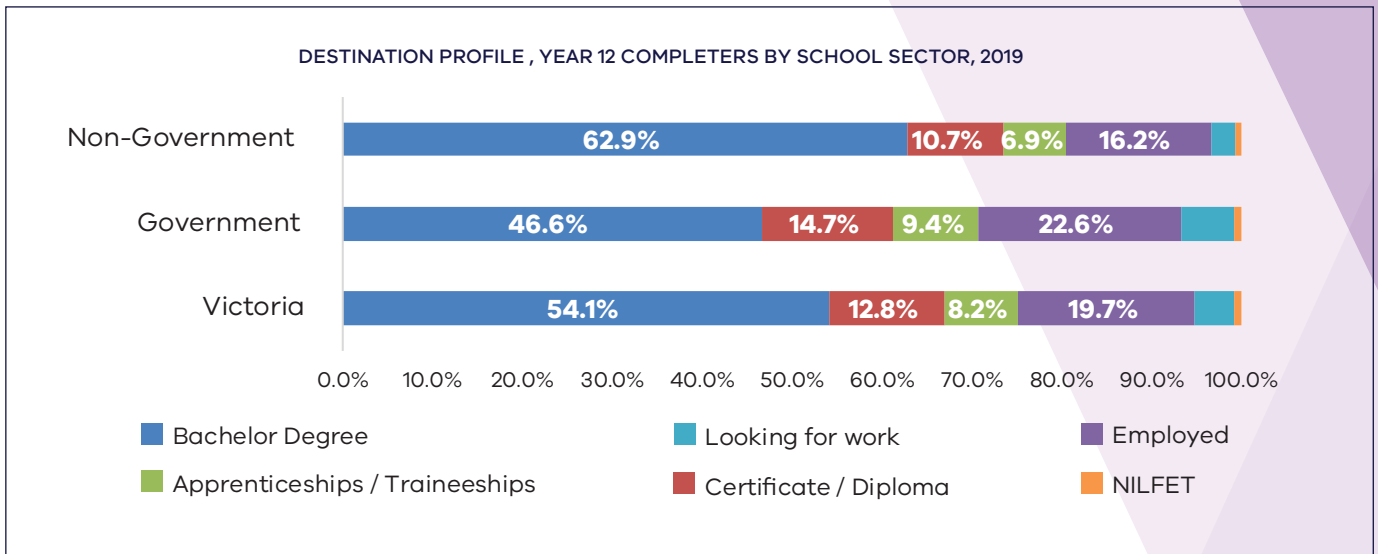
### Key findings over time

- There has been a consistent decline in government school students continuing on into education and training after completing Year 12 (decreasing from 78 per cent in 2018 to 71 per cent in 2019), compared to rates for non-government school students remaining stable (81 per cent in 2018 and 80 per cent in 2019).
- While there are declining Bachelor degree enrolments across all sectors, this is particularly so for students from government schools (from 55 per cent in 2018 to 46 per cent in 2019).
- From 2018 to 2019 there was a substantial increase across all sectors in students going straight into employment after Year 12.
- We have seen increases in the number of both government and non-government school students looking for work.





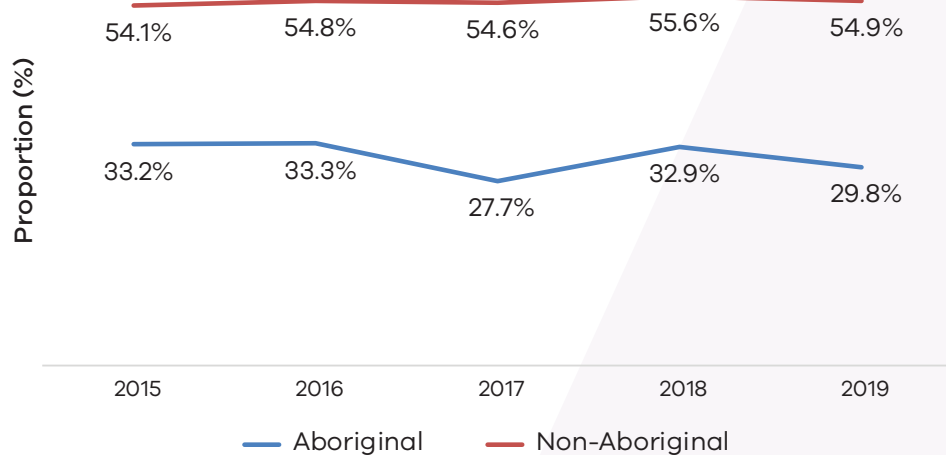
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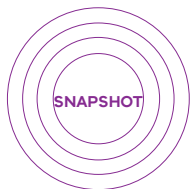


