

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-05 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.4 Transition through and from school

DEST Question No. E468_05

Senator Harradine provided in writing.

Question:

Has the Department carried out or commissioned research or any other work investigating the socio-economic consequences for young women who do not complete schooling? If not, has other research been carried out on this question? Please provide copies of the research or work.

Answer:

Research on the socio-economic consequences for young women

The Department undertakes and commissions research on the role of education qualifications in individuals' wellbeing during their lives, particularly in relation to their performance in the labour market. This research generally reports results by gender and the level of educational attainment, where data permit.

A key source of information on young people's progress is the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), funded by the Department. LSAY tracks young people from the age of 15 until they are around 25 years old, and provides the most comprehensive data source in Australia on young people. The Department commissions the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and other researchers to undertake analyses of these data. Most of these reports disaggregate the results by the year of school completed. Recent analysis of the pathways taken by school leavers is contained in the following reports:

- o *School Leavers in Australia: Profiles and Pathways*, Research Report No. 31 (2003), by Julie McMillan and Gary Marks (<http://www.acer.edu.au/research/LSAY/documents/lsay31.pdf>); and
- o *Dynamics of the Australian youth labour market: The 1975 cohort, 1996-2000*, Research Report No. 34 (2003), by Gary Marks, Kylie Hillman and Adrian Beavis (<http://www.acer.edu.au/research/LSAY/documents/lsay34.pdf>).

Other recent research commissioned by DEST, which contained analysis of young people who leave school early, includes:

- o *Young Visions 2003 (2004)*, by Sue Helme and John Polesel at the University of Melbourne, which was a national follow-up survey of students in VET in Schools programmes (http://www.dest.gov.au/research/publications/young_visions/default.htm); and
- o *Factors Influencing the Educational Performance of Males and Females in School and their Initial Destinations after Leaving School (2000)*, by Cherry Collins, Jane Kenway and Julie McLeod at Deakin University and the University of South Australia, which was an overview of data and research on gender differences in educational achievement and outcomes (http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/publications/2000/Gender_Report.pdf).

In addressing issues about young people and school leavers, the Department also makes use of non-Departmental research undertaken in Australia and overseas. This includes work by other government agencies, private bodies such as the Dusseldorp Skills Forum, and the OECD.

The reports mentioned above are available on the web at the addresses indicated against the bibliographic reference.