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**PARTICIPATION IN
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NEW ISSUE

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
QUEENSLAND OFFICE**

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PARTICIPATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, QUEENSLAND, OCTOBER 1984

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MAIN FEATURES

- Parents of students in non-government secondary schools have higher expectations than those of students in government secondary schools. Almost 82 per cent of students in non-government schools were expected to complete Year 12 compared with 66 per cent of students in government schools.
- The aspirations of parents for children in Years 8 to 11 to complete Year 12 vary from 100 per cent of students with a parent holding a degree to 73 per cent of students whose parents had only primary education.
- Parents in the income group below \$200 per week expect 62 per cent of their children in Years 8 to 11 to complete Year 12, while parents in the \$500 per week and over income group expect 78 per cent of their children in Years 8 to 11 to complete Year 12.
- The main reason for completing secondary school for government school students was "Year 12 will help get a better job" (31.5 per cent). The corresponding figure for non-government school students was 23.2 per cent. The main reason given for non-government school students was "needs Year 12 for university or college" (30.5 per cent). The corresponding figure for government school students was 28.4 per cent.
- The survey also looked at changes which might encourage students, expected to leave before completing Year 12, to remain at school. For over one-quarter of these students there were no changes which would encourage them to stay at school. However, "subjects more closely related to future jobs" was a change which was thought might encourage almost 66 per cent of students and "more flexible courses", 42 per cent.
- The expectations of parents for children attending secondary school are significantly higher than realised, as demonstrated by school attendance figures. According to this survey almost 70 per cent of students attending Years 8 to 11 are expected to complete Year 12, compared with the Apparent Grade Retention Rate of 53 per cent calculated from the 1984 Schools Census.

Note. Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability as explained in the Technical Notes on pages 17 and 18.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains the results of a survey conducted throughout Queensland in October 1984 to investigate factors relating to participation in secondary education. The survey, conducted as a supplement to the Australia-wide monthly population survey, was carried out at the request of the Queensland Government.

The survey investigated the reasons why students stay at school until Year 12 and why students leave school before Year 12. In addition, details of parents' expectations, aspirations, and socio-economic characteristics were collected. Other likely influences affecting attendance at a secondary school, e.g. career aspirations and transience, were investigated.

Monthly Population Survey

The monthly population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, caravan parks, etc.). The sample covers about two-thirds, of 1 per cent of the civilian population of Australia and includes slightly more than two-thirds of 1 per cent of the population of Queensland. Information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings.

Participation In Secondary Education Survey

The survey was conducted using the sample of occupied private dwellings in Queensland which were included in the monthly population survey. This provided a sample of more than 5,200 dwellings where full response was obtained.

Information was obtained from a parent or guardian for each person in the scope of the survey.

Scope

All persons aged 13 to 20 years attending secondary school were included in the scope of the survey except:

- residents of non-private dwellings (boarding schools, hotels, motels, caravan parks, etc.);
- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from Census and estimated populations;
- overseas visitors holidaying in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Persons aged 13 to 20 years living in private dwellings away from their parents/guardians are not included in this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES (continued)

Scope (continued)

Most of the definitions and terminology used agree with those used in other education statistics series. Refer to Related Publications below for details.

Table Populations

Students have been allocated to one or more categories depending on a parent's aspirations or a parent's aspirations/expectations combined. Therefore it is possible for a student to be included in a table containing students who may complete Year 12 and also in a table containing students expected to leave before Year 12.

Definitions

Students. Persons enrolled or registered and active in a course of study at a secondary school.

Parent's aspirations. Parents/guardians were asked which year they would like each child included in the survey to complete. These data were collected primarily to investigate the influence of a parent's aspirations rather than as an indication of likely participation in secondary education.

Parent's expectations. In addition to being asked which year they would like each child to complete, parents/guardians were asked which year they thought each child would complete. These data are considered to give a more realistic indication of retention rates and are a useful variable for cross-classification.

Students who may complete Year 12 comprise students in Year 12 at the time of the survey and students in Years 8 to 11 whose parents think they will or would like them to complete Year 12.

Students expected to leave before Year 12 comprise students whose parents/guardians think they will leave before Year 12. This includes students whose parents/guardians would like them to complete Year 12 but think they will leave beforehand.

Most important reason/likely influence for leaving before Year 12. Parents who indicated that they thought their child would leave before Year 12 were asked to indicate the reasons why they might leave. Parents who thought that their child would complete Year 12 were asked to indicate any likely influences for leaving, as a large percentage of this group actually leave school before completing Year 12.

Reliability of the Estimates

All estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of the dwellings included in the sample. Thus they may differ from the figures that would have resulted if the information had been obtained from the occupants of all private dwellings in Queensland. An indication of the likely differences in terms of standard errors is given in the Technical Notes on pages 17 and 18.

Comparability with Data from Other Sources

Differences between estimates in this publication and in other publications relating to the October 1984 monthly population survey are caused by the exclusion of the non-private dwelling sample from this supplement to the monthly population survey. Other factors, including the use of a sample rather than a census, affect the comparability of the data in this publication with information from other sources.

