

## Census 2011: Education in Queensland

### Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing:
  - 64.7% of students in Queensland attended a government school
  - 46.6% of Queenslanders aged 15 years and over had completed year 12
  - 43.3% of persons in Queensland held a non-school qualification
  - the most prevalent fields of study in Queensland were Engineering and Related Technologies, and Management and Commerce
- Between 2001 and 2011 there were significant increases in educational participation and attainment in Queensland:
  - apparent retention rates for Year 10 to Year 12 increased from 76.8% to 79.8% for males and from 79.4% to 83.7% for females
  - the proportion of persons aged 15 years and over that had completed Year 12 increased from 37.9% to 47.8%
  - the number of males attending a higher education institution rose from 93,115 to 103,405, with females increasing from 117,067 to 149,268
  - the number of Queenslanders with a non-school qualification increased from 1.2 million to 1.9 million

### 1. Schools

According to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing there were 638,328 Queensland students attending school. Administrative data show that there were 736,114 full-time equivalent students enrolled at Queensland schools in 2011 (Source: ABS, Schools, Australia, 2011, Cat no. 4221.0). The lower census figure is mainly due to people not being counted in the census and census respondents who stated that they were attending an educational institution but who did not state the type of educational institution.

#### 1.1 Students by school sector

According to administrative data, 491,780 persons (66.8% of students) attended government schools in Queensland, while 135,039 persons attended Catholic schools in Queensland (18.3% of students) and 109,296 persons attended independent schools in Queensland (14.8% of students).

**Table 1: Students by school sector, Queensland, 2006 and 2011**

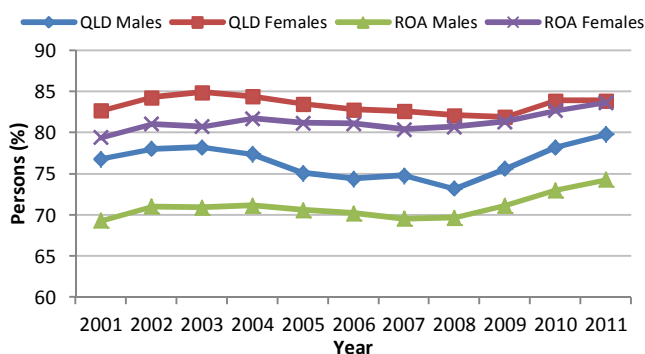
School sector	2006		2011	
	number	%	number	%
Government	456,739	69.2	491,780	66.8
Catholic	113,148	17.2	135,039	18.3
Independent	89,678	13.6	109,296	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>659,565</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>736,114</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS, Schools, Australia, 2011, Cat no. 4221.0

#### 1.2 Retention rates

Retention rates provide an indicative measure of the number of school students who have stayed in school, as at a designated Year (grade) and year of education. Figure 1 shows the apparent retention rate for full-time secondary students for Year 10 to Year 12 by sex for Queensland, with retention rates higher for females compared with males. Apparent retention rates for Queensland have been consistently higher than for the Rest of Australia (ROA) over the past 10 years. Because a range of factors can affect the calculation of apparent retention rates, the data should be interpreted cautiously.

**Figure 1: Apparent retention rates, by sex, Queensland and Rest of Australia, 2001 to 2011**



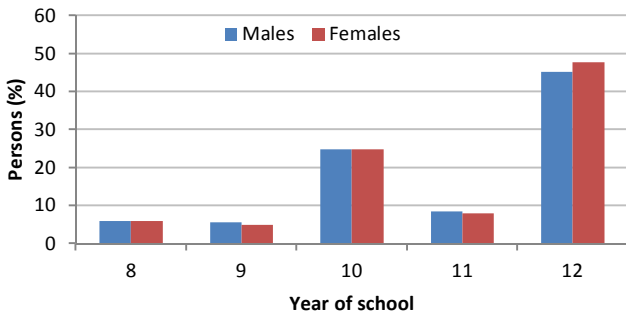
Source: ABS, Schools Australia, 2011 (Cat no. 4221.0)



### 1.3 Highest year of school completed

In 2011, the proportions of male and female Queenslanders aged 15 years and over who had completed Year 12 were 45.3% and 47.8% respectively. Year 10 was the highest year of schooling completed for 24.9% of both males and females in Queensland (Figure 2).

