

Using longitudinal data for research on VET

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Longitudinal studies can provide insights on young people's transition from education to work that other forms of data cannot. The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) program which ACER operates with support from DETYA has now accumulated 20 years of data that follow successive cohorts of young Australians as they move through education and training and into the labour market. The data are added to every year. This paper will explore the potential of LSAY data for research on VET, and also some of the challenges that VET poses for constructing longitudinal data. The paper will illustrate these general points by findings from recent research on the social and educational backgrounds of young people participating in VET, and the links between VET and labour market outcomes. The LSAY data are publicly available for use by researchers and the paper will conclude by providing guidance on how the database can be accessed and used.

Topic area: Data for research on VET

Key words: Longitudinal data; quantitative analyses; social and educational background; transition to work.