


# *Next Step*

## 2026 Year 12 completers survey

Post-school destinations of Year 12 completers from 2025

# St Monica's College (Cairns)

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND | Queensland Government

# Introduction

This detailed Next Step report belongs to your school and can be used for school planning. It provides information about Year 12 completers' transitions into further education, training and employment approximately six months after completing school.

The results are from the Department of Education's Next Step – Year 12 Completers survey, which attempts to contact all Year 12 completers from state, Catholic or independent schools in Queensland.

Post-school destinations are influenced by the transitioning environment, which can limit the options available to young people. Low response rates may not give an accurate summary of the cohort's destinations.

This report has not been publicly released. It is recommended that schools **do not** publicly release their detailed Next Step report as it may contain sensitive information. A one-page summary report has also been provided, which is suitable for public release.

**Find out more**
Visit the *Next Step* website www.qld.gov.au/nextstep for more information on the survey, view the statewide report or create a custom report using report builder, which will be updated in October 2026.

# Survey response rate

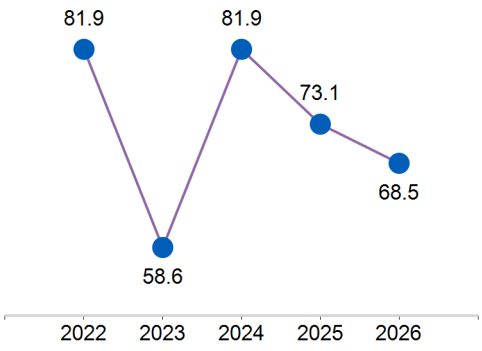


**68.5%** (**85** out of **124** Year 12 completers)

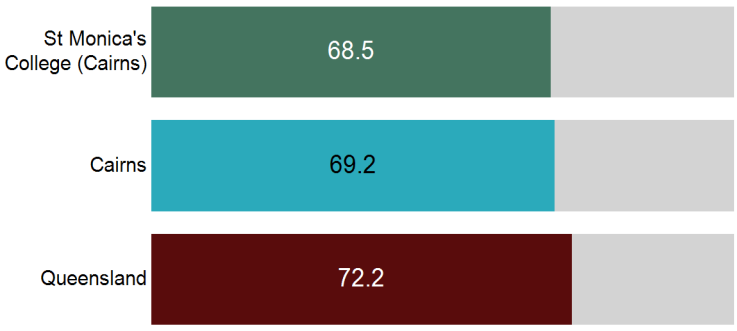
Decreased by 13.4 percentage points since 2022.

*Results may not be representative of all Year 12 completers from this school.*

**Response rate over time**




**School's response rate compared with SA4 region and state**



# Post-school engagement

Year 12 completers from St Monica's College (Cairns) have been categorised by their engagement in education, employment or training. Survey respondents who are both working and studying are included in education and training. Apprentices and trainees are required to undertake a study component to their qualification so are also considered to be in education and training.

### Engagement in education, employment or training

**95.3%** engaged in education, employment or training

**71.8%**
in education or training

*Of the 85 respondents, 71.8% continued in education or training. The most common study destination was bachelor degree.*