Estimates of secondary school students included in this survey vary from the Schools Census figures because of the exclusion from the survey of some secondary students (boarding school, transition, and 12 year old students and other students not living at home).

In addition, the different reference dates (July for the census and October for the survey) account for differences in student age data.

Related Publications

Users may wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

"Primary and Secondary Education" (4204.3)

"Government Schools" (4206.3)

"Reasons for Completion and Non-Completion of Secondary Education, Australia" (4214.0)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the "Catalogue of Publications" (Catalogue No. 1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office.

Unpublished Statistics

The ABS can also make available certain statistics of this survey which are not published. Where it is not practicable to provide the required statistics by telephone, they may be available in other forms, such as photocopy, computer printout, or clerically extracted tabulation. A charge may be made for providing unpublished statistics in these forms.

Explanatory Notes (continued)Unpublished Statistics (continued)

For further information on these unpublished statistics contact Malcolm Greig by telephoning Brisbane (07) 222 6264, or write to Information Services at the address above.

Symbols and Other Usages

.. Not applicable.

= Nil or less than half the final digit shown.

Symbols and Other Usages (continued)

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. (See Technical Notes on pages 17 and 18.)

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

D. N. ALLEN

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

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545 Ann Street,
BRISBANE 4000

28 October 1985

Diagram 1 - Students in Years 8 to 12: Current Year of Education by Type of School, Queensland, October 1984

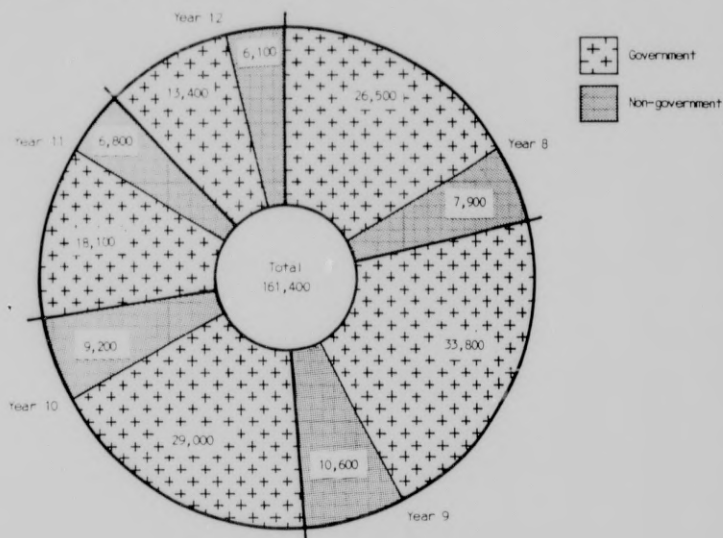
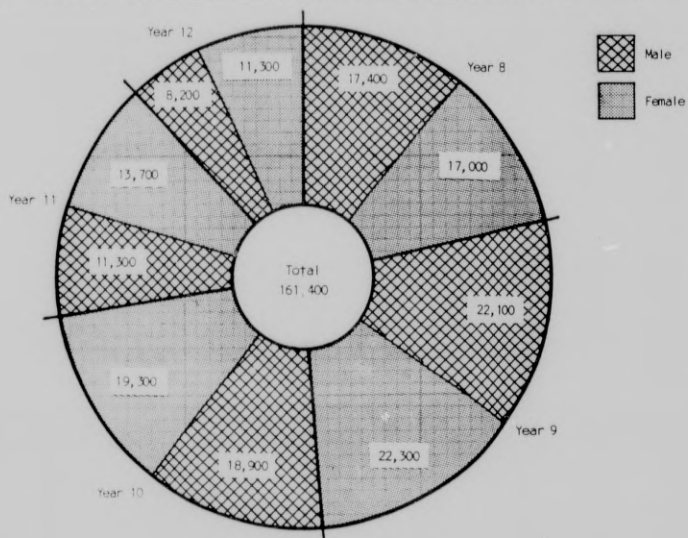


Diagram 2 - Students in Years 8 to 12: Current Year of Education by Sex, Queensland, October 1984



1. PARENT'S ASPIRATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

In this section the survey results show that a parent's aspirations for a student to complete Year 12 do not vary greatly by the type of school attended or by the sex of the student. Significant differences, however, are evident with regard to the actual year a parent thinks the student will complete (parent's expectations).

Parents expected 81.6 per cent of students in non-government schools to complete Year 12 compared with 65.5 per cent of students in government schools (see Table 1). For all schools, 72.2 per cent of female students were expected to complete Year 12 compared with 66.6 per cent of male students (see Table 2).