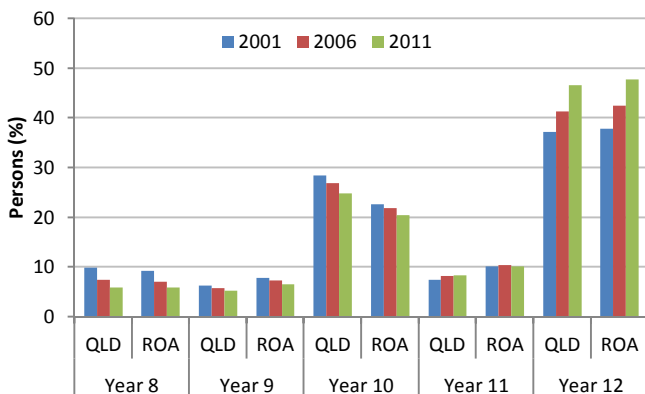
**Figure 2: Highest year of school completed for persons 15 years and over, by sex, Queensland, 2011**



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

The last three censuses have seen a steady increase in the proportion of persons aged 15 years and over that have completed Year 12 in both Queensland and ROA (Figure 3). Queensland and ROA have similar proportions of persons aged 15 years and over who have completed Year 12, but Queensland has a higher proportion of persons aged 15 years and over for whom Year 10 was their highest year of school completed.

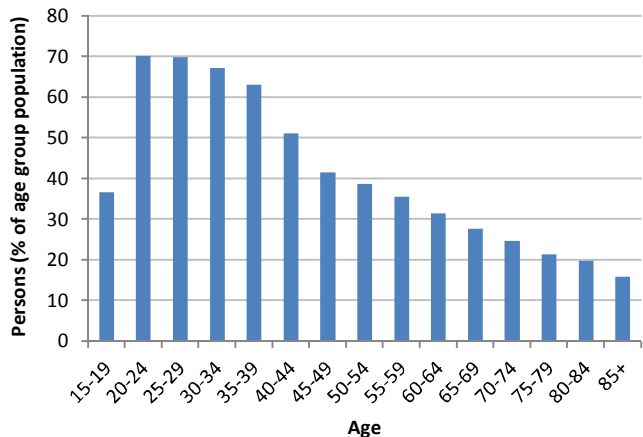
**Figure 3: Highest year of school completed for persons 15 years and over, Queensland and Rest of Australia, 2001, 2006, 2011**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011

Figure 4 shows that at the time of the 2011 Census 70% of persons aged 20-24 and 25-29 in Queensland had completed Year 12 or equivalent. Conversely, only 16% of persons aged 85 or over in Queensland had completed Year 12 or equivalent.

**Figure 4: Persons having completed year 12 or equivalent, by age group, Queensland, 2011**



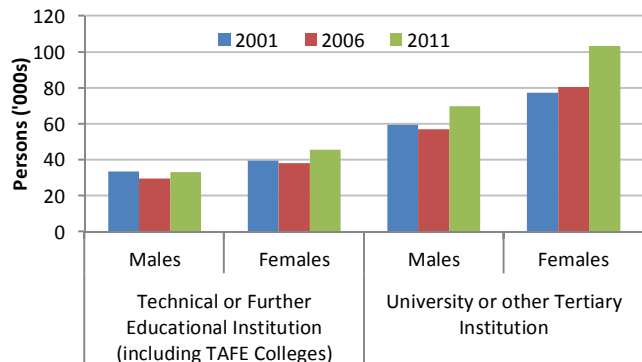
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

## 2. Non-school qualifications

### 2.1 Institution type attending

In Queensland there were 79,241 persons attending a 'Technical or Further Educational Institution' in Queensland in 2011 (compared with 73,161 persons in 2001) and 173,432 persons attending a 'University or other Tertiary Institution' in 2011 (compared with 137,021 persons in 2001). Censuses in 2001, 2006 and 2011 have shown that there are consistently more females than males attending both 'Technical or Further Educational Institutions' and 'University or other Tertiary Institutions' (Figure 5). In 2011, there were 47.6% more females than males attending 'University or other Tertiary Institutions' (103,391 females compared with 70,041 males), and 37.5% more females than males attending 'Technical or Further Educational Institutions' (45,877 females compared with 33,364 males).

