

Career paths of school leavers who took advantage of structured work placements as part of their VET course

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This paper reports on the career paths of over 8,000 1999 school leavers, three months into 2000. All these ex-students took part in ASTF funded school industry workplacements in years 11 or 12.

For the first time, research is available on the short term destinations of VET in Schools students who benefitted from work placements. Although only a pilot study, the findings are nevertheless very interesting.

Respondents to the ASTF survey were asked to indicate whether they were in full or part-time work, full or part-time study or unemployed. In each case the report compares the industry area of these outcomes with the industry area of study at school, the advanced standing their course gave them and whether they had to leave the area to gain these outcomes. The data are analysed both at a national and state level in terms of school sector background, gender, grade level and senior certificate completion.

The findings confirm not only the value of VET in school programs with structured work placements in terms of transition within an industry area but also the transferability of the skills gained from an industry specific work placement. The comparisons between industries between part-time, full-time study and unemployment may well assist future students choose their area of study.