Diagram 3 - Parent's Aspirations and Expectations for Students to Complete Year 12 by Type of School, Queensland,

October 1984

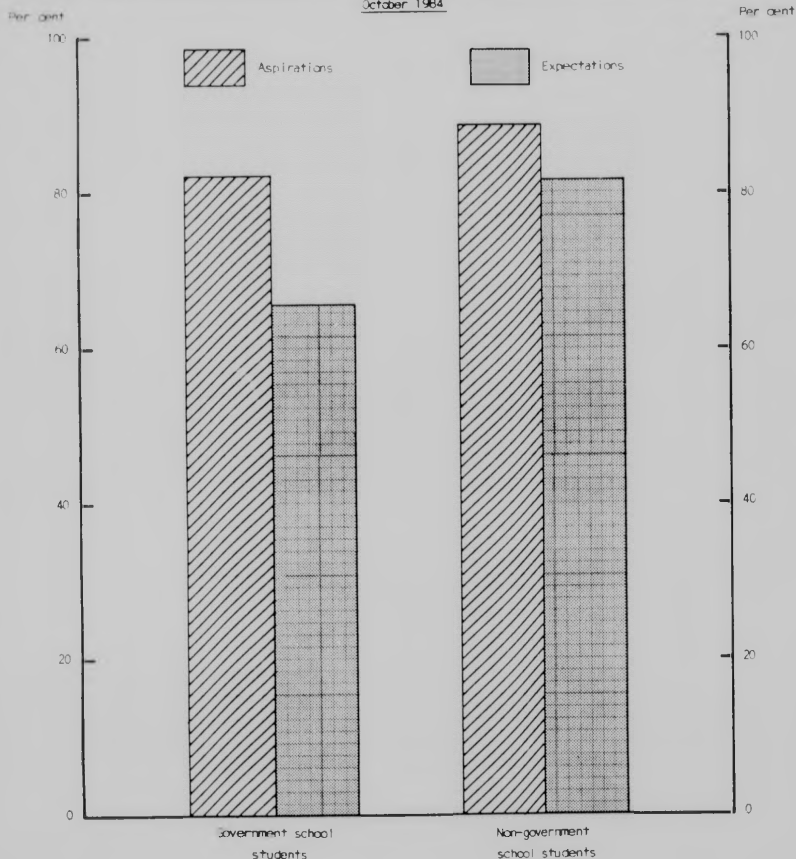


Table 1 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Parent's Aspirations and Expectations (a) by Type of School,
Queensland, October 1984

Particulars	Students				Total	
	At government schools		At non-government schools			
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<u>Parent's aspirations</u>						
Would like student to complete Year 12	88.2	82.1	30.6	88.6	118.8	83.7
Other lower aspirations ..	15.8	14.7	2.5	7.3	18.3	12.9
<u>Total (b)</u>	107.4	100.0	34.5	100.0	141.9	100.0
<u>Parent's expectations</u>						
Thinks student will complete Year 12	70.4	65.5	28.2	81.6	98.6	69.5
Other lower expectations ..	31.7	29.6	5.7	16.5	37.4	26.4
<u>Total (c)</u>	107.4	100.0	34.5	100.0	141.9	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes.

(b) Including 4,900 students whose parents did not mind which year they completed.

(c) Including 5,900 students whose parents did not know which year they might complete.

Table 2 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Parent's Aspirations and Expectations (a) by Sex of Student,
Queensland, October 1984

Particulars	Students				Persons	
	Males		Females			
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<u>Parent's aspirations</u>						
Would like student to complete Year 12	57.9	83.1	60.9	84.2	118.8	83.7
Other lower aspirations **	9.0	12.9	9.3	12.9	18.3	12.9
<u>Total (b)</u> ** **	69.7	100.0	72.3	100.0	141.9	100.0
<u>Parent's expectations</u>						
Thinks student will complete Year 12	46.4	66.6	52.2	72.2	98.6	69.5
Other lower expectations **	20.0	28.7	17.4	24.1	37.4	26.4
<u>Total (c)</u> ** **	69.7	100.0	72.3	100.0	141.9	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes.

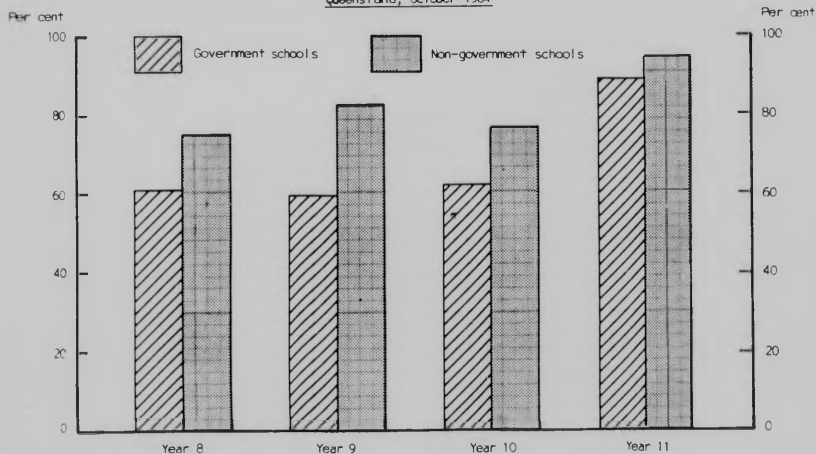
(b) Including 4,900 students whose parents did not mind which year they completed.