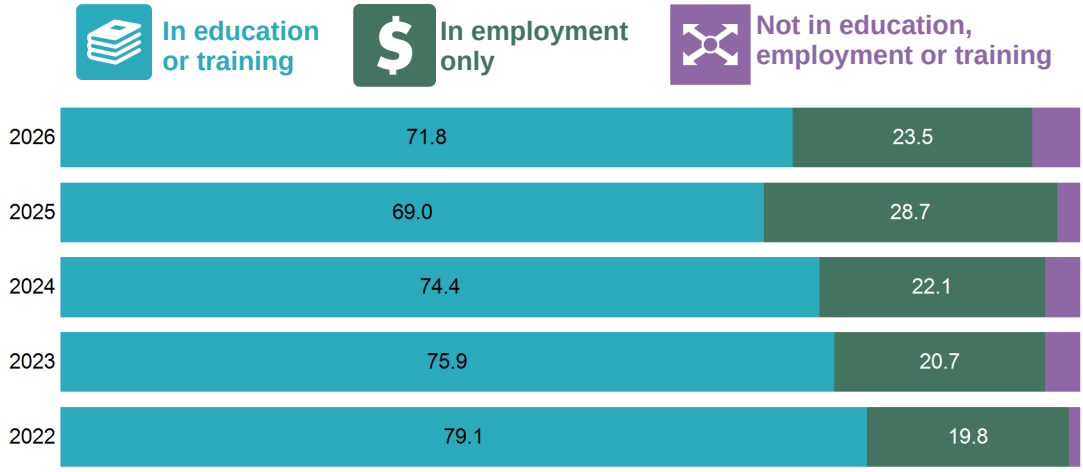
**23.5%**
in employment only

*A further 23.5% transitioned directly into paid employment only.*

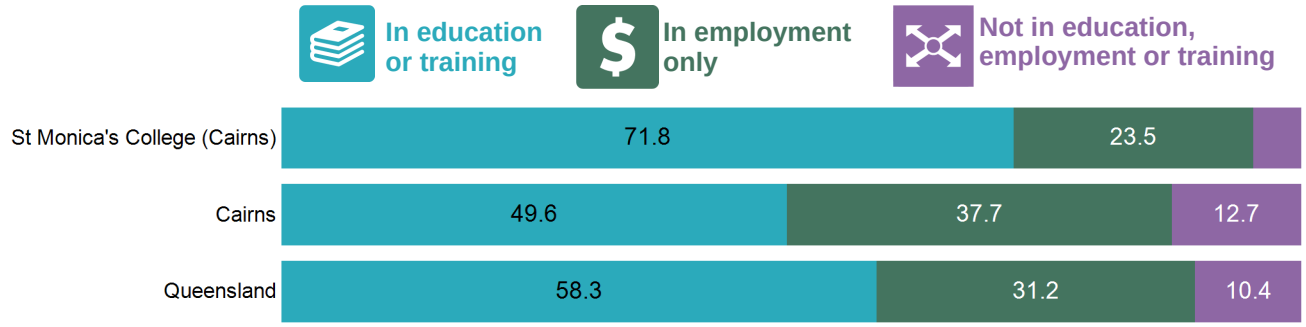
**4.7%** not in education, employment or training

*There were 4.7% of respondents seeking work.*

### Engagement over time




### How does your school compare?



# Main destination

This section examines the post-school destinations of survey respondents from St Monica's College (Cairns) in 2026.

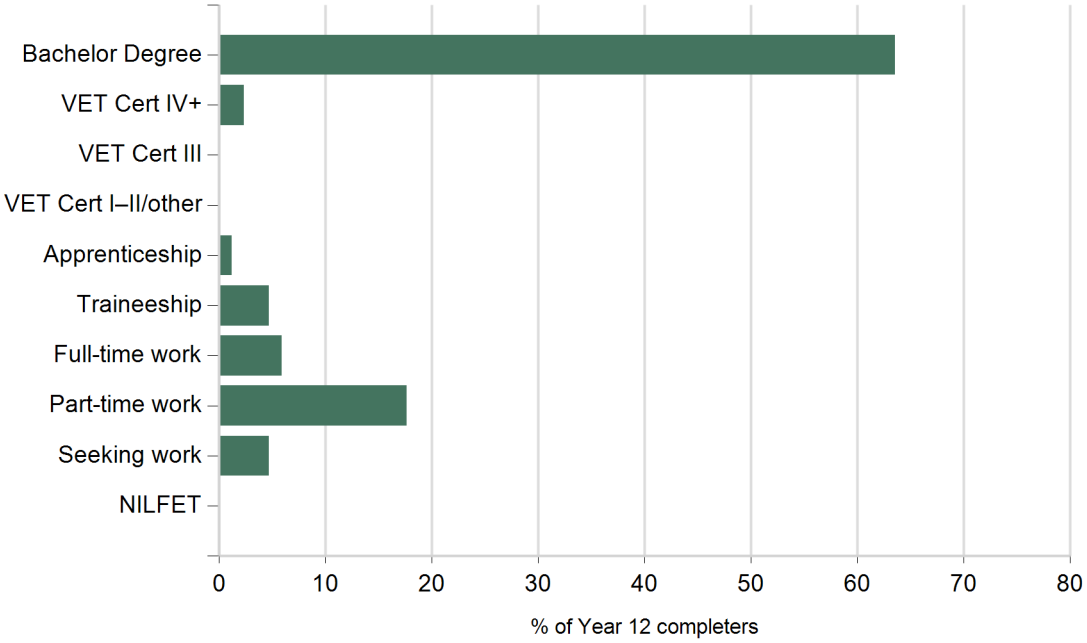
All Year 12 completers were assigned to a main destination. This categorisation system prioritises education-related destinations over other destinations. For example, Year 12 completers who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination (see Appendix 2).

