

Snapshot report

Destinations of school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

2024 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

This snapshot report provides a high-level overview of findings from the 2024 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey relating to 2 cohorts of recent school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs: Year 12 completers and early school leavers. In 2024 the sample frame was expanded to include Year 12 completers and early school leavers from schools for specific purposes.



Survey sample

In 2024, 95,334 students (68,778 Year 12 completers and 26,556 early school leavers) from across NSW were invited to take part in the survey. Of these it was estimated that 11,153 (16.2%) Year 12 completers and 6,745 (25.4%) early school leavers have an identified disability and/or additional learning needs.

Of the estimated 17,898 school leavers who have an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, it is estimated that:¹

- 8,428 have a cognitive disability
- 1,446 have a physical disability
- 1,793 have a sensory disability
- 12,283 have a social or emotional disability
- 321 have another form of disability and/or additional learning needs.

The estimate was based on responses received from 30,752 Year 12 completers and 6,483 early school leavers. Of these responses, 4,926 Year 12 completers and 1,597 early school leavers had an identified disability and/or additional learning needs.

¹ School leavers were grouped according to their response to the question 'Do you identify as having a disability, or additional learning needs?' Category estimates sum to more than the group total because it is possible to identify as having more than one disability and/or additional learning need.

Main post-school destinations in 2024

School leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

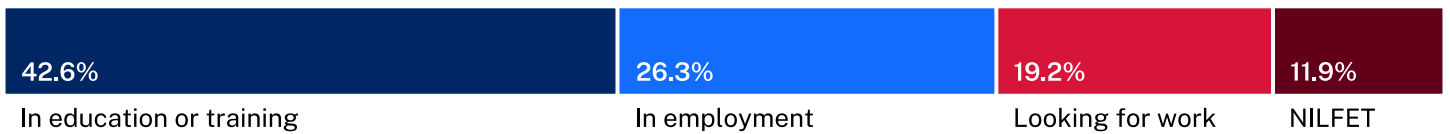
It was estimated that in 2024, 77.7% of all recent school leavers, 83.0% of Year 12 completers and 68.9% of early school leavers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs were in education, training or employment.

Figure 1: Estimated percentage of NSW Year 12 completers and early school leavers with an identified disability in education or training, employment, looking for work or NILFET in the year after leaving or completing school, 2024²

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



School leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

It was estimated that in 2024, 92.4% of all recent school leavers, 94.1% of Year 12 completers and 87.3% of early school leavers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs were in education, training or employment.

Figure 2: Estimated percentage of NSW Year 12 completers and early school leavers without an identified disability in education or training, employment, looking for work or NILFET in the year after leaving or completing school, 2024

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



² NILFET = not in the labour force, education or training.

Post-school destinations of Year 12 completers in 2024

Year 12 completers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

40.7% Bachelor	5.1% VET cert IV+	3.4% VET cert III	1.8% VET cert I–II
▼ down 3.9 pp since 2023*	▲ up 0.6 pp since 2023	▼ down 0.4 pp since 2023	▲ up 0.3 pp since 2023
3.2% Apprenticeship	3.4% Traineeship	6.6% Full-time work	18.9% Part-time work
▼ down 0.1 pp since 2023	▼ down 0.1 pp since 2023	▼ down 1.0 pp since 2023	▲ up 0.7 pp since 2023

In 2024 there were fewer Year 12 completers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs studying bachelor's degrees compared to 2023.

There were also more Year 12 completers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs who were NILFET (up 3.3 percentage points, or pp, to 8.1% in 2024).