(c) Including 5,900 students whose parents did not know which year they might complete.

Table 3 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Parent's Expectations by Current Year of Education and Type of School,
Queensland, October 1984
(*'000)

Current year of education and type of school					Parent's expectations			Total
					Year 12	Less than Year 12	Don't know/ don't mind	
<u>Government schools</u>								
Year 8	**	**	**	**	16.1	8.9	*	26.5
Year 9	**	**	**	**	20.2	11.0	2.6	33.8
Year 10	**	**	**	**	18.0	10.4	*	29.0
Year 11	**	**	**	**	16.1	*	*	18.1
<u>Total</u>	**	**	**	**	70.4	31.7	5.3	107.4
<u>Non-government schools</u>								
Year 8	**	**	**	**	6.0	*	*	7.9
Year 9	**	**	**	**	8.8	*	*	10.6
Year 10	**	**	**	**	7.0	*	*	9.2
Year 11	**	**	**	**	6.4	*	*	6.8
<u>Total</u>	**	**	**	**	28.2	5.7	*	34.5
<u>All schools</u>								
Year 8	**	**	**	**	22.1	10.7	*	34.4
Year 9	**	**	**	**	29.0	12.6	2.8	44.4
Year 10	**	**	**	**	25.0	12.4	*	38.2
Year 11	**	**	**	**	22.5	*	*	25.0
<u>Total</u>	**	**	**	**	98.6	37.4	5.9	141.9

Diagram 4 - Proportion of Students Expected to Complete Year 12 by Current Year of Education and Type of School,
Queensland, October 1984



2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS

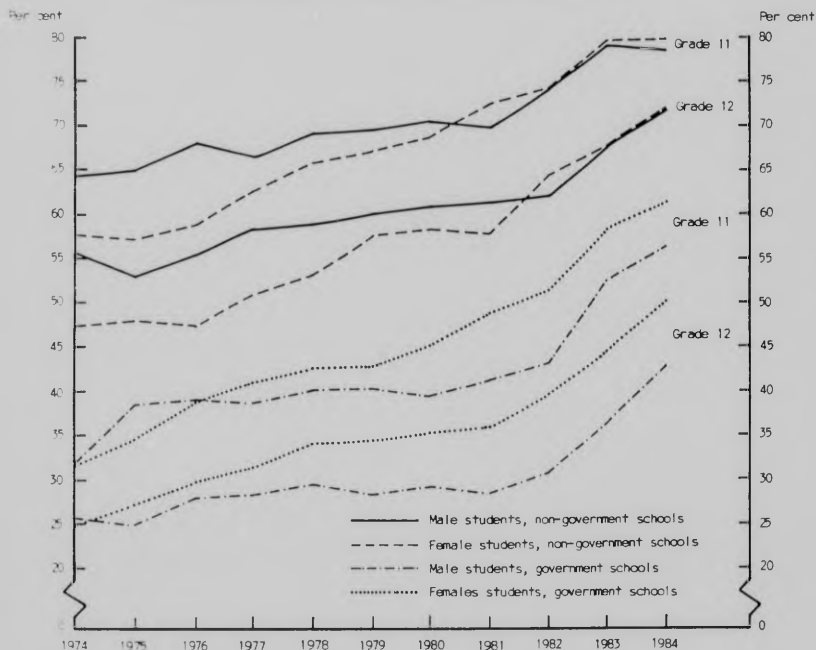
As well as the variation between a parent's aspirations and a parent's expectations, data classified by the educational qualifications of parents also shows marked differences. A parent's expectations that Year 12 would be completed range from 90 per cent of students with a parent holding a degree or higher qualification to 54 per cent of students whose parents had only primary level education.

Differences in a parent's aspirations are not as great when classified by the income group of the parents.

One parent's aspirations for each child was surveyed to investigate the influence of a parent's aspirations on the likely participation pattern of the child. While a parent's expectations give a more realistic indication of these participation patterns in secondary education, classification of data by aspirations is also of interest.

Comparison of the survey data with data available from the annual Schools Census shows that even the lower figure of a parent's expectations is higher than the Apparent Grade Retention Rate (see Diagram 5). The higher expectations of parents of female students is consistent with the higher Apparent Grade Retention Rate for female students calculated from the Schools Census figures.

Diagram 5 - Apparent Grade Retention Rates, Queensland, 1974 to 1984



Apparent Grade Retention Rates are calculated by expressing the number of students in Grades 11 or 12 in a particular year as a proportion of the number of students in the first secondary year of each group. The retention rate thus derived is called an Apparent Grade Retention Rate because the method of calculation does not explicitly take account of net changes to the school population due to migration, or of those students who spend more than one year in the same grade.