9.4% of respondents deferred a tertiary offer and are reported in their current post-school destination in this report.

**Main destination**

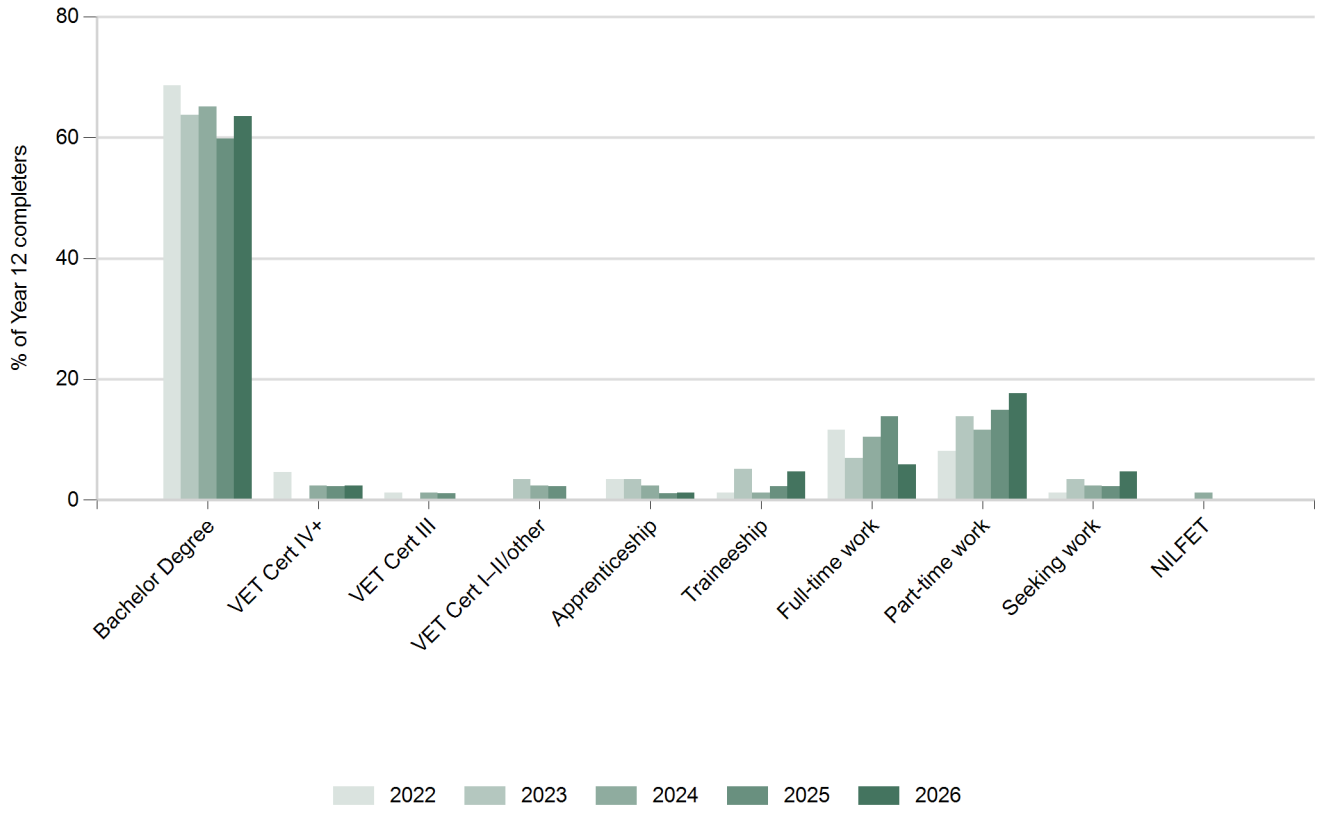
| Main destination | Total | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET* | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *85* | *100.0* |

*NILFET: Not in the labour force, education or training.