Year 12 completers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

54.9% Bachelor	4.2% VET cert IV+	1.9% VET cert III	0.8% VET cert I–II
▲ up 0.4 pp since 2023	~ no change since 2023	▼ down 0.1 pp since 2023	▲ up 0.1 pp since 2023
5.6% Apprenticeship	3.5% Traineeship	8.1% Full-time work	15.1% Part-time work
▼ down 0.5 pp since 2023*	▼ down 0.4 pp since 2023*	▼ down 0.9 pp since 2023*	▲ up 0.6 pp since 2023

Compared to 2023, there were fewer Year 12 completers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs undertaking full-time employment, apprenticeships and traineeships as their main destination in 2024.

There were also more Year 12 completers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs who were looking for work (up 0.5 pp to 4.3% in 2024).

* indicates statistically significant change (refer to [technical report](#) for details).

In 2024, compared to Year 12 completers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, there were **more** Year 12 completers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs with a main destination of:

- VET certificate VI+ (1.0 pp higher)
- VET certificate III (1.5 pp higher)
- VET certificate I–II (1.0 pp higher)
- part-time work (3.7 pp higher)
- looking for work (4.8 pp higher)
- NILFET (6.3 pp higher).

In 2024, compared to Year 12 completers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, there were **more** Year 12 completers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs with a main destination of:

- bachelor's degree (14.3 pp higher)
- apprenticeships (2.4 pp higher)
- full-time work (1.5 pp higher).

Note: Comparisons discussed in 'Post-school destinations of Year 12 completers in 2024' and 'Post-school destinations of early school leavers in 2024' refer only to statistically significant changes (refer to technical report for more details).

Post-school destinations of early school leavers in 2024

Early school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

0.8% Bachelor	5.3% VET cert IV+	11.7% VET cert III	4.5% VET cert I–II
▼ down 2.1 pp since 2023*	▼ down 2.7 pp since 2023*	▲ up 1.3 pp since 2023	▲ up 0.3 pp since 2023
13.2% Apprenticeship	7.2% Traineeship	6.2% Full-time work	20.1% Part-time work
▼ down 2.2 pp since 2023	▲ up 1.0 pp since 2023	▼ down 2.4 pp since 2023*	▲ up 1.9 pp since 2023

Compared to 2023, there were fewer early school leavers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs undertaking bachelor's degrees, VET certificate IV+ courses and full-time work in 2024.

There were also more early school leavers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs who were NILFET (up 2.9 pp to 11.9% in 2024).

Early school leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs

1.5% Bachelor	4.2% VET cert IV+	6.3% VET cert III	2.3% VET cert I–II
▲ up 0.1 pp since 2023	▼ down 0.8 pp since 2023	▼ down 0.1 pp since 2023	▲ up 0.2 pp since 2023
40.1% Apprenticeship	8.9% Traineeship	9.3% Full-time work	14.7% Part-time work
▲ up 0.8 pp since 2023	▼ down 0.9 pp since 2023	▼ down 1.7 pp since 2023*	▲ up 1.5 pp since 2023

Compared to 2023, there were fewer early school leavers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs undertaking full-time work as their main destination in 2024.

* indicates statistically significant change (refer to [technical report](#) for details).

In 2024, compared to early school leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, there were **more** early school leavers **with** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs with a main destination of:

- VET certificate III (5.4 pp higher)
- VET certificate I–II (2.2 pp higher)
- part-time work (5.4 pp higher)
- looking for work (9.6 pp higher)
- NILFET (8.8 pp higher).

