

Students drifting off course

CLASS DISPARITY: EDUCATION QUEENSLAND SURVEY FINDS WORRYING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AMONG LOGAN SCHOOL-LEAVERS FROM 2010

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CLOSE to one in six Logan school-leavers were "disengaged" six months after graduation compared to the state average of one in 10, a survey has shown.

Education Queensland's Next Step survey revealed that the Logan class of 2010

had the highest number of school leavers unemployed and not studying, when compared to other areas in the Brisbane education region.

It also found that while around 27 per cent went on to study at university, close to a third took to vocational education or training, including TAFE, apprentice-

ships and traineeships.

According to the survey, just one in 10 went straight in to full-time work.

Acting general manager for Max Employment in Queensland Sam Brown said school-leavers seeking employment needed to have a goal and the right attitude.

"They have to have a bit of a goal. Any job's not going

to cut it, you have to have an idea of what job you want to go for," she said.

"If they're going straight into looking for a job, they're going to have to start with the lower level jobs where limited experience is more appealing to the employer."

Ms Brown said the ageing population would see health care dominate the job mar-

ket in years to come.

"That can range from anything from allied health services down to kitchen staff and courier drivers and a whole range of other lower-skilled jobs where it's a foot in the door but the health industry is the way forward."

Queensland state manager for the Beacon Foundation

Anita Cannon said students needed to begin transitioning into their career as early as Year 10 to avoid falling into unemployment if they didn't achieve their first preference.

"There's always related pathways where they start in one area and then transition across if that's the case," she said.