

This bulletin contains information about education in Queensland, including non-school qualifications held by people 15 years and over, schooling, and labour force for 15-19 year olds. The data have been extracted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census of Population and Housing, past censuses and other publications released by the ABS. Census data in this bulletin are based on place of usual residence, unless otherwise stated. The bulletin also refers to the *Next Step* report by the Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts. A non-school qualification includes a non-school certificate, diploma, graduate diploma, bachelor degree, graduate certificate or postgraduate degree.

Key points

- About one-half (50.4%) of Queensland's population aged 15 years and over had a non-school qualification, according to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, up from 43.0% at the 2001 Census.
- A certificate qualification was the highest non-school qualification achieved by the greatest number of people.
- More than twice as many males (380,169) as females (174,074) in Queensland in 2006 held a certificate as their highest qualification.
- A bachelor degree was the second most popular highest non-school qualification for those aged up to 64 years and an advanced diploma or diploma the second most common for those aged 65 years and over.
- More females held a bachelor degree or higher qualification (14.3%) compared with males (11.8%) in 2006.
- More than one-third (35.2%) of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over had a non-school qualification.
- Local government areas in rural Queensland tended to have a lower proportion of the population aged 15 years and over with non-school qualifications compared with local government areas comprised of cities or towns.
- Males in Queensland were significantly more likely (30.4%) to have studied engineering and related technologies as a non-school qualification compared with females (1.9%).
- Of those with non-school qualifications, 40.8% worked in managerial and professional occupations.
- There were 661,926 school students in Queensland in 2006. Over 99% attended as full-time students, and of the 4,810 part-time students, 66.9% were in year 10 through 12 (ABS 4221.0).
- Nearly 1.2 million people were attending an educational institution in Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census.
- Of year 12 completers in 2006, 93.0% were either working or undertaking further study in the following year.

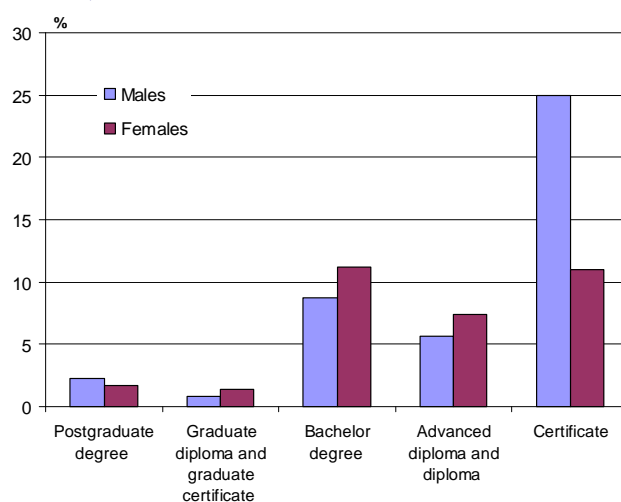
Non-school qualifications

Non-school qualification by sex

A total of 1,560,871 persons usually resident in Queensland (50.4% of the population aged 15 years and over, excluding overseas visitors) stated they had a non-school qualification, according to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. More than half of the male population aged 15 years and over (55.3%) in Queensland held a non-school qualification compared with 45.6% of females.

Figure 1 shows non-school qualifications by sex for Queensland at the 2006 Census. A total of 414,211 persons usually resident in Queensland (13.1% of the population aged 15 years and over) held a bachelor degree or higher qualification.

Figure 1: Highest non-school qualification (a) by type and sex, Queensland, 2006



(a) A total of 396,682 persons (12.8%) inadequately described or did not state their non-school qualification.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Non-School Qualification: Level of Education

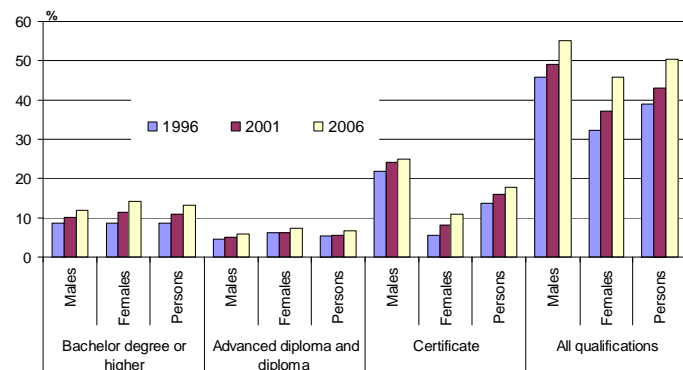
In Queensland, more females than males held a bachelor degree or higher at the time of the census, with 225,666 females (14.3% of females aged 15 years and over) compared with 180,238 males (11.8% of males aged 15 years and over). However, more males than females had a postgraduate degree (2.2% and 1.7% respectively).