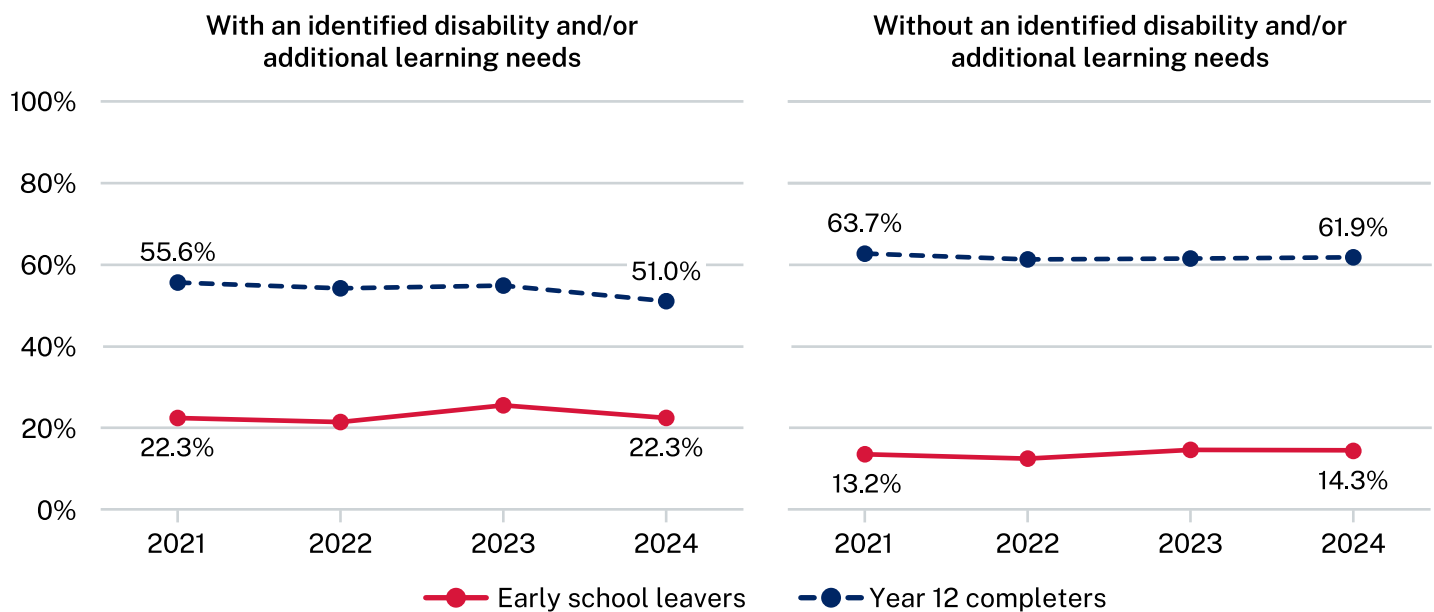
In 2024, compared to early school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, there were **more** early school leavers **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs with a main destination of:

- apprenticeships (26.9 pp higher)
- traineeships (1.7 pp higher)
- full-time work (3.2 pp higher).

School leavers in education or training³

From 2021 to 2024, a higher percentage of Year 12 completers were in education compared to early school leavers. This applied to school leavers both **with** and **without** an identified disability and/or additional learning needs. The percentage of Year 12 completers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in education decreased slightly between 2023 and 2024 (-3.4 pp). For early school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs there was an increase in the percentage entering education between 2022 and 2023 (4.5 pp). In 2024 this percentage returned to its 2021 level. For early school leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs there was also an increase in the percentage entering education between 2022 and 2023 (2.7 pp), however this did not change between 2023 and 2024. For Year 12 completers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs the percentage entering education saw a decrease between 2021 and 2022 (-2.4 pp) but has remained stable since this period (around 61%).