**There has been substantial fluctuation in the proportion of Aboriginal students completing Year 12 and enrolling in a Bachelor degree.**

Thirty per cent of Aboriginal students who completed Year 12 in 2018 were enrolled in a Bachelor degree six months later. While this is low compared to non-Aboriginal Year 12 completers (55 per cent) and the overall figure for Victoria (54 per cent), significantly lower numbers of Aboriginal young people surveyed makes it difficult to draw strong conclusions about what this data is telling us, given that small movements in such small numbers would lead to large fluctuations in proportions of the population (in 2019, the number of young people surveyed who identified as Aboriginal was around one per cent of the total survey sample).

YEAR 12 COMPLETERS ENROLLED IN A BACHELOR DEGREE AT A UNIVERSITY OR TAFE BY ABORIGINAL STATUS (2019)



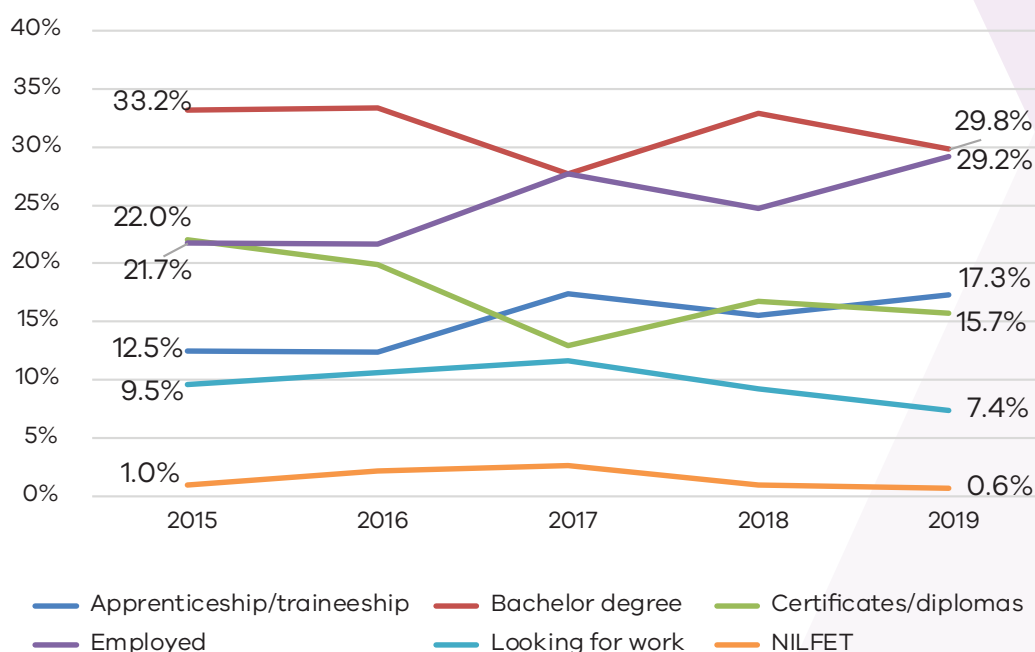


## On Track 2019: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

Despite fluctuations between years, some general trends have emerged over the past five years in the destinations of Aboriginal students who go on to complete Year 12.

Each year since 2015, between 50-to-60 per cent have gone on to either employment or study at the Bachelor degree level. Reflecting statewide trends, there has also been a decrease in the proportion pursuing a Certificate or Diploma, with an increase in apprenticeships and traineeships. Since 2017, there has been a consistent reduction in the proportion of Aboriginal Year 12 completers looking for work.

DESTINATION PATTERNS, YEAR 12 COMPLETERS, BY ABORIGINAL STATUS, 2015-2019



### Find out more

Contact the Performance Insights Team: [insights.and.evidence@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:insights.and.evidence@edumail.vic.gov.au)