

## How Young People are Faring 2009 - Backgrounder

### What is HYPAF?

*How Young People are Faring (HYPAF)* is the pre-eminent research report into the education, employment and overall wellbeing of young Australians. The 2009 report is the 11<sup>th</sup> in the series and focuses on the global economic downturn and the subsequent impact on young people's aspirations, employment opportunities and education pathways.

### The current climate for young people

The last year has been a difficult and turbulent period. The deepening of the financial crisis and deteriorating labour market conditions have profoundly affected populations around the world. Their effects are rippling through the multiple contexts in which people are situated, including their family lives, workplaces and communities. A big question is how these changing circumstances are affecting young people.

### The 2009 HYPAF report

Commissioned by The Foundation for Young Australians<sup>^</sup> and prepared by the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning (CPELL) at the University of Melbourne, the 2009 edition of *HYPAF* provides an opportunity to assess patterns of engagement in education and training in the context of the Government's education and training agenda.

The current Government's agenda seeks to:

- raise rates of completion of Year 12 or its equivalent to over 90 per cent of students
- significantly improve the proportion of children acquiring the basic skills for life and learning
- increase the proportion of young people making a smooth transition from school to work and further study.

Various measures of attainment, participation, and transition are used throughout the report to shed light on a host of policy issues, from access to education to the quality of educational outputs.

*HYPAF* will provide policymakers and others with the opportunity to:

- compare different aspects of education and training for young Australians
- assess the role of different sectors, from school education to higher education and vocational education and training
- identify areas that may need attention to help improve student outcomes and transition.

### HYPAF data sources

The data used in this report are derived from a range of sources including annual Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) surveys of education and work, monthly ABS national labour force surveys, the Census of Population and Housing, and other national sources including longitudinal surveys of youth. The results also include data from international comparisons of educational and employment activities for specific age groups, as well as national comparisons of transition experiences for different groups of young people.

<sup>^</sup> The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is an independent organisation that supports and empowers young Australians to become successful learners and creative, active and valued citizens. For more information on FYA please visit [www.fya.org.au](http://www.fya.org.au)