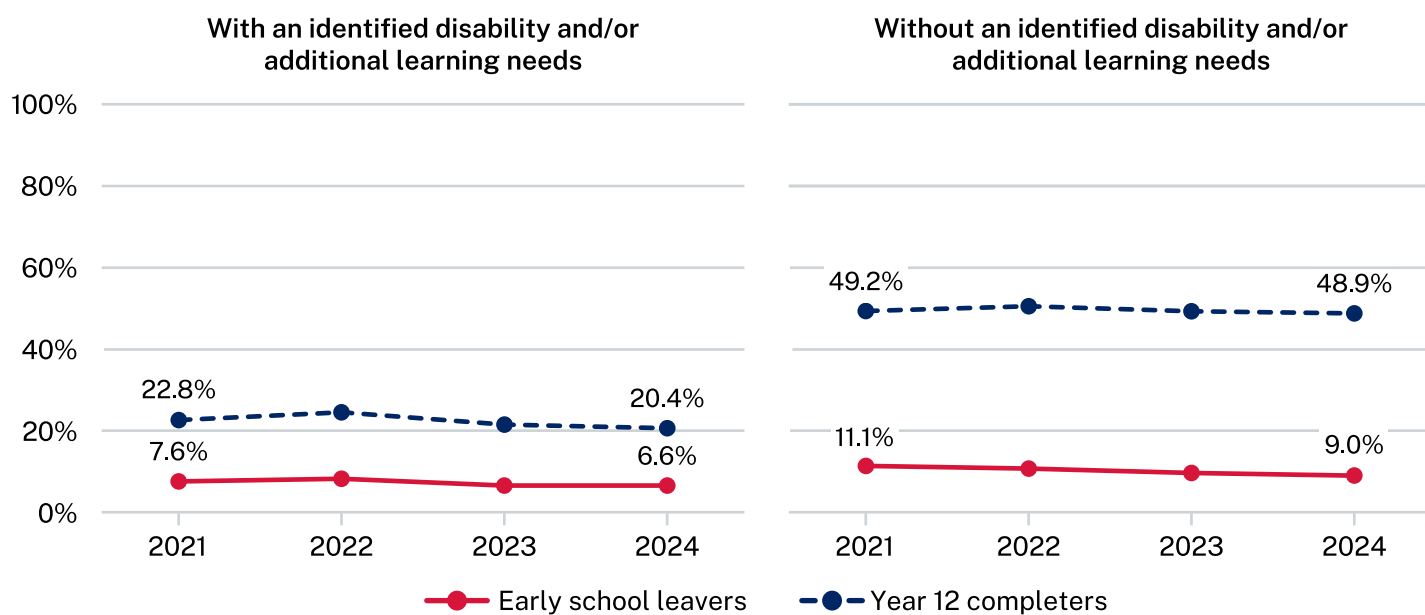
Figure 3: Estimated percentage of NSW school leavers with and without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in education in the year after leaving or completing school, 2021 to 2024



For both school leavers with and without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs, the percentage of early school leavers who took up training in the year after leaving school was consistently higher than it was for Year 12 completers. The percentage of Year 12 completers in training decreased for both those with (-1.5 pp) and without (-1.7 pp) an identified disability and/or additional learning needs between 2022 and 2024. For early school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs there was also a decrease in the uptake of training between 2022 and 2024 (-4.2 pp), however for early school leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs the percentage in training has not changed since 2021 (at around 49%).

³ Education includes the main destinations of bachelor's degree, VET certificate IV+, VET certificate III and VET certificate I-II. Training includes the main destinations of apprenticeship and traineeship.