Table 4 - Students in Years 8 to 12: Parent's Aspirations and Expectations by Income Group and Educational Qualifications of Parents, Queensland, October 1984
(1000)

Income group and highest educational qualifications	Students in Years 8 to 11							Students in Year 12	Total
	Parent's aspirations			Parent's expectations			Total		
	Year 12	Less than Year 12	Don't know/ don't mind	Year 12	Less than Year 12	Don't know/ don't mind			
<u>Weekly income group of parents (a)</u>									
\$1-\$199	19.3	3.9	*	15.0	8.2	*	24.3	3.7	28.0
\$199-\$499	52.9	9.3	3.0	44.1	17.3	3.9	65.2	7.4	72.6
\$500 and over ..	35.8	*	*	30.2	8.0	*	38.8	6.7	45.5
Income not stated or not known	10.7	2.7	*	9.3	3.9	*	13.7	*	15.3
<u>Total</u> ..	118.8	18.3	4.9	98.6	37.4	5.9	141.9	19.5	161.4
<u>Highest educational qualifications of parents (b)</u>									
Degree etc. ..	11.9	*	*	10.7	*	*	11.9	3.3	15.2
Certificate or Diploma (trade, technical, or other) ..	44.5	6.0	*	37.6	12.6	*	52.2	6.8	58.9
Secondary school ..	50.0	8.7	*	41.1	17.5	*	61.0	6.7	67.7
Primary school ..	11.9	3.4	*	8.9	6.0	*	16.3	2.7	19.0
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<u>Total</u> ..	118.8	18.3	4.9	98.6	37.4	5.9	141.9	19.5	161.4

(a) Including combined gross income from all sources.

(b) Educational qualifications of either parent, whichever is the higher.

Table 5 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Parent's Aspirations and Expectations by Income Group and Educational Qualifications of Parents, Queensland, October 1984

Income group and highest educational qualifications of parents	Students In Years 8 to 11				Total
	Parent's aspirations for Year 12		Parent's expectations for Year 12		
	Number	Proportion of total in each group	Number	Proportion of total in each group	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000
<u>Weekly income group of parents (a)</u>					
\$1-\$199	19.3	79.6	15.0	61.6	24.3
\$199-\$499	52.9	81.1	44.1	67.6	65.2
\$500 and over	35.8	92.3	30.2	77.8	38.8
Income not stated or not known	10.7	78.5	9.3	68.4	13.7
<u>Total</u>	118.8	83.7	98.6	69.5	141.9
<u>Highest educational qualifications of parents (b)</u>					
Degree etc.	11.9	100.0	10.7	89.6	11.9
Certificate or Diploma (trade, technical, or other)	44.5	85.3	37.6	72.1	52.2
Secondary school	50.0	82.0	41.1	67.4	61.0
Primary school	11.9	73.0	8.9	54.4	16.3
Other	*	*	*	*	*
<u>Total</u>	118.8	83.7	98.6	69.5	141.9

(a) Including combined gross income from all sources.

(b) Educational qualifications of either parent, whichever is the higher.

3. REASONS FOR STAYING AT SCHOOL

The most important reason for staying at school was asked for several categories of students.

Overall "Year 12 will help get a better job" was seen as the most important reason for staying at school for 31.5 per cent of students at government schools and 23.2 per cent of students at non-government schools. "Needs Year 12 for university or college" and "better preparation for life" were given more emphasis for students at non-government schools (30.5 per cent and 21.5 per cent, respectively) than for students at government schools (28.4 per cent and 13.3 per cent, respectively).

The current year of education of the student can influence the most important reason for staying at school given by parents. "Better preparation for life" was favoured by parents of students in the lower secondary years while, not surprisingly, interest in tertiary study was favoured for students in Years 11 and 12.

Table 6 - Students Who May Complete Year 12: Category of Student by Type of School, Queensland, October 1984 ('000)

Category of student	Type of school		Total
	Government	Non-government	
Students in Year 12	13.4	6.1	19.5
Students in Years 8 to 11			
Whose parents <u>think</u> they will complete Year 12	70.4	28.2	98.6
Whose parents would <u>like</u> them to complete Year 12 (a)	18.8	3.4	22.2
<u>Total</u>	102.6	37.7	140.3

