



# STEPPING STONES SURVEY

## SNAPSHOT OF RESULTS 2010-2012

Stepping Stones is a survey that follows the same group of people over three years. The survey gives us information on people's opinions and experiences of employment services and income support.

Thank you for being part of the Stepping Stones Survey. The information you provide is helping us understand what leads to paid work and how the Government can better support job seekers and people on income support.

Here's a snapshot of what you told us about...

### Your Employment

The most common occupations for your survey group are:

- Manual labourers (such as cleaners, construction workers and kitchen hands) (34%);
- Community/personal service workers (17%); and
- Clerical/administration workers (13%).

### Jobs for men

The most common type of work for men is manual labouring. The proportion of men doing this type of work decreased with age (48% of 15-24 year olds to 38% of 45-64 year olds).

### Jobs for women

The most common type of work for younger women (aged 15-24) is working in sales (26%) while the most common work for older women (aged 45-64) is community and personal service work (27%).

### Your Job

In your current job:

- 89% of you were able to use your skills and abilities.
- 87% of you gained useful experience.
- 78% of you learnt new skills.

### JOB SATISFACTION

Most of you who worked were satisfied with your jobs (87%).

Over the time, job satisfaction rose (85% in 2010 to 89% in 2012).

Over half of you were happy with the number of hours you worked (51%).

36% of you wanted to work more hours.

### Getting a Job

You were more likely to get a job if you:

- Had a job recently;
- Had been actively looking for work;
- Undertook a range of different job search activities;
- Completed a short or formal course.

### Finding Work

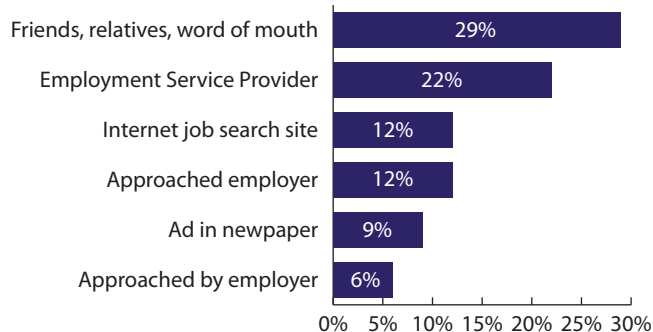
The most common ways you found out about your current job were:

- through friends, relatives or word of mouth;
- through your employment service provider.

Almost half of you said the services provided by your provider added to your skills and abilities.

Around 7 in 10 of you said your employment service provider gave you enough assistance in finding a job.

### How you found your job



The average hours worked per week increased consistently from early 2010 (23 hours) to early 2012 (28 hours).

On average, men worked more hours per week than women (29 hours compared to 23 hours).

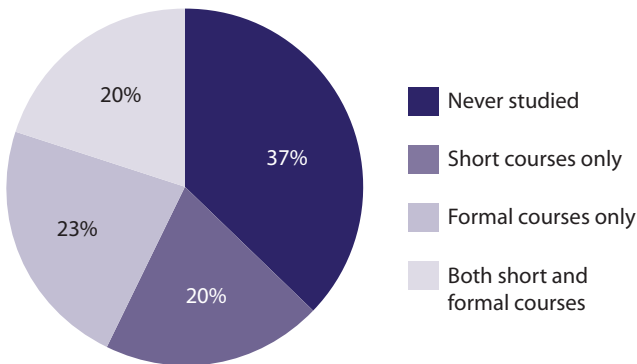
## Caring for Others

Over time, more of you took on unpaid carer duties (10% of you in 2010 to 14% in 2012).

## You and Study

Around two thirds of you (63%) completed a short or formal course between early 2010 and early 2012.

### Study Paths



For most of you, this was to improve your job prospects (74%).

An additional 14% of you completed a formal post-school qualification between early 2010 and early 2012.

Highest level of formal education	March-June 2010 (%)	March-June 2012 (%)
Certificate I/II	7	10
Certificate III/IV	16	25
Other post school qualification	18	20

## Who Studied What

Overall, women were more likely to be studying.

Men preferred short courses and women preferred formal courses.

Younger people were more likely to study than older people.

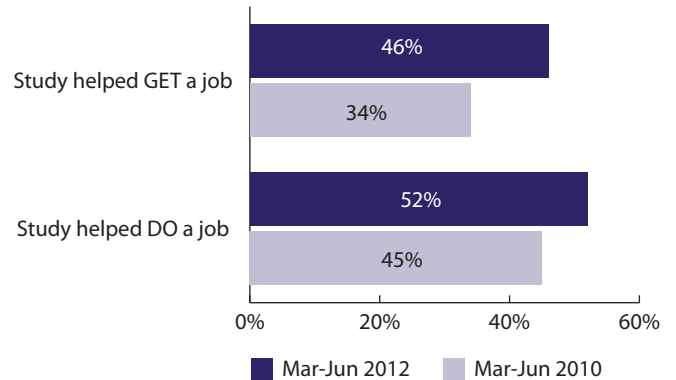
### Popular Courses

- The most popular formal courses studied were *Business & Management* (14%) and *Human Welfare Studies & Services* (13%).
- The most popular formal course chosen by men was *Business & Management* (12%).
- The most popular formal course for women was *Welfare Studies and Services* (19%).
- The most popular short courses studied were *First Aid* (17%); *Hospitality* (13%) and *IT/computing* (12%).

## Study and Work

Over time, more of you said your study helped you to get your job and do your job.

This was more likely for women than men.



## You and Volunteering

Two in 10 of you did some volunteer work.

On average, this was around 7 hours a week.

Older people (aged 45-64) were more likely to do volunteer work than younger people (aged 15-24) (23% versus 14%).

Women were more likely to volunteer than men (21% compared with 17%).

The most popular volunteer work was:

- Fundraising & sales (15%);
- Administration/clerical/recruitment (14%);
- Repairing/maintenance/gardening (13%).

## Benefits of Volunteering

Most of you said volunteering helped you in some way by:

- Making you feel more connected with your local community (91%).
- Adding to your skills and abilities (79%).
- Helping you stay in touch with the workforce (72%).
- Improving your chances of finding paid work (60%).

### KEEPING YOUR IDENTITY PRIVATE

Your information is always kept private and is only used for research and evaluation. None of the information you provided is placed on records or affects any payments or assistance you may receive. No individuals can be identified because all the information is combined for the results.

### More information

WEBSITE: [www.deewr.gov.au/Department/research/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Department/research/Pages/default.aspx)

EMAIL: [steppingstones@deewr.gov.au](mailto:steppingstones@deewr.gov.au)

HOTLINE: 1800 633 450