

PAPER:

***SENIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM CHOICE
AND ENTRY INTO POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION***

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Abstract:

This paper explores the impact of year 12 curriculum choices on post-secondary education pathways. The paper reports on the results of a national study of the outcomes of year 12 students one year after the completion of year 12, at age 19 and, where possible, at age 21. In particular, the paper focuses on the curriculum choices that were likely to lead to an apprenticeship, a traineeship and to entry into other TAFE courses during the period 1991 to 1997. The study reports on the education outcomes of students surveyed in the Australian Longitudinal Survey who undertook year 12 between 1990 and 1994.

The curriculum was mapped nationally to 20 mutually-exclusive subject groupings, as part of a broader study examining the education, training and employment pathways associated with year 12 curriculum choices. The subject groupings are presented under the broad curriculum groups of arts and humanities, business studies, business studies and humanities, business studies and sciences, sciences and maths and sciences and humanities. The methodology used to achieve the mapping is discussed in the paper.

The results of this analysis provide information on the important role played by curriculum choice in senior secondary school in entry into vocational education and training and other post-secondary education pathways.