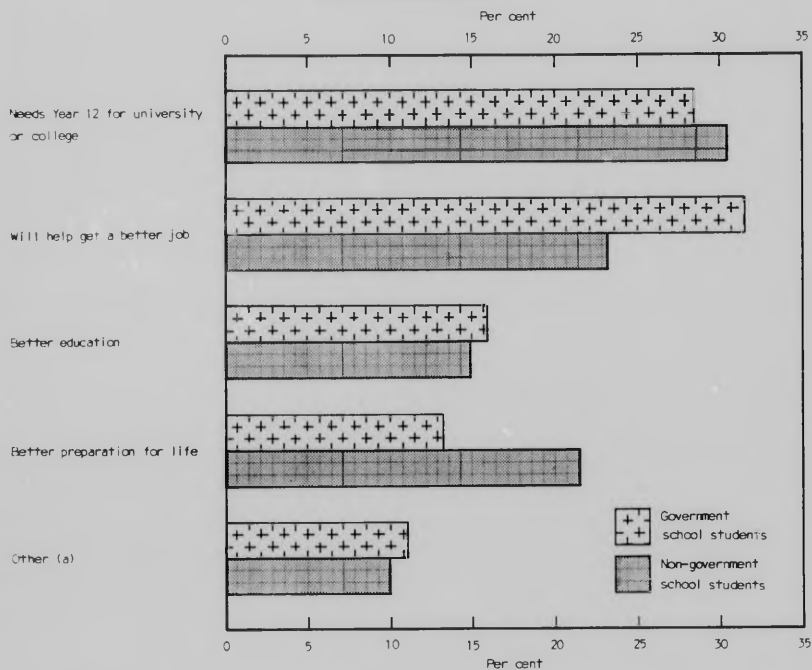
(a) Not included in the items above.

Table 7 - Students Who May Complete Year 12 (a): Most Important Reason for Staying at School by Type of School, Queensland, October 1984

Most important reason for staying at school				Students				Total	
				At government schools		At non-government schools			
				'000	\$	'000	\$	'000	\$
Needs Year 12 for university or college	..	..	..	29.1	28.4	11.5	30.5	40.7	29.0
Will help get a better job	..	..	..	32.3	31.5	8.7	23.2	41.1	29.3
Too young to work	..	..	..	*	*	*	*	3.1	2.2
Better education	..	..	..	16.3	15.9	5.6	14.9	21.9	15.6
Child wants to stay on	..	..	..	3.1	3.0	*	*	4.6	3.3
Better preparation for life	..	..	..	13.7	13.3	8.1	21.5	21.7	15.5
Unable to get a job	..	..	..	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	..	..	..	*	*	*	*	3.2	2.3
No main reason	..	..	..	2.6	2.5	*	*	3.2	2.3
Total	..	..	..	102.6	100.0	37.7	100.0	140.3	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes.

Diagram 6 - Students Who May Complete Year 12: Most Important Reason for Staying at School by Type of School, Queensland, October 1984



(a) Including "too young to work", "child wants to stay on", "unable to get a job", and "no main reason".

Table B - Students Who May Complete Year 12 (a): Most Important Reason (b) for Staying at School by Type of School and Category of Student, Queensland, October 1984

Most important reason for staying at school	Students				Total		
	At government schools		At non-government schools				
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	
Student In Year 12							
Needs Year 12 for university or college	**	6.4	47.5	2.5	41.1	8.9	45.5
Will help get a better job	**	*	18.4	*	*	4.0	20.5
Parent Thinks Student Will Complete Year 12							
Needs Year 12 for university or college	**	22.2	31.6	9.0	32.0	31.2	31.7
Will help get a better job	**	21.4	30.4	6.0	21.4	27.5	27.9
Better education	**	11.3	16.1	4.8	17.0	16.1	16.4
Child wants to stay on	**	2.5	3.5	*	*	3.8	3.9
Better preparation for life	**	9.4	13.3	6.0	21.1	15.3	15.6
Parent Would Like Student to Complete Year 12							
Will help to get a better job	**	8.4	44.8	*	*	9.6	43.2
Better education	**	3.6	19.3	*	*	4.1	18.6
Better preparation for life	**	3.3	17.3	*	*	3.8	17.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes. (b) Selected reasons only.

Table 9 - Students Who May Complete Year 12 (a): Most Important Reason for Staying at School by Current Year of Education, Queensland, October 1984

Most important reason for staying at school	Current year of education					Total	
	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12		
Number of Students ('000)							
Needs Year 12 for university or college	**	7.6	7.5	8.1	8.5	8.9	40.7
Will help get a better job	**	8.8	11.8	9.4	7.1	4.0	41.1
Better education	**	4.4	6.5	6.9	*	*	21.9
Better preparation for life	**	4.8	6.3	4.7	3.2	2.6	21.7
Other and no main reason	**	2.7	4.4	2.7	2.8	*	14.9
<u>Total</u>	**	28.3	36.6	31.8	24.1	19.5	140.3
Proportion (per cent)							
Needs Year 12 for university or college	**	27.0	20.6	25.5	35.3	45.5	29.0
Will help get a better job	**	30.9	32.3	29.4	29.7	20.5	29.3
Better education	**	15.6	17.7	21.8	*	*	15.6
Better preparation for life	**	17.0	17.3	14.9	13.3	13.5	15.5
Other and no main reason	**	9.5	12.1	8.4	11.7	*	10.7
<u>Total</u>	**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes.

Note: The proportions in Years 11 and 12 are affected by exclusion from the survey of students who leave school after Year 10.

4. REASONS OR LIKELY INFLUENCES FOR LEAVING SCHOOL

Parents of students in Years 8 to 11 were asked to indicate the most important reason or likely influence why the student might leave before Year 12. Table 10 reveals the importance attached to job-related reasons.