**Figure 5: Number of persons attending an education institution by type of institution and sex, Queensland, 2001, 2006, 2011**



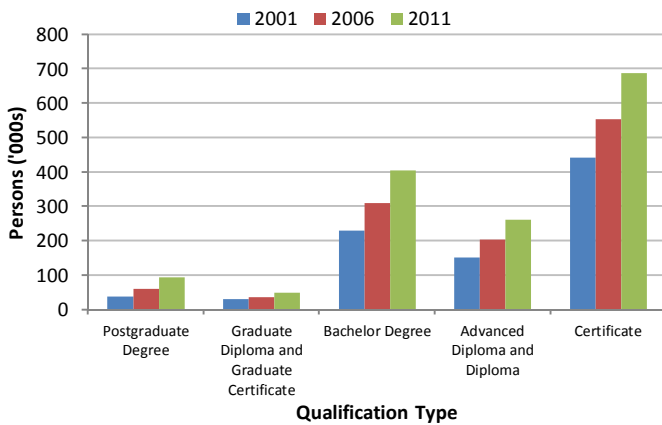
Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011



## 2.2 Highest non-school qualification

At the time of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, the most common highest non-school qualifications held by Queenslanders were Certificates (686,994 persons), followed by Bachelor degrees (404,770 persons) and Advanced diplomas and diplomas (260,780 persons). These were also the top three qualification types in 2001 and 2006. All qualification types have increased over the three censuses, with the largest per cent increase in the Postgraduate Degree category (151.5%), and the largest absolute increase in the Certificate category (245,064 persons).

**Figure 6: Highest non-school qualification by type, Queensland, 2001, 2006, 2011**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011

In 2011, Queensland had a larger proportion of the population with a highest non-school qualification of Certificate Level compared with the rest of Australia, but lower proportions for all other qualification types.

**Table 2: Highest non-school qualification by type, Queensland and Rest of Australia, 2001, 2006, 2011**

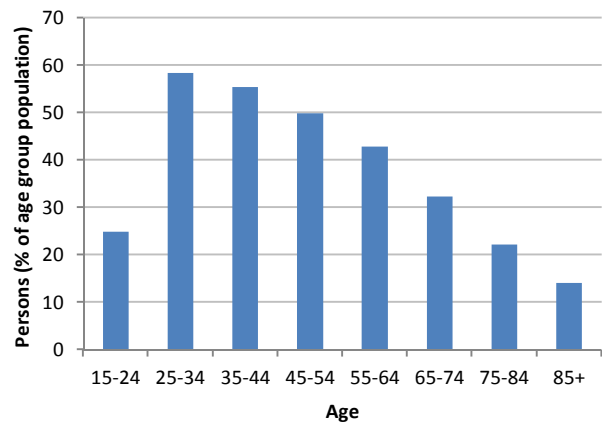
Qualification Type	2001		2006		2011	
	QLD	ROA	QLD	ROA	QLD	ROA
			— % —			
Postgraduate Degree	3.2	4.1	3.9	5.2	5.0	6.9
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.8	2.6	3.2
Bachelor Degree	19.3	21.5	19.8	22.5	21.6	24.7
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	12.8	13.1	13.1	13.6	13.9	14.5
Certificate	37.2	33.5	35.5	31.0	36.6	31.3
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes 'Not Stated' and 'Inadequately Described'

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011

The age group in which the highest proportion of persons in Queensland had a non-school qualification was the 25-34 age bracket (58.5% of the population aged 25-34), followed by the 35-44 age bracket (55.4% of the population aged 35-44). Conversely, the age group which showed the lowest level of non-school qualification attainment in Queensland was the 85 years and over group (14.0% of the population aged 85 years and over).

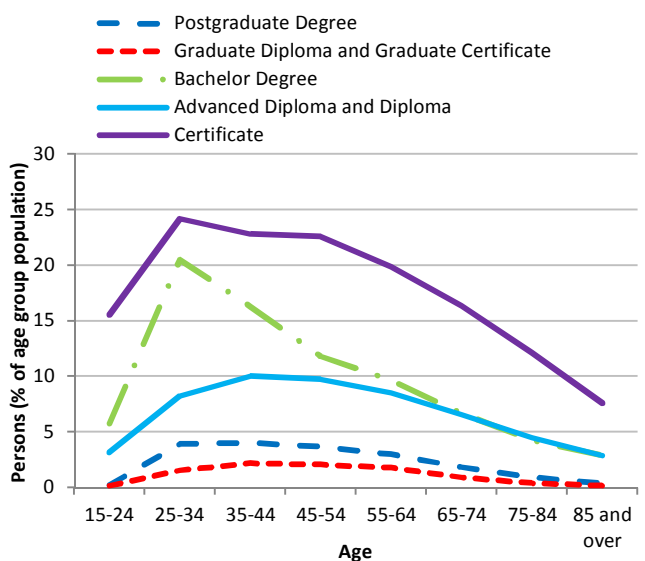
**Figure 7: Persons with a non-school qualification, by age group, Queensland, 2011**