More females than males held an advanced diploma or diploma at the time of the 2006 Census. Some 7.4% (116,934) of females in Queensland held an advanced diploma or diploma as their highest non-school qualification compared with 5.7% (87,105) of males. In contrast, at the certificate level more than twice as many males as females in Queensland held certificates as their highest qualification (380,169), or 25.0% of males aged 15 years and over, compared with 11.0% of females (174,074) aged 15 years and over at the time of the 2006 Census.

Figure 2 shows the highest non-school qualification by census year for Queensland. An increase occurred in the proportion of persons with non-school qualifications over the past three censuses. At the 1996 Census, 39.0% of persons aged 15 years and over held a non-school qualification compared with 43.0% at the time of the 2001 Census and 50.4% at the 2006 Census.

The chart highlights the increase in the proportion of males and females with a bachelor degree or higher and with a certificate qualification over the 1996 to 2006 period.

Figure 2: Highest non-school qualification by type and sex, Queensland, 1996 to 2006 (a) (b)



(a) A total of 11.4%, 10.6% and 12.8% of persons inadequately described or did not state a qualification in 1996, 2001 and 2006 respectively.

(b) Excludes persons with a qualification out of scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 1991, 1996 and 2006

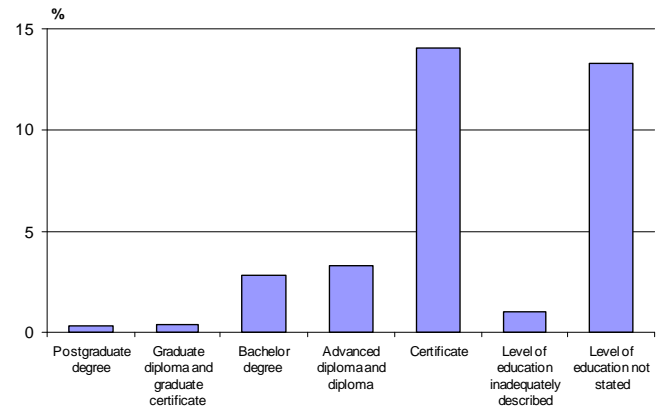
Non-school qualification by Indigenous status

The proportion of Indigenous persons with a non-school qualification compared with non-Indigenous persons in Queensland in 2006 is shown in Figure 3. Almost half (48.2%) of the non-Indigenous population had a non-school qualification (including those who inadequately described or did not state their qualification) compared with just over one-third (35.2%) of the Indigenous population.¹

Of the 77,960 people aged 15 years and over identified as being of Indigenous origin, 27,477 persons reported having a non-school qualification. Of those with a non-school qualification, 14.1% had a certificate level qualification.

In the Indigenous population there were minimal differences between the sexes in the total number with non-school qualifications. Only 3.6% of Indigenous persons had a bachelor degree or higher compared with 14.1% of the non-Indigenous population.

Figure 3: Highest non-school qualification by type, Indigenous persons, Queensland, 2006



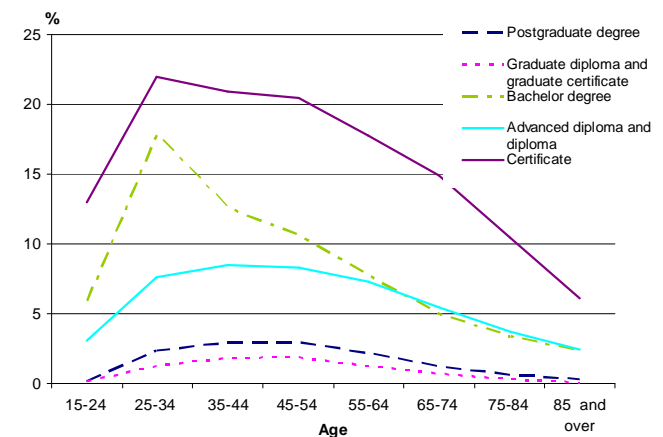
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Indigenous profile Table B39

Non-school qualification by age

Figure 4 shows the highest non-school qualification by age in Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census. For all age groups, a certificate qualification was the highest non-school qualification achieved by the greatest number of people.