Because a parent's aspirations and expectations suggest a participation rate substantially higher than that which actually occurs, parents who indicated that they thought their children would complete Year 12 were asked to indicate the most important likely influence for leaving before Year 12.

Table 10 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Most Important Reason or Likely Influence for Leaving Before Year 12 by Type of School, Queensland, October 1984

Most Important reason or likely influence for leaving before Year 12	Students				Total	
	At government schools		At non-government schools			
		'000	\$	'000	\$	'000
Not coping well	9.9	11.5	3.7	14.3	13.6	12.1
Wants to get a job/wants own money ..	16.9	19.6	*	*	18.3	16.3
Offered a job	16.5	19.1	5.2	20.0	21.7	19.3
Offered an apprenticeship	15.1	17.5	6.4	24.6	21.5	19.1
Wants to do a job training course ..	14.0	16.2	3.6	13.9	17.6	15.7
School too expensive	*	*	*	*	3.5	3.1
Sees no benefit in courses offered ..	2.9	3.4	*	*	3.4	3.0
Dislikes school	3.8	4.4	*	*	5.3	4.7
Other	2.9	3.3	*	*	4.3	3.8
No most important influence	2.6	3.0	*	*	3.2	2.8
None apply or definitely not going to leave	21.0	(a)	8.7	(a)	29.6	(a)
<u>Total</u>	107.4	100.0	34.5	100.0	141.9	100.0

(a) Students in these categories have been excluded from the calculation of percentages.

Diagram 7 - Most Important Reason or Likely Influence for Leaving School Before Year 12 by Parent's Expectations, Queensland, October 1984

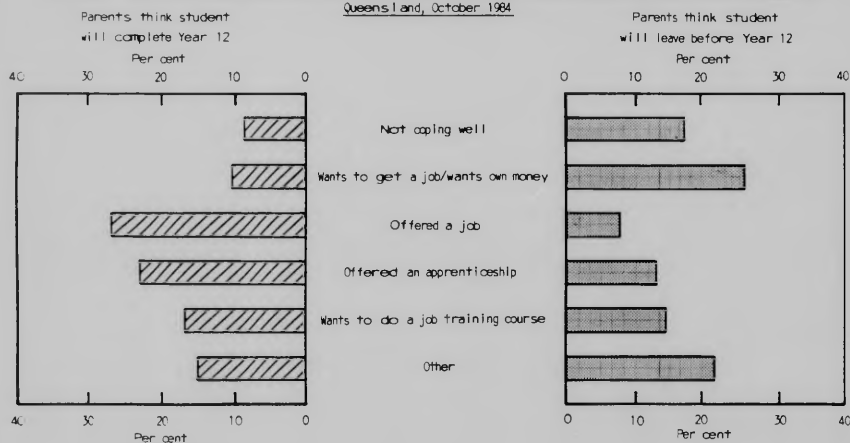


Table 11 - Students in Years 8 to 11: Most Important Reason or Likely Influence for Leaving Before Year 12 by Type of School and Parent's Expectations, Queensland, October 1984

Particulars	Students				Total	
	At government schools		At non-government schools			
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Students Whose Parents Think They Will Complete Year 12						
<u>Most important likely influence for leaving before Year 12</u>						
Not coping well	3.5	7.1	2.5	12.9	6.0	8.7
Wants to get a job/wants own money ..	6.3	12.8	*	*	7.2	10.4
Offered a job	13.5	27.3	4.8	24.6	18.3	26.6
Offered an apprenticeship	10.8	21.7	5.2	26.5	15.9	23.1
Wants to do a job training course ..	8.7	17.6	2.6	13.5	11.4	16.5
Other	6.6	13.4	3.6	18.3	10.2	14.8
None apply or definitely not going to leave	21.0	(a)	8.7	(a)	29.6	(a)
<u>Total</u>	70.4	100.0	28.2	100.0	98.6	100.0
Students Whose Parents Think They Will Leave Before Year 12						
<u>Most important reason for leaving before Year 12</u>						
Not coping well	6.4	17.3	*	*	7.6	17.5
Wants to get a job/wants own money ..	10.6	28.6	*	*	11.2	25.7
Offered a job	3.0	8.2	*	*	3.4	7.8
Offered an apprenticeship	4.3	11.7	*	*	5.5	12.8
Wants to do a job training course ..	5.3	14.3	*	*	6.2	14.4
Other	7.4	19.9	*	*	9.4	21.8
<u>Total</u>	37.0	100.0	6.4	100.0	43.4	100.0

(a) Students in these categories have been excluded from the calculation of percentages.

5. CHANGES WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE STAYING AT SCHOOL

Changes which might encourage students, expected to leave before completing Year 12, to stay on at school were investigated. For over one-quarter of this population there were no significant changes which would encourage them to stay at school. However, "subjects more closely related to future jobs" was a change favoured by almost 66 per cent of students and "more flexible courses" by 42 per cent.