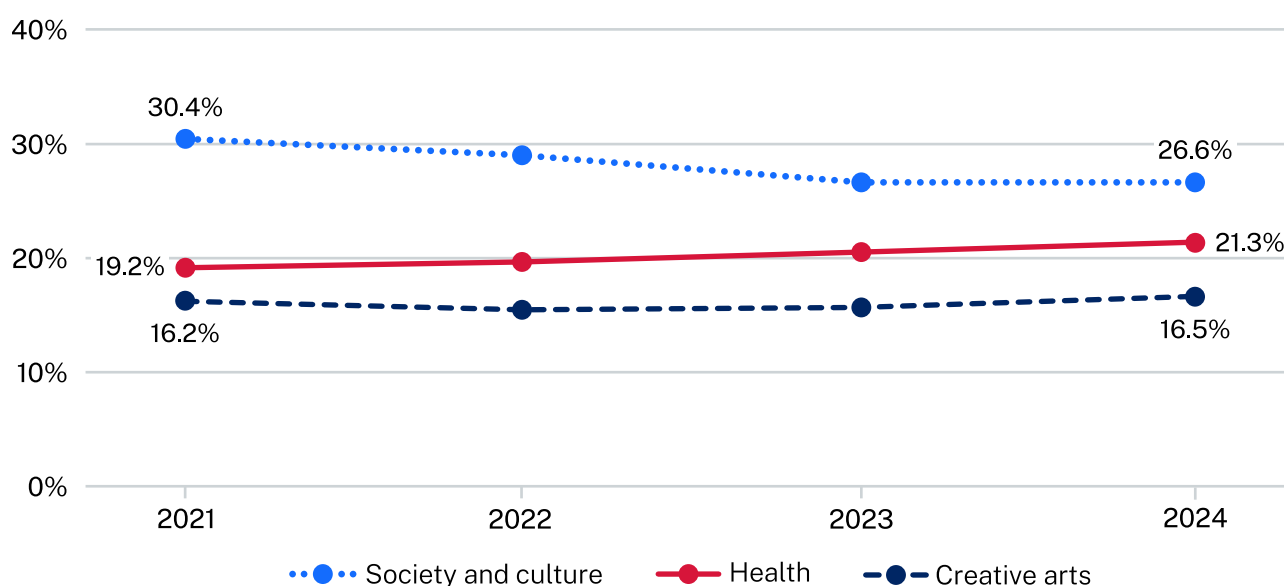
Figure 4: Estimated percentage of NSW school leavers with and without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in training in the year after leaving or completing school, 2021 to 2024



Education areas for bachelor and VET students⁴

The top bachelor’s degree education areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in 2024 were society and culture, health and creative arts. Since 2021 there has been a decrease in the uptake of society and culture (–3.8 pp) and an increase for health (2.1 pp). This aligns with trends in these education areas for bachelor’s degrees at a state level. However, despite these changes over time, society and culture (rather than health) was still the most studied area for bachelor’s degree students with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in 2024 (26.6%). While creative arts was the third-most common area of study for students with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs doing a bachelor’s degree, management and commerce was the third-most common area across all leavers in NSW (refer to ‘Education areas for bachelor and VET students’ in the annual report).

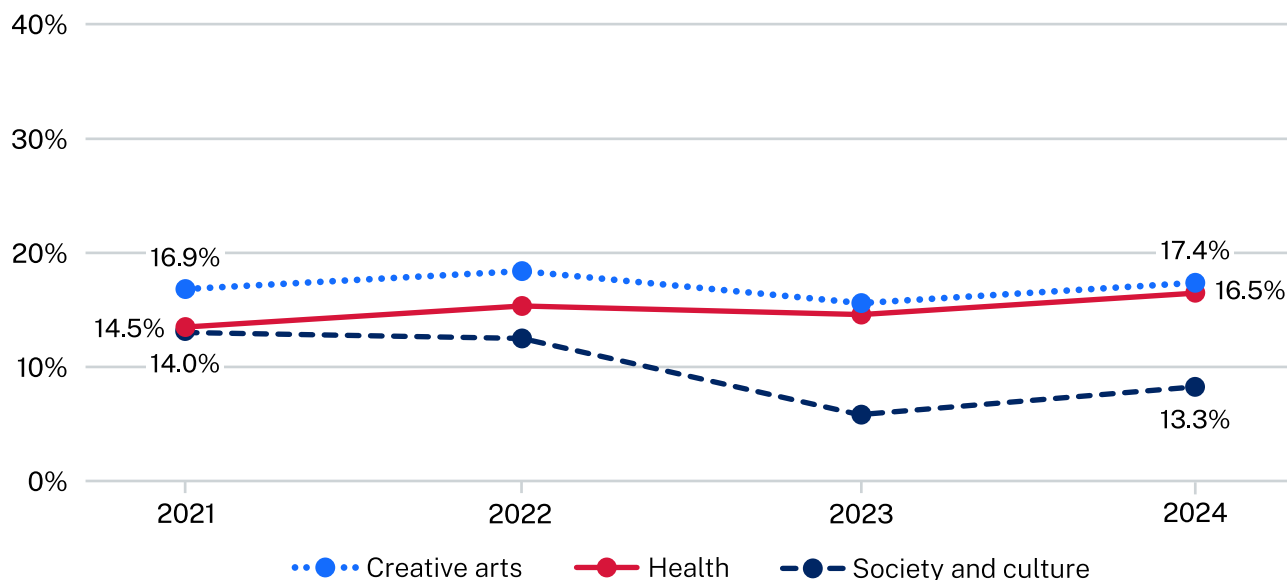
Figure 5: Top 3 education areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was a bachelor’s degree, 2021 to 2024