A bachelor degree was the second most held non-school qualification for all age groups except for those aged 65 years and over. For this age group, an advanced diploma or diploma was the second most held non-school qualification. Almost 3% of persons aged 35- 54 years in Queensland held a postgraduate qualification in 2006.

Figure 4: Highest non-school qualification (a) by type and age group, Queensland, 2006



(a) Excludes inadequately described and not stated.

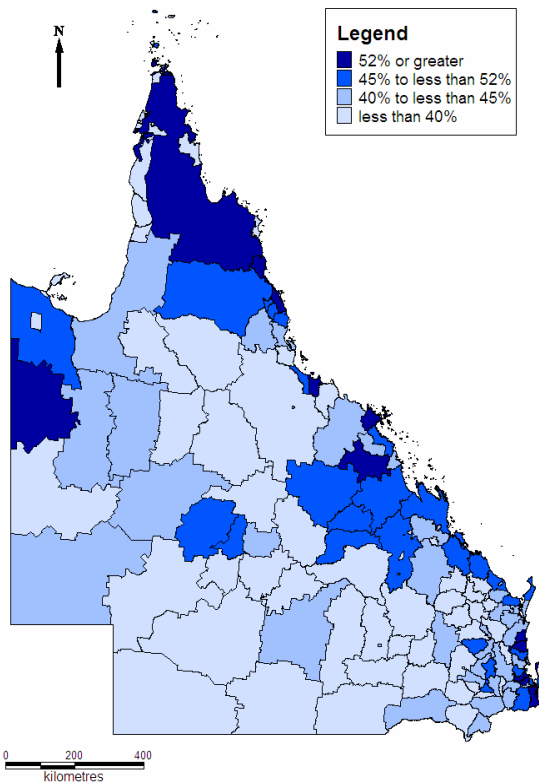
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Non-school qualification by local government area

Figure 5 shows that rural local government areas had the lowest proportion of persons aged 15 years and over with a non-school qualification. Mining areas tended to have a higher proportion of persons with a non-school qualification than other rural areas. Local government areas comprising cities and towns had over 35% of their population 15 years and over with a non-school qualification.

¹ Excludes persons who did not state their Indigenous status (178,987 persons in 2006).

Figure 5: Proportion of the population aged 15 years and over with a non-school qualification (a) by local government area, Queensland, 2006

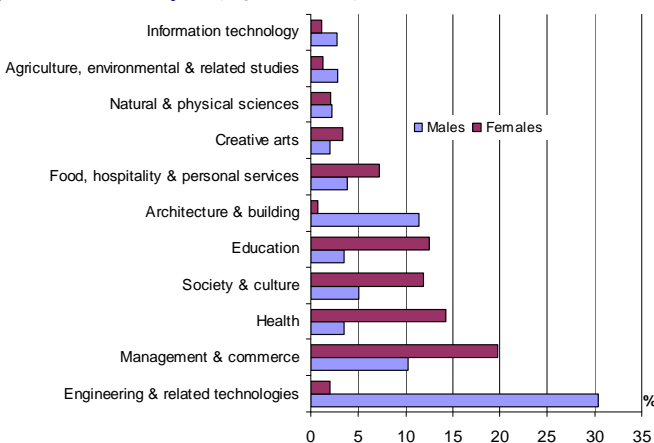


(a) Excludes inadequately described and not stated.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Non-school qualification by field of study

Engineering and related technologies was the field of study with the largest proportion of persons holding a non-school qualification in 2006 (Figure 6). Management and commerce was the field of study with the second highest proportion. Males were significantly more likely to have studied engineering and related technologies, and architecture and building, compared with females. By contrast, females were more likely than males to be qualified in the fields of education, society and culture, health, and management and commerce.

