

Media Release: **2013 Graduate Jobs Data**

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New Graduates Advantaged by Part-Time Work Experience

The annual Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) shows that 71.3 per cent of new bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment had found a full-time job within four months of completing their studies, while another 18.1 per cent were working on a part-time or casual basis.

However consistent with a softening in the labour market, 10.6 per cent of new bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment had not found a job within four months of completing their studies, as compared with 8.6 per cent in 2012 (*see Table 1a in GradStats*).

The AGS is an annual survey of the employment outcomes for recent bachelor degree graduates and in 2013 has shown that it is still taking them longer to move into the labour force than it did prior to the global economic downturn.

For the graduates of some fields of education, the transition to full-time employment from higher education takes a little longer than others. However, the middle- to longer-term outlook is very positive. GCA's Beyond Graduation Survey (BGS), which follows up AGS respondents three and five years after their original survey response, shows that by 2012, the full-time employment figure for 2009 graduates was 92.3 per cent.

GCA Executive Director Dr Noel Edge said that while the transition of new graduates from higher education into the labour force remained slower than in the years prior to the global financial crisis, their longer-term prospects were very strong. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures for May 2013 show that, in the general labour force (aged 15-64), just 3.4 per cent of bachelor degree graduates were unemployed. The comparative figure for the total population (with or without non-school qualifications) was 5.7 per cent and 7.8 per cent for persons with no post-secondary qualifications.

Anecdotal evidence from university careers services suggests that graduates who had been placed in internships or found part-time work during their study years had met with greater success in their job searches than those with no work experience.

The soft labour market conditions again served to limit growth in graduate starting salaries, with the median starting salary for bachelor degree graduates aged less than 25 and in their first full-time employment in Australia growing just \$450 (0.9 per cent) to \$52,450 from \$52,000 in 2012 (*see Table 3 in GradStats*).

Further information and comment

All figures are drawn from the preliminary report *GradStats 2013*. Members of the public can download copies of these reports free of charge at www.graduatecareers.com.au.

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