⁴ Education trends correspond to broad fields of education in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCE), 2001. In contrast to earlier reports, only recent leavers who said they were currently studying a bachelor or VET-level course that did not form part of an apprenticeship or traineeship were included in the base for reporting.

The top 3 VET certificate education areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in 2024 were creative arts, health, and society and culture. At a state level, health was the most common education area for all leavers studying a VET certificate in 2024, followed by creative arts and society and culture (refer to 'Education areas for bachelors and VET students' in the annual report).

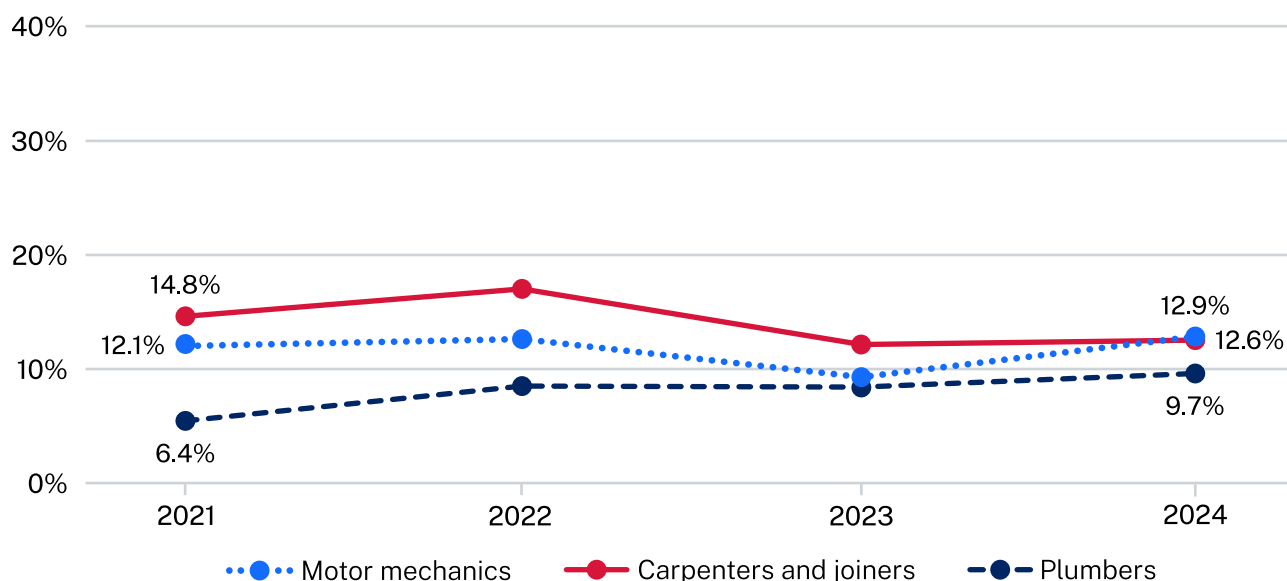
Figure 6: Top 3 education areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was either VET cert I–II, VET cert III or VET cert IV+, 2021 to 2024



Employment areas for apprentices and trainees

The top 3 areas of employment in 2024 for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs doing apprenticeships were in the fields of motor mechanics, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers.⁵ Carpenters and joiners, and plumbers, were also the second and third most common apprenticeship areas across all leavers at the state level while the most common area was electricians (refer to 'Employment areas for apprentices and trainees' in the annual report).