Figure 6: Field of study for persons having a non-school qualification (a) by sex, Queensland, 2006

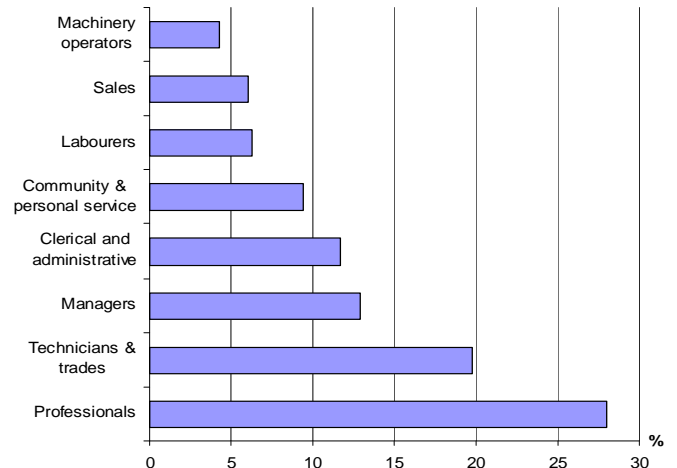


(a) Excludes inadequately described and not stated.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Occupations of persons with a non-school qualification

Managers and professionals comprised 29.5% of employed persons aged 15 years and over in 2006. Figure 7 shows that these occupations accounted for 40.8% of persons with a non-school qualification. A further 19.7% were technicians and tradespersons.

Figure 7: Occupation of persons with a non-school qualification (a), Queensland, 2006



(a) Excludes inadequately described and not stated. Also excludes 1.6% of persons whose occupation was inadequately described or not stated.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Schools

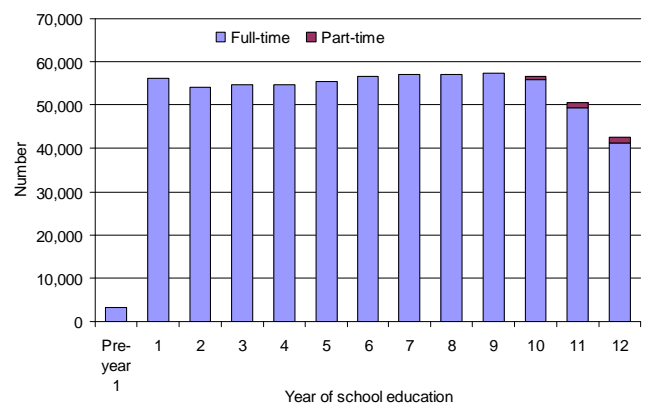
Type of school

Of the 1,739 schools in Queensland in 2006, 1,278 were categorised as government schools. Of the 461 non-government schools, 288 were affiliated with the Catholic school system and the remaining 173 were independent.

Students in school

In 2006, over 99% of the 661,926 school students in Queensland attended as full-time students (657,116) and 4,810 attended as part-time students (Figure 8). A total of 262,782 students were in secondary education. The majority (66.9%) of the part-time students were in years 10 through 12. Six per cent (39,783) of full-time students were Indigenous.

Figure 8: Full-time and part-time students by year of school education, Queensland, 2006 (a) (b)



(a) Excludes 2,220 full-time ungraded primary school students and 1,932 full-time ungraded secondary students.

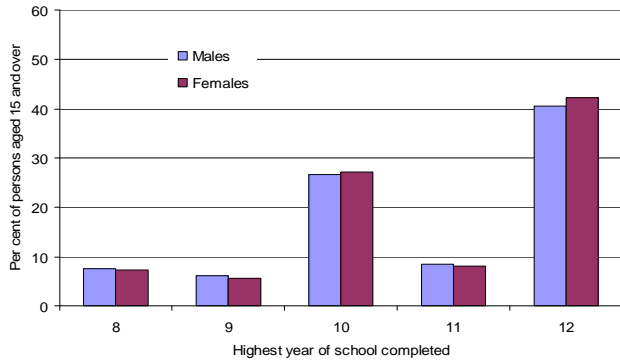
(b) Excludes 1,076 part-time primary students and 82 ungraded part-time secondary students.

