



Media Release: **Graduates Three Years Out**

Graduate Employment Strong Three Years Out

Despite a flat labour market for new graduates, university study still pays off, according to the *Beyond Graduation 2013* report just released by Graduate Careers Australia (GCA). The report is based on a 2013 survey of graduates three years after they had completed a course at an Australian higher education institution.

The report notes that among the graduates from 2009, the full-time employment rate had increased notably from 76.3 per cent just after course completion to 90.2 per cent three years later.

The status of the work new graduates were doing also increased notably, with the percentage in managerial or professional roles growing from 74.9 per cent to 84.2 per cent within three years of course completion. These figures suggest that some new graduates can take longer to find appropriate jobs or occupations in their transition to the world of work from higher education.

GCA Executive Director, Dr Noel Edge, said that the findings are consistent with previous reports and reinforce the value of higher education. "Although our research has shown we are experiencing a temporary slowdown in the uptake of new graduates, it is clear that they are finding their places in the workforce within a few years of graduation," Dr Edge said.

The report also indicated strong salary growth among bachelor degree graduates in full-time work, with the median salary increasing from \$50,000 shortly after course completion to \$67,000 three years later – an increase of 34 per cent. *Engineering* and *Information Technology* graduates were the highest earners among bachelor degree graduates with 2013 median full-time salaries of \$78,000 and \$73,000 respectively.

Just over a third of respondents were in further study three years after graduating, with approximately equal numbers in full-time and part-time study. Around a third of respondents had also completed another qualification since finishing their undergraduate course in 2009. Graduates in the broad field of *Society and Culture* being the most likely to have completed more study. "It is useful to remember that sometimes the payoffs from higher education can take a little longer to become obvious, and a longer-term perspective is needed," Dr Edge said.

The *Beyond Graduation Survey* is in its fifth year, with more than 12,300 graduates representing 36 institutions responding in 2013.

The full report is available for download from:

[www.graduatecareers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Beyond_Graduation_2013_\(final\).pdf](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Beyond_Graduation_2013_(final).pdf)

For comment please contact

Bharat Balasubramanian (Senior Research Associate) on 03 9605 3714 or David Carroll (Senior Research Associate) on 03 9605 3713