### Main destinations over time

| Main destination | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | no. | % | no. | % | no. | % | no. | % | no. | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 59 | 68.6 | 37 | 63.8 | 56 | 65.1 | 52 | 59.8 | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 4 | 4.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.3 | 2 | 2.3 | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.4 | 2 | 2.3 | 2 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 3 | 3.5 | 2 | 3.4 | 2 | 2.3 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 1 | 1.2 | 3 | 5.2 | 1 | 1.2 | 2 | 2.3 | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 10 | 11.6 | 4 | 6.9 | 9 | 10.5 | 12 | 13.8 | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 7 | 8.1 | 8 | 13.8 | 10 | 11.6 | 13 | 14.9 | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 1 | 1.2 | 2 | 3.4 | 2 | 2.3 | 2 | 2.3 | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *86* | *100.0* | *58* | *100.0* | *86* | *100.0* | *87* | *100.0* | *85* | *100.0* |



## Main destinations of subgroups

**Main destination for students who completed a VET qualification in school (VETiS)**
There were 47 respondents who completed a VETiS.

| Main destination | VETiS | | non-VETiS | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | % | number | % | number | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 26 | 55.3 | 28 | 73.7 | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 2 | 4.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 1 | 2.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 3 | 6.4 | 1 | 2.6 | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 3 | 6.4 | 2 | 5.3 | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 9 | 19.1 | 6 | 15.8 | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 3 | 6.4 | 1 | 2.6 | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *47* | *100.0* | *38* | *100.0* | *85* | *100.0* |

**Main destination for students who participated in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT)**
There were 4 respondents who participated in a SAT.

| Main destination | SAT | non-SAT | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | number | number | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 2 | 52 | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 1 | 14 | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *4* | *81* | *85* | *100.0* |

**Main destination for students who received an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)**

There were 75 respondents who received an ATAR or IBD.

| Main destination | ATAR or IBD | Not ATAR or IBD | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | number | number | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 52 | 2 | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 13 | 2 | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *75* | *10* | *85* | *100.0* |

**Main destination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students**

There were 7 respondents who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

| Main destination | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | number | number | % |
| Bachelor Degree | 5 | 49 | 54 | 63.5 |
| VET Certificate IV+ | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2.4 |
| VET Certificate III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VET Certificate I–II/other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Apprenticeship | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Traineeship | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4.7 |
| Full-time employment | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5.9 |
| Part-time employment | 1 | 14 | 15 | 17.6 |
| Seeking work | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4.7 |
| NILFET | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| *Total* | *7* | *78* | *85* | *100.0* |

# Education and training

This section examines the education and training destinations and includes Bachelor Degree, VET Certificate IV+, VET Certificate III, VET Certificate I-II/other, Apprenticeship and Traineeship main destinations.

**71.8%**

**61** out of **85** Year 12 completers from St Monica's College (Cairns) continued in education or training in 2026.

**14.1%**

**12** Year 12 completers from St Monica's College (Cairns) were enrolled in a double degree, combining two bachelor degrees into a single course of study.

## What are they studying?

**Study field (broad) by level of study**

| Study field* | Bachelor Degree | | Other | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | % | number | % | number | % |
| Health | 20 | 37.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 20 | 32.8 |
| Society And Culture | 10 | 18.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 16.4 |
| Engineering And Related Technologies | 8 | 14.8 | 1 | 14.3 | 9 | 14.8 |
| Natural And Physical Sciences | 7 | 13.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 11.5 |
| Management And Commerce | 4 | 7.4 | 2 | 28.6 | 6 | 9.8 |
| Education | 4 | 7.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 6.6 |
| Architecture And Building | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Creative Arts | 2 | 3.7 | 1 | 14.3 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Agriculture, Environmental And Related Studies | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 28.6 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Food, Hospitality And Personal Services | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 14.3 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Information Technology | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| *Total (students)* | *** 54* | — | *7* | *100.0* | *** 61* | — |

Field of study categories based on the *Australian Standard Classification of Education*.
Bachelor Degree includes Bachelor Degree, Bachelor (Honours) Degree, Master Degree and Doctoral Degree, in addition to apprentices and trainees who said they were studying at one of these levels of study.
Other includes Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma, Diploma, VET Certificate levels I - IV and unknown level of study.
*Both Fields of study have been included for 6 students enrolled in a double degree in more than one broad field.
**Total number of students is less than combined total of all study fields.