Source: ABS, Schools Australia, 2006, cat. no. 4221.0

Highest year of school completed

In 2006, a slightly greater proportion of females (42.1%) than males (40.5%) aged 15 years and over had completed year 12 (Figure 9). The census found that 75.6% of males and 77.3% of females had completed at least year 10. Less than 1% of persons aged 15 years and over had not gone to school.

Figure 9: Highest year of school completed for persons 15 years and over by sex, Queensland, 2006 (a)



(a) Excludes 0.5% of persons who had not attended school and 9.9% of persons where the highest year of school is not stated.

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2006

Attending an educational institution

Age and Indigenous status

Table 1 shows that 33,186 non-Indigenous children aged 4 years or under attended an educational institution. Indigenous students made up 5.7% of 0-4 years olds and 5.8% of 5-14 year olds. In the older groups, 1.6% of those students in the 20-24 years age group were Indigenous and 2.6% of those 25 years and over were Indigenous.

Table 1: Number of persons attending an educational institution (a) by Indigenous status and age, Queensland, 2006

Age of person	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous status not stated	Persons
0-4	2,034	33,186	627	35,847
5-14	28,337	452,590	7,763	488,690
15-19	6,303	159,365	1,803	167,471
20-24	1,092	66,500	470	68,062
25 years +	2,930	108,542	893	112,365
Total	40,696	820,183	11,556	872,435

(a) Excludes type of educational institution not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Indigenous Series²

Institution type attending

A total of 68,100 people attended a technical or further educational institution at the time of the 2006 Census (Table 2). More than half (54.7%) were aged 25 years and over. Part-time students outnumbered full-time students in this age group and in the 15-24 years age group. Females accounted for 56.3% of students attending these educational institutions.

The number attending university or other tertiary institution was 137,800 in 2006. A large proportion (87.3%) of those aged 15-24 years attended on a full-time basis. For students aged 25 years and over, 60.3% recorded their attendance as part-time. Most students at these educational institutions were females (58.6%).

Table 2: Number of persons attending an educational institution by type of institution and sex (a), Queensland, 2006

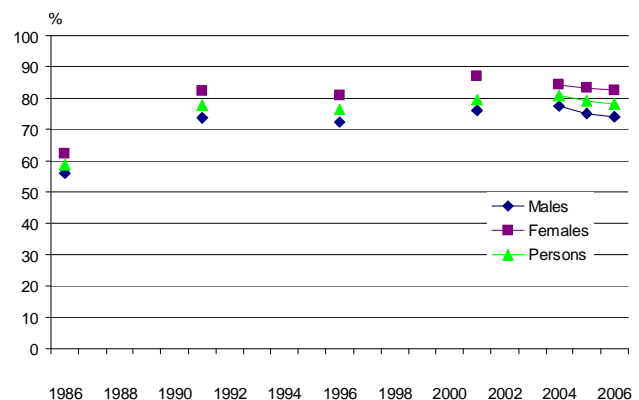
	Males	Females	Persons
Pre-school	30,625	28,123	58,748
Infants/Primary:			
Government	127,833	120,503	248,336
Catholic	30,431	29,172	59,603
Other non-government	20,488	20,087	40,575
Total	178,752	169,762	348,514
Secondary:			
Government	73,722	71,746	145,468
Catholic	22,300	22,782	45,082
Other non-government	22,576	23,559	46,135
Total	118,598	118,087	236,685
Technical or further educational institution:			
Full-time student:			
Aged 15-24 years	5,336	5,990	11,326
Aged 25 years and over	2,623	5,346	7,969
Part-time student:			
Aged 15-24 years	10,818	7,680	18,498
Aged 25 years and over	10,446	18,848	29,294
FT/PT student status not stated	548	467	1,015
Total	29,771	38,331	68,102
University or other tertiary institution:			
Full-time student:			
Aged 15-24 years	28,807	39,607	68,414
Aged 25 years and over	9,869	13,450	23,319
Part-time student:			
Aged 15-24 years	4,025	5,910	9,935
Aged 25 years and over	14,077	21,337	35,414
FT/PT student status not stated	350	414	764
Total	57,128	80,718	137,846
Other type of educational institution	7,935	14,603	22,538
Type of educational institution not stated	169,246	154,284	323,530
Total	592,055	603,908	1,195,963

(a) Data in this table are affected by the large number of people who attended an educational institution but did not state its type. Numbers attending school given in the section on Schools are from the National Schools Statistics Collection census and are thought to be more accurate than those in this table. Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2006

Retention rates

Figure 10 shows the apparent retention rate for full-time secondary students for year 10 to year 12 by sex for Queensland. For all years the retention rate was higher for females compared with males. Trends over the past three years have been affected by the changes in vocational training options and the decrease in the unemployment rate.