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

Bachelor degrees and certificates were the most common non-school qualification type held by persons in the 25 to 34 years age group, while postgraduate degrees, graduate diplomas and graduate certificates, and advanced diplomas and diplomas were most commonly held by persons aged 35 to 44 years.

**Figure 8: Highest non-school qualification by type and age group, Queensland, 2011**



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

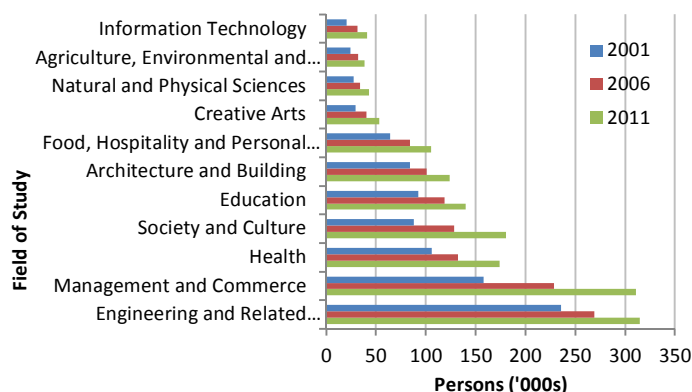


### 2.3 Non-school qualification field of study

At the time of the 2011 Census, the most prevalent fields of study for non-school qualifications in Queensland were Engineering and related technologies (314,629 persons) and Management and commerce (310,802 persons). Together, these two fields of study accounted for 33.4% of all non-school qualifications.

All non-school qualification fields of study in Queensland have shown an increase in the last ten years (Figure 9), with the highest absolute growth seen in the fields of Management and Commerce (152,904 persons), Society and Culture (92,697 persons) and Engineering and Related Technologies (78,704 persons), while the highest per cent growth occurred in the fields of Society and Culture (105.5%), Information Technology (101.1%) and Management and Commerce (96.8%).

**Figure 9: Field of study for non-school qualification, Queensland, 2001, 2006, 2011**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011

In 2011, the most popular field of study for males in Queensland was Engineering and Related Technologies (296,939 persons, 30.1% of males), followed by Architecture and Building (116,678 persons, 11.8% of males) and Management and Commerce (116,345 persons, 11.8% of males) (Table 3). The most common fields of study for females in Queensland were Management and Commerce (194,457 persons, 21.9% of females) and Health (134,141 persons, 15.1% of females). The largest gender disparity in Queensland was in the field of Engineering and Related Technologies, which was studied by 30.1% of males (296,939 persons), compared with 2.0% of females (17,690 persons).

**Table 3: Field of study for non-school qualification by sex, Queensland, 2011**

Field of study	Males		Females	
	number	%	number	%
Information technology	31,240	3.2	9,810	1.1
Agriculture, environmental & related studies	27,262	2.8	10,901	1.2
Natural & physical sciences	22,774	2.3	20,200	2.3
Creative arts	21,107	2.1	32,270	3.6
Food, hospitality & personal services	38,785	3.9	66,297	7.5
Architecture & building	116,678	11.8	7,201	0.8
Education	32,953	3.3	107,024	12.1
Society & culture	56,128	5.7	124,430	14.0
Health	39,849	4.0	134,141	15.1
Management & commerce	116,345	11.8	194,457	21.9
Engineering & related technologies	296,939	30.1	17,690	2.0
Mixed field programmes	1,317	0.1	1,514	0.2
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>987,646</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>887,676</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes 'Not Stated' and 'Inadequately Described'

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

For more information, please visit GS's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at [www.oesr.qld.gov.au](http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au).

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Censuses of Population and Housing ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)).

Government Statistician  
Economic and Structural Policy  
Queensland Treasury and Trade  
Phone: (07) 3035 6418  
Email: [oesr@treasury.qld.gov.au](mailto:oesr@treasury.qld.gov.au)

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