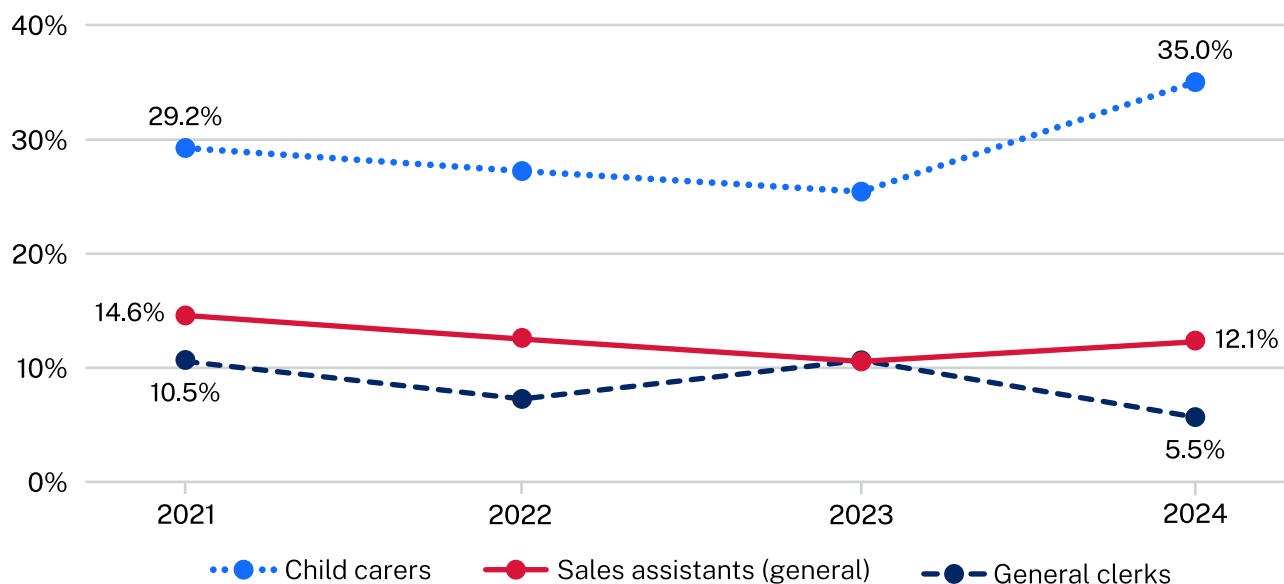
Figure 7: Top 3 apprenticeship employment areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was an apprenticeship, 2021 to 2024



⁵ Employment areas are defined by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) unit-level groups. Refer to the ANZSCO release for more information. Estimated percentages for employment in this part of the snapshot report include recent school leavers whose main destination was an apprenticeship.

The top 3 areas of employment in 2024 for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in traineeships were child carers, sales assistants and general clerks.⁶ These were also the top 3 employment areas for all trainees at the state level (refer to ‘Employment areas for apprentices and trainees’ in the annual report). Between 2023 and 2024 the percentage of all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs entering traineeships as child carers saw an 8.7 pp increase while the percentage entering traineeships as general clerks saw a 5.1 pp decrease.

