

**STEPPING STONES SURVEY RESULTS**

Snapshot of Results 2011-2013

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.

STUDY

6 out of 10 of you completed formal study or a short training course at some time between 2011 and 2013. Of those of you who studied:

* 9% of you did both a short and formal course;
* 7% of you did formal courses only;
* 40% of you did short courses only; and
* 44% of you did not study.

Popular courses in 2013

Short courses:

* 13% of males completed a short course; and
* 17% of females completed a short course in 2013.
* 20% of the short courses completed were first aid courses;
* 16% of the short courses were health and community services courses; and
* 11% of the short courses were computing or IT courses.

Formal courses:

* 9% of males completed a formal course; and
* 14% of females completed a formal course in 2013.
* 21% of the formal courses completed were business and management courses; and
* 16% of the formal courses were welfare studies and services.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Over time, more of you took on unpaid carer duties:

* In 2011, 12% of you had caring responsibilities.
* In 2013, 17% of you had caring responsibilities.

VOLUNTEERING

2 out of 10 of you volunteered in 2013.

* 20% of males were volunteers; and
* 22% of females were volunteers.

Of those of you who volunteered:

* 15% of you were aged 15 to 24;
* 18% of you were aged 25 to 44; and
* 23% of you were aged 45 to 64.

Those of you who were volunteers, volunteered for an average of 9 hours per week.

The most popular types of volunteer work were:

* Administration, clerical or recruitment – 16%;
* Repairing, maintenance or gardening – 13%;
* Fundraising or sales – 12%; and
* Other teaching, instruction or providing information – 12%.

For those of you who volunteered, the benefits of volunteering included:

* Making you feel more connected with your local community – 92%;
* Adding to skills and abilities – 75%;
* Helping to stay in touch with the workforce – 71%; and
* Improving your chances of finding paid work – 60%.

 YOUR EMPLOYMENT

Over time, more of you got jobs and less of you were unemployed.

The most common occupations in 2013 included:

* 26% of you were labourers;
* 19% of you were community or personal service workers; and
* 14% of you were clerical or administrative workers.

The most common occupation in 2013 for males was labouring (33%). Of all the male labourers:

* 41% were aged 15 to 24;
* 33% were aged 25 to 44; and
* 32% were aged 45 to 64.

The most common occupation in 2013 for females was community and personal service work (26%). Of all the female community and personal service workers:

* 18% were aged 15 to 24;
* 26% were aged 25 to 44; and
* 28% were aged 45 to 64.

Those of you who worked, worked in different ways in 2013:

* 44% of you worked on a permanent or ongoing basis;
* 40% of you worked on an ongoing casual basis;
* 10% of you worked on a fixed term contract; and
* 3% of you worked on a casual basis with a definite finish date.

JOB EXPERIENCES

Of those of you who worked:

* 89% of you said you were able to use your skills and abilities in your current job;
* 86% of you said you were able to gain useful experience in your current job; and
* 77% of you said you were able to learn new skills.

In addition:

* 86% of you were satisfied with your current job;
* 51% of you were happy with the number of hours you worked; and
* 36% of you wanted to work more hours.

COMMON WAYS TO FIND WORK

Of those of you who worked:

* 28% of you found your job through friends, relatives or word of mouth;
* 17% of you found your job through an employment service provider;
* 16% of you found your job through an internet site;
* 14% of you found your job by approaching an employer or cold canvassing; and
* 6% of you found your job through an ad in the newspaper.

More men than women used friends, relatives or word of mouth to find work (31% compared to 27%).

More women than men used the internet to find work (15% compared to 14%).

WORKING HOURS

The average hours worked increased from 23 hours per week in 2011 to 26 hours per week in 2013.

* Males worked an average of 29 hours per week in 2013.
* Females worked an average of 24 hours per week in 2013.

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MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: [www.employment.gov.au/stepping-stones-survey](http://www.employment.gov.au/stepping-stones-survey)

EMAIL: steppingstones@deewr.gov.au

HOTLINE: 1800 633 450

KEEPING YOUR IDENTITY PRIVATE

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