

The costs of lost opportunity for disengaged young people

Counting the costs of lost opportunity in Australian education

Thirteen per cent or one in eight Australians will be disengaged from full-time work, study or training for most of their lives.

Disparities in educational attainment lead to major differences in many areas of life: people who miss out face increased likelihood of experiencing unemployment or underemployment, poor health, crime and public welfare dependency.

By tracking all 25 to 44 year olds from 2001-2014 we found that almost **90 per cent of men** and **82 per cent of women** who had not completed Year 12 did not return to study and training. They were early leavers in their teen years and they still had no qualifications as adults.

Fiscal and social costs of long-term disengagement

	Annual cost per cohort	Lifetime cost per cohort
Lost taxes 	\$316.8m	\$12.7bn
Health 	\$6.7m	\$300m
Crime 	\$11.6m	\$500m
Welfare 	\$145.8m	\$5.8bn

	Annual cost per cohort	Lifetime cost per cohort
Fiscal	\$470.7m	\$18.8bn
Social	\$1,261.3m	\$50.5bn



It is wrong to assume that young people eventually 'find their way' – our research indicates this is not the case, especially for those without access to additional support.

For more information visit our website at www.mitchellinstitute.org.au