### Study field (narrow) by level of study

| Study field* | Bachelor Degree | | Other | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | % | number | % | number | % |
| Nursing | 8 | 14.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 13.1 |
| Other Engineering and Related Technologies | 7 | 13.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 11.5 |
| Law | 5 | 9.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 8.2 |
| Other Natural and Physical Sciences | 4 | 7.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 6.6 |
| Architecture and Urban Environment | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Behavioural Science | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Business and Management | 1 | 1.9 | 2 | 28.6 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Pharmacy | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Teacher Education | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 4.9 |
| Agriculture | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 28.6 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Banking, Finance and Related Fields | 2 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Communication and Media Studies | 1 | 1.9 | 1 | 14.3 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Medical Studies | 2 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Other Society and Culture | 2 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Public Health | 2 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Radiography | 2 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Aerospace Engineering and Technology | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 14.3 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Biological Sciences | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Chemical Sciences | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Dental Studies | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Economics and Econometrics | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Graphic and Design Studies | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Language and Literature | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Mathematical Sciences | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Technology | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other Education | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other Health | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other Information Technology | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Personal Services | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 14.3 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Political Science and Policy Studies | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other | 4 | 7.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 6.6 |
| *Total (students)* | *** 54* | — | *7* | *100.0* | *** 61* | — |

Field of study categories based on the *Australian Standard Classification of Education*.
Bachelor Degree includes Bachelor Degree, Bachelor (Honours) Degree, Master Degree and Doctoral Degree, in addition to apprentices and trainees who said they were studying at one of these levels of study.
Other includes Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma, Diploma, VET Certificate levels I - IV and unknown level of study.
*Both fields of study have been included for 10 students enrolled in a double degree in more than one narrow field.
**Total number of students is less than combined total of all study fields.

## Where are they studying?

**Study institution**

| Institution name | Total | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | % |
| James Cook University | 25 | 41.0 |
| Interstate university | 9 | 14.8 |
| The University of Queensland | 7 | 11.5 |
| Griffith University | 5 | 8.2 |
| Queensland University of Technology | 5 | 8.2 |
| Central Queensland University | 2 | 3.3 |
| Other institution | 2 | 3.3 |
| Armed Forces | 1 | 1.6 |
| Busy At Work | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other private training college | 1 | 1.6 |
| SAE (Qantm College) | 1 | 1.6 |
| TAFE Queensland North Queensland | 1 | 1.6 |
| University of the Sunshine Coast | 1 | 1.6 |
| *Total* | *61* | *100.0* |

## How are they studying?

**88.5%** studying **at university**



**88.5%** studying **full-time**



**59.0%** **combining study** with **paid employment**



# Employment (total)

This section examines the labour market outcomes for Year 12 completers from St Monica's College (Cairns).

**65.9%**

**56** out of **85** Year 12 completers were in paid employment in 2026. This figure includes **20** who were only working and **36** who were both working and studying.

## What jobs are they doing?

**Occupation**

| Occupational unit group | Total | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | % |
| Sales Assistants (General) | 10 | 17.9 |
| Sommeliers and Waiters | 6 | 10.7 |
| Cafe Workers | 4 | 7.1 |
| Out of School Hours Care Educators | 3 | 5.4 |
| Bar Attendants | 2 | 3.6 |
| Checkout Operators | 2 | 3.6 |
| Medical Receptionists | 2 | 3.6 |
| Retail Supervisors | 2 | 3.6 |
| Sport and Recreation Safety Patrollers | 2 | 3.6 |
| Sports Coaches and Outdoor Adventure Guides | 2 | 3.6 |
| Academic Tutors (Private Tuition) | 1 | 1.8 |
| Aircraft Maintenance Technicians | 1 | 1.8 |
| Arts and Personal Enrichment Teachers (Private Tuition) | 1 | 1.8 |
| Assistants in Nursing | 1 | 1.8 |
| Barbers and Hairdressers | 1 | 1.8 |
| Commercial Cleaners | 1 | 1.8 |
| Deck and Fishing Hands | 1 | 1.8 |
| Early Childhood Educators and Room Leaders | 1 | 1.8 |
| Executive Assistants | 1 | 1.8 |
| Filing and Registry Clerks and Library Assistants | 1 | 1.8 |
| Food Preparation Assistants | 1 | 1.8 |
| General Clerks | 1 | 1.8 |
| Hospitality Supervisors | 1 | 1.8 |
| Livestock Farm Workers | 1 | 1.8 |
| Marketing Professionals | 1 | 1.8 |
| Mixed Production and Aquaculture Farm Workers | 1 | 1.8 |
| Music Teachers (Private Tuition) | 1 | 1.8 |
| Other | 4 | 7.1 |
| *Total* | *56* | *100.0* |

Occupation category based on the *Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA)*.