Table 12 - Students Expected to Leave Before Year 12: Changes Which Might Encourage Staying at School by Type of School and Sex, Queensland, October 1984
('000)

Changes which might encourage staying at school	Students		Total		
	At government schools	At non-government schools	Males	Females	Persons
Changes					
Subjects more closely related to future jobs ** ** *	24.0	4.6	15.6	13.0	28.6
More flexible courses ** ** *	15.8	2.5	9.4	8.9	18.3
Cash payments to students or their families ** ** *	13.8	2.5	9.0	7.3	16.3
Changes to school rules or routine ** ** *	5.9	*	2.6	3.8	6.4
Other ** ** *	5.5	*	3.1	3.2	6.3
No changes (a) ** ** *	9.4	*	5.8	5.1	10.9
Total students (b) ** ** *	37.0	6.4	23.3	20.1	43.4

(a) Distinct students.

(b) As parents were able to select more than one change, the total is less than the sum of the items listed.

6. CAREER DECISION

The proportion of students who had decided on a career rose from 54 per cent of Year 8 students to 86 per cent of Year 12 students.

Table 13 - Students In Years 8 to 12: Current Year of Education by Type of School and Career Decision, Queensland, October 1984

Current year of education		Government schools		Non-government schools		All schools			
		Has decided on a career (a)	Has not decided on a career	Has decided on a career (a)	Has not decided on a career	Has decided on a career (a)		Has not decided on a career	Total (b)
		'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	%
Year 8	**	14.2	12.3	4.4	3.4	18.6	54.1	15.7	45.5
Year 9	**	18.9	14.1	6.3	4.4	25.2	56.7	18.5	41.7
Year 10	**	21.3	7.4	7.1	2.1	28.5	74.5	9.5	24.8
Year 11	**	13.5	4.5	4.0	2.6	17.5	70.1	7.2	28.7
Year 12	**	11.4	*	5.4	*	16.8	86.4	*	*
Total	**	79.3	40.3	27.2	13.0	106.5	66.0	53.3	33.0

(a) Including students who have several preferred choices.

(b) Including a small number of students whose parents did not know whether or not they had decided on a career.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Estimation procedures

The population estimates for this survey were produced by a ratio estimation technique which ensures that the estimates conform to the estimated age and sex distribution of the population rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

The statistics from the Survey on Participation In Secondary Education are subject to two types of errors:

- (i) sampling errors (Inaccuracies in the estimates because a sample was used rather than a complete count of the population - see below); and
- (ii) non-sampling errors (all other types of errors, e.g. those inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers or respondents, processing errors, etc.).

Non-sampling errors may occur in any statistical collection, whether it be a full census count or a sample survey. Every effort was made to minimise non-sampling errors in this survey by careful design of questionnaires, by intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and by adopting efficient operating procedures.

Sampling errors

The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling variability, i.e. they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all of the population had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference attributable to sampling error is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of units was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure which would have been obtained if all of the population had been included. There are about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Another measure of sampling error is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling. A table of standard errors is given below.

Standard Errors of Person Estimates, Queensland

Size of estimate	Standard errors	Relative standard error (per cent)	Range for one standard error	Range for two standard errors
2,500	640	25.45	1,860- 3,140	1,220- 3,780
3,000	690	23.16	2,310- 3,690	1,620- 4,380
4,000	800	19.19	3,200- 4,800	2,400- 5,600
5,000	880	17.67	4,120- 5,880	3,240- 6,760
6,000	960	16.02	5,040- 6,960	4,080- 7,920
8,000	1,090	13.68	6,910- 9,090	5,820- 10,180
10,000	1,200	12.09	8,800- 11,200	7,600- 12,400
20,000	1,650	8.14	18,350- 21,650	16,700- 23,300
30,000	1,930	6.42	28,070- 31,930	26,140- 33,860
40,000	2,160	5.40	37,840- 42,160	35,680- 44,320
50,000	2,350	4.72	47,650- 52,350	45,300- 54,700
100,000	3,050	3.07	96,950-103,050	93,900-106,100
200,000	3,950	1.96	196,050-203,950	192,100-207,900

TECHNICAL NOTES (continued)

The figures do not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate since they are based on calculations from a limited number of monthly population surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they do provide a suitable indication of the magnitude of the standard errors of estimates from the Survey of Participation in Secondary Education. As the standard errors in the table show, the smaller the estimate the higher the relative standard error. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication, estimates of less than 2,500 persons have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows. Table 6 shows that the estimated number of persons living at home in Year 12 is 19,500. The table above shows that the standard error for this estimate is about 1,650, i.e. 8.1 per cent of the estimate. Therefore there are two chances in three that the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey lies between 17,850 and 21,150 and there are about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 16,200 and 22,800.

Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion or percentage is given below:

$$RSE \left(\frac{X}{Y} \right) = \sqrt{[RSE(X)]^2 + [RSE(Y)]^2}$$