Figure 10: Apparent retention rates for full-time secondary students by sex, year 10 to year 12, Queensland, 1986 to 2006



Source: ABS, Schools Australia, 2006, cat. no. 4221.0

² Census data on place of enumeration basis

Study or work

Work and study destinations

Next Step is a report by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA)² on the initial study and work destinations of young people after completing school. A high proportion (93.0%) of year 12 completers in 2006 from government and non-government schools across Queensland were studying or in paid employment in the year after completing year 12. Of those students who completed year 12, almost two-thirds (63.6%) were continuing in some form of education or training. The survey identified 5.3% of year 12 graduates who were neither studying nor working and were seeking work.

Study or work versus unemployment for 15 to 19 year olds

Governments encourage persons aged 15-19 years to be either in employment or in education rather than being unemployed. This age group made up 6.9% (270,299) of the population in Queensland in 2006. The Census found that 57.8% (156,124) were in the labour force, 36.6% (98,957) were not in the labour force and 5.6% (15,218) did not state their labour force status.

Of those persons aged 15-19 years and employed, around one-third (32.7%) or 45,304 worked full-time and 59.4% or 82,352 worked part-time. In this age group, 4.8% (6,643) worked but did not state their hours and 3.1% (4,308) were away from work in the week prior to the 2006 Census.

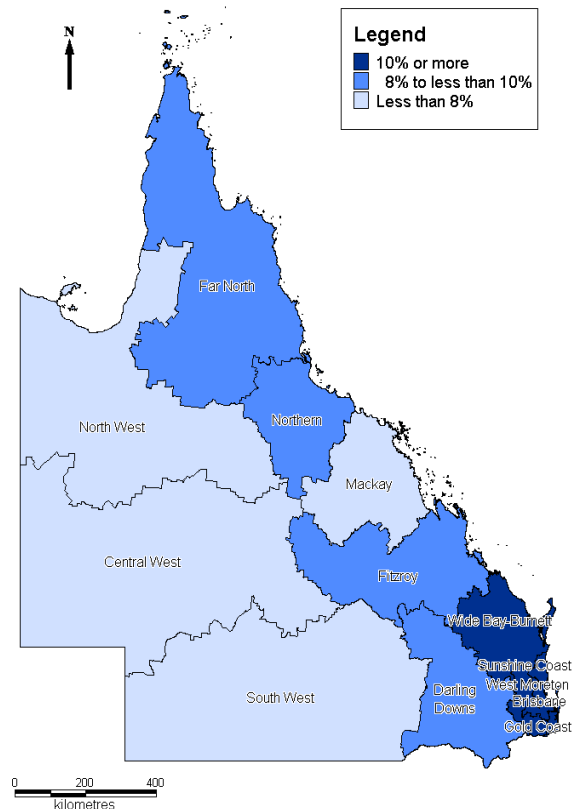
Nearly two-thirds (64.8%) of persons aged 15-19 years were attending an educational institution at the time of the census. Given that 57.8% of persons in this age group were in the labour force, a considerable proportion were therefore both working and studying. Further, this proportion will be understated by those who did not state their labour force status or whether they were attending an educational institution.

In 2006, 11.2% (17,517) of persons aged 15-19 years were unemployed and looking for full-time or part-time work compared with 17.8% (25,005) in 2001.

² DETA 2007, *Next Step*. Report available from <http://education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/2007nextstepreport.html> accessed 25 January 2008

Figure 11 shows the unemployment rate for persons aged 15-19 years by statistical division at the time of the 2006 Census. Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division had the highest rate (14.7%), while Central West Statistical Division had the lowest (6.2%). The three South East Queensland statistical divisions of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast had unemployment rates of over 10% for 15-19 year olds, but these rates were down considerably from rates of more than 18% in 2001.

Figure 11: Proportion of persons aged 15-19 years in the labour force, unemployed and looking for work, by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



Queensland Treasury

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