



## School & work

*Extracted from Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011  
Released June 2011*

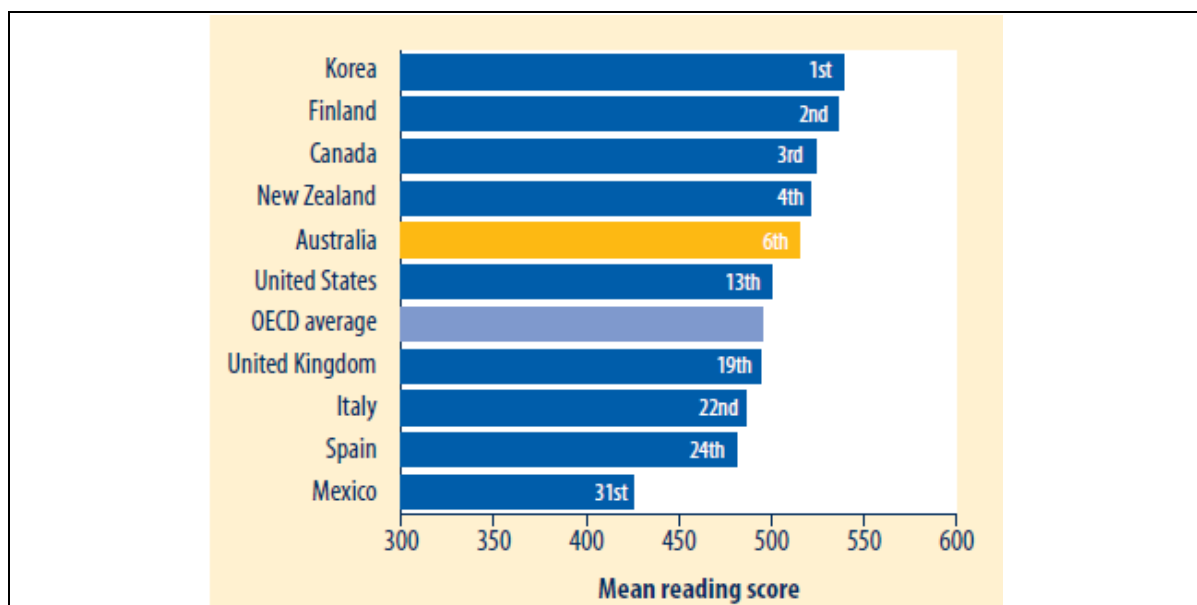
### Education (pages 124–130)

Successful educational outcomes during the schooling years are affected by a number of factors, such as a young person's home environment, their engagement with the school environment, the quality of their educational experience and their attitudes to school and learning. Several other factors have also been shown to have effects, such as school resources, parental level of education and school engagement, and socioeconomic status.

- In 2009
  - over 80% of Year 7 and Year 9 students met the minimum standards for literacy and numeracy
  - three-quarters of students remained in school to Year 12
  - 57% of all 15–24 year olds were studying for a qualification.
  - 81% of young people aged 15-24 were fully participating in education and/or work.
- Some population groups in Australia, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, those living in remote areas and in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, often do not achieve the same educational outcomes as other young Australians, and are more likely to leave school early.
- Indigenous young people were less likely to have achieved the Year 7 and Year 9 reading, writing and numeracy minimum standards and were far less likely to remain in school to Year 12.

### International education comparisons with OECD countries

- Australia's mean scores for reading (515), mathematics (514) and science (527) were higher than the OECD averages (495, 499 and 503 respectively).
- Australia ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of the OECD countries with a score of 515 for reading.
- Australia ranked 9<sup>th</sup> for mathematics with a score of 514.
- Australia ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for science with a score of 527.



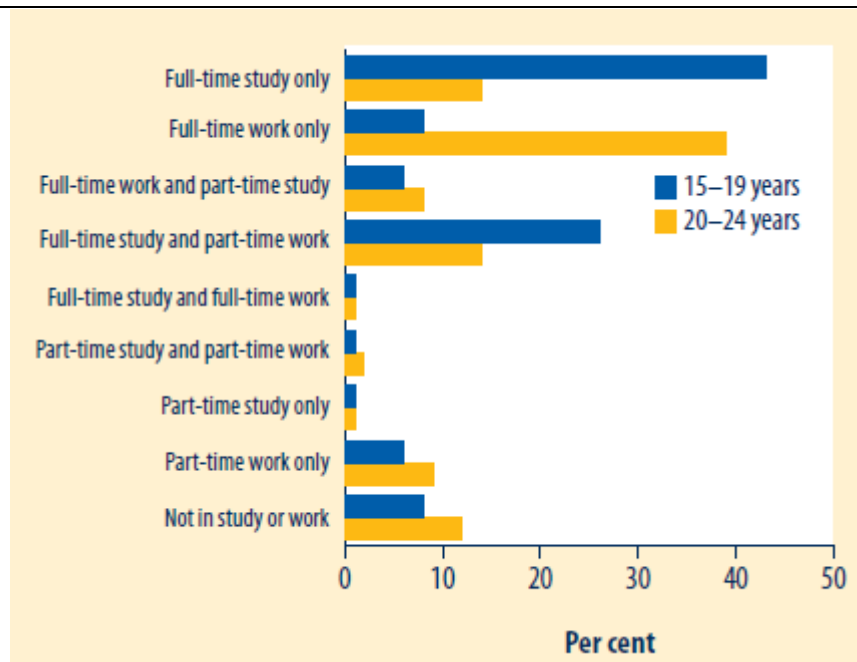
Source: OECD Programme for International Student Assessment 2010 database

Figure 29.3: Proficiency in reading for young people aged 15 years among selected OECD countries, 2009-page 129



## Employment (pages 131–135)

- Young people not participating in employment, education or training are more likely to experience social and economic disadvantages and poorer physical and mental health, and are at risk of social exclusion.
- The great majority of young people (81%) were fully participating in education and/or work in 2009.
- One in ten young people were unemployed in 2010 (twice that of the overall labour force population). Unemployment rates were twice as high among Indigenous youth.
- In 2008, one in six young people received government income support and over one-third lived in households that had experienced financial stress. This was higher among Indigenous young people and those living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.



Source: ABS Survey of Education and Work 2009

Figure 30.1: Participation in education and/or employment among young people aged 15–24 years, 2009—page 132

## How does Australia perform internationally on participation and employment indicators?

### Participation in education or work

Australia ranked 15th out of 25 OECD countries, for the proportion of 15–19 year olds not in education or employment in 2007.

With a proportion of 6.5%, Australia ranked lower than the OECD average (7.2%) but had a rate twice as high as Poland (2.5%), the Czech Republic and Luxembourg (2.9% each). Turkey and Spain had the highest rates at 36% and 11% respectively—nearly 5 times and 2 times Australia's rate, respectively.

### Unemployment

Australia compares favourably with other OECD countries for the unemployment rate among 15–19 year olds, ranking 10th out of 30 OECD countries in 2008.

With a rate of 12.8%, Australia ranked lower than the OECD average (16.0%), but had a rate considerably higher than Switzerland (7.1%) and Mexico (7.3%). The Slovak Republic and Spain had the highest unemployment rates, at 41.5% and 39.4% respectively—over 3 times the rate of Australia.

Note: OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development