## What industry are they working in?

**Industry**

| Industry | Total | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | % |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 19 | 33.9 |
| Retail Trade | 12 | 21.4 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 6 | 10.7 |
| Education & Training | 5 | 8.9 |
| Transport, Postal & Warehousing | 4 | 7.1 |
| Arts & Recreation Services | 3 | 5.4 |
| Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing | 2 | 3.6 |
| Other Services | 2 | 3.6 |
| Information Media & Telecommunications | 1 | 1.8 |
| Public Administration & Safety | 1 | 1.8 |
| Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services | 1 | 1.8 |
| *Total* | *56* | *100.0* |

Industry categories are based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)*.

## How are they working?

**17.9%** working **full-time**



**64.3%** combining **work** with **further study**



**73.2%** employed on a **casual basis**



# Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)

This section examines the reasons why Year 12 completers from St Monica's College (Cairns) were not engaged in education, employment or training.



**4.7%**

**4** out of **85** Year 12 completers were not engaged in education, employment or training at the time of the survey.

## Why are they not studying?

**Main reason for not studying**

| Main reason | Total number |
|---|---|
| Not interested in further study/already finished studying | 1 |
| Waiting for course/training to begin | 1 |
| Wanted a break from study | 1 |
| Other | 1 |
| *Total* | *4* |

## Have they had work since school?



**0.0%**

**0** out of **4** Year 12 completers were not working or studying at the time of the survey, but had paid employment at some time since finishing school.

## Are they seeking work?

**100.0%**

**4** out of **4** Year 12 completers were not working or studying at the time of the survey, but were seeking work.

**Main reason unsuccessful getting a job**

| Main reason | Total number |
|---|---|
| Not enough job experience | 1 |
| Not enough or appropriate qualifications | 1 |
| Not trying very hard | 1 |
| Other | 1 |
| *Total* | *4* |

## Where to from here?

**50.0%** taking a **gap year**

**25.0%** **deferred** a place at university

**25.0%** **waiting for work or study** to commence

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Acronyms and initialisms

| | |
|---|---|
| ATAR | Australian Tertiary Admission Rank |
| DW | Data withheld |
| IBD | International Baccalaureate Diploma |
| NA | Not applicable |
| NILFET | Not in the labour force, education or training |
| SAT | School-based apprenticeships and traineeships |
| TAFE | Technical and further education |
| VET | Vocational Education and Training |

## Appendix 2 – Explanatory notes

**Main destination**
A structured hierarchy of study and labour force destinations for Year 12 completers, who were assigned to categories as follows:

- students were assigned to the relevant higher education or VET category, even if they were also employed
- apprentices and trainees were assigned to their respective category and classified as education and training since their training involves study
- those assigned to a labour force category (employed or seeking work) were not also undertaking study
- those who were not studying and not in the labour force (not employed and not seeking work) were categorised as NILFET.

**Main destination categories**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Education or training – higher education** | |
| Bachelor Degree* | Studying at Bachelor Degree level (including Honours), or higher. |
| **Education or training – VET categories** | |
| VET Certificate IV+* | Studying at Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree level (excluding apprentices and trainees). |
| VET Certificate III* | Studying at Certificate III level (excluding apprentices and trainees). |
| VET Certificate I–II/other* | Studying at Certificate I or II level (excluding apprentices and trainees). This category also includes students in an unspecified VET course, other basic course (e.g. short course) and unknown course level. |
| Apprenticeship* | Employment-based apprenticeship. |
| Traineeship* | Employment-based traineeship. |
| **Employment only** | |
| Full-time employment | Working full-time (35 hours or more per week) and not in an education or training category. This includes people with multiple part-time or casual jobs that total 35 hours or more. |
| Part-time employment | Working part-time or casual (fewer than 35 hours per week) and not in an education or training category. |
| **Not in education, employment or training (NEET)** | |
| Seeking work | Looking for work and not in an education or training category. |
| NILFET | Not in education or training, not working and not seeking work. |

*Some respondents may also be in employment or seeking work.

**More information**
For more information about terms and categorisations used in this report, view the research method section of the *Next Step* website www.qld.gov.au/nextstep