



Secondary School Transitions Project

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Food and Fibre Centre of Vocational Excellence -
Research Forum

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Boring but necessary slide.

Scope:

Evaluate secondary tertiary interface.

How well are current 'interface schemes' working for Food and Fibre?

How effective is the 'ecosystem' from education to employment when it comes to the food and fibre sector?

Stages:

Data inquiry – IDI (Thank you Scarlatti)

Policy Review (and Strategic Operations).

Future Focussed Research

Development of school-focussed rubric in Food and Fibre CoVE's VET Excellence Framework

Research Methods:

Data inquiry – IDI (Thank you Scarlatti).

Stakeholder engagement – in layers.

Case studies.

Desktop.

Arthur and Josh's unashamed reckons.

Interim Report