Figure 8: Top 3 traineeship employment areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was a traineeship, 2021 to 2024



School leavers in employment only⁷

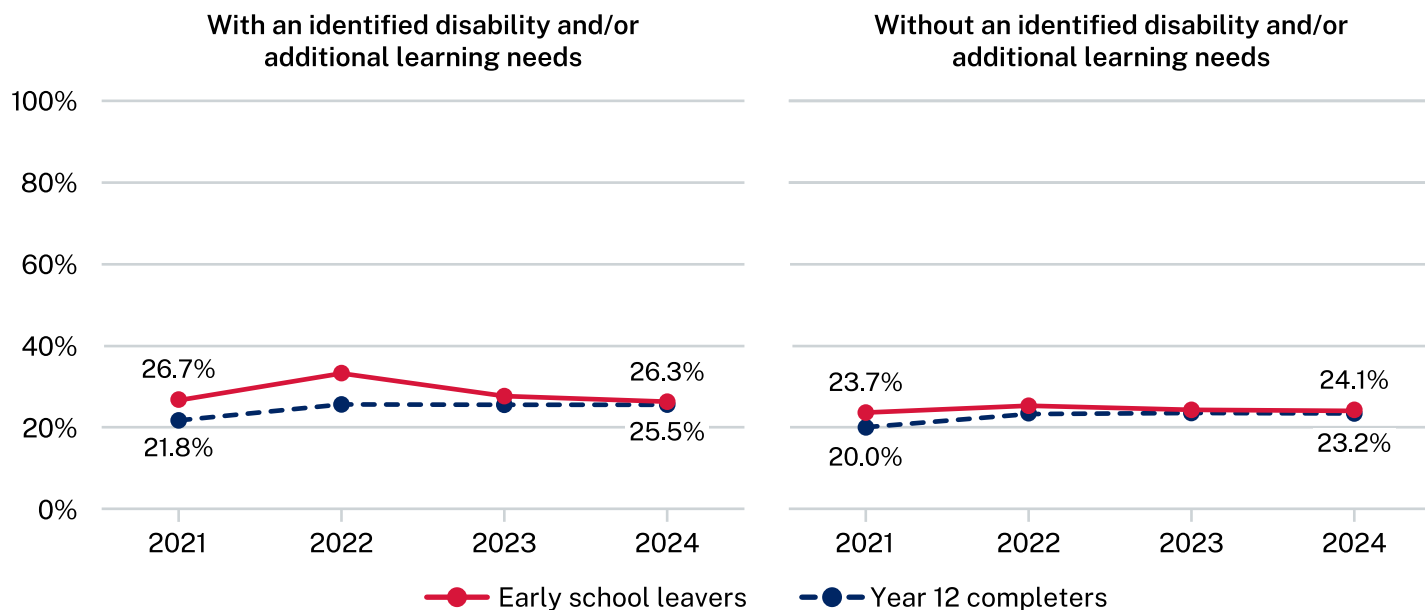
Between 2021 and 2022, the percentage of Year 12 completers with a main destination of employment increased by 3.8 pp for those with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs and by 3.4 pp for those without. Between 2022 and 2024, the percentage of Year 12 completers in employment only remained relatively stable for those with (around 26%) and without (around 23%) an identified disability and/or additional learning needs.

For early school leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs there was an increase of 6.4 pp in the percentage entering employment only in 2022 but this returned to around 27% in 2023 and has remained relatively stable since. The percentage of early school leavers without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs in employment only remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2024 (around 24%).

⁶ Estimated percentages for employment in this part of the snapshot report include recent school leavers whose main destination was a traineeship.

⁷ Employment trends and areas include those whose main destination was part-time or full-time work but exclude those in an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Figure 9: Estimated percentage of NSW school leavers with and without an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was paid employment in the year after leaving or completing school, 2021 to 2024



Employment areas for those in paid work only

In 2024, sales assistants, storepersons (for example, warehouse assistants) and kitchenhands were the top 3 areas of employment for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs. The same 3 employment areas were also the most common among all leavers at the state level (refer to 'Employment areas for those in paid work only' in the annual report).

Figure 10: Top 3 employment areas for all leavers with an identified disability and/or additional learning needs whose main destination was paid work, 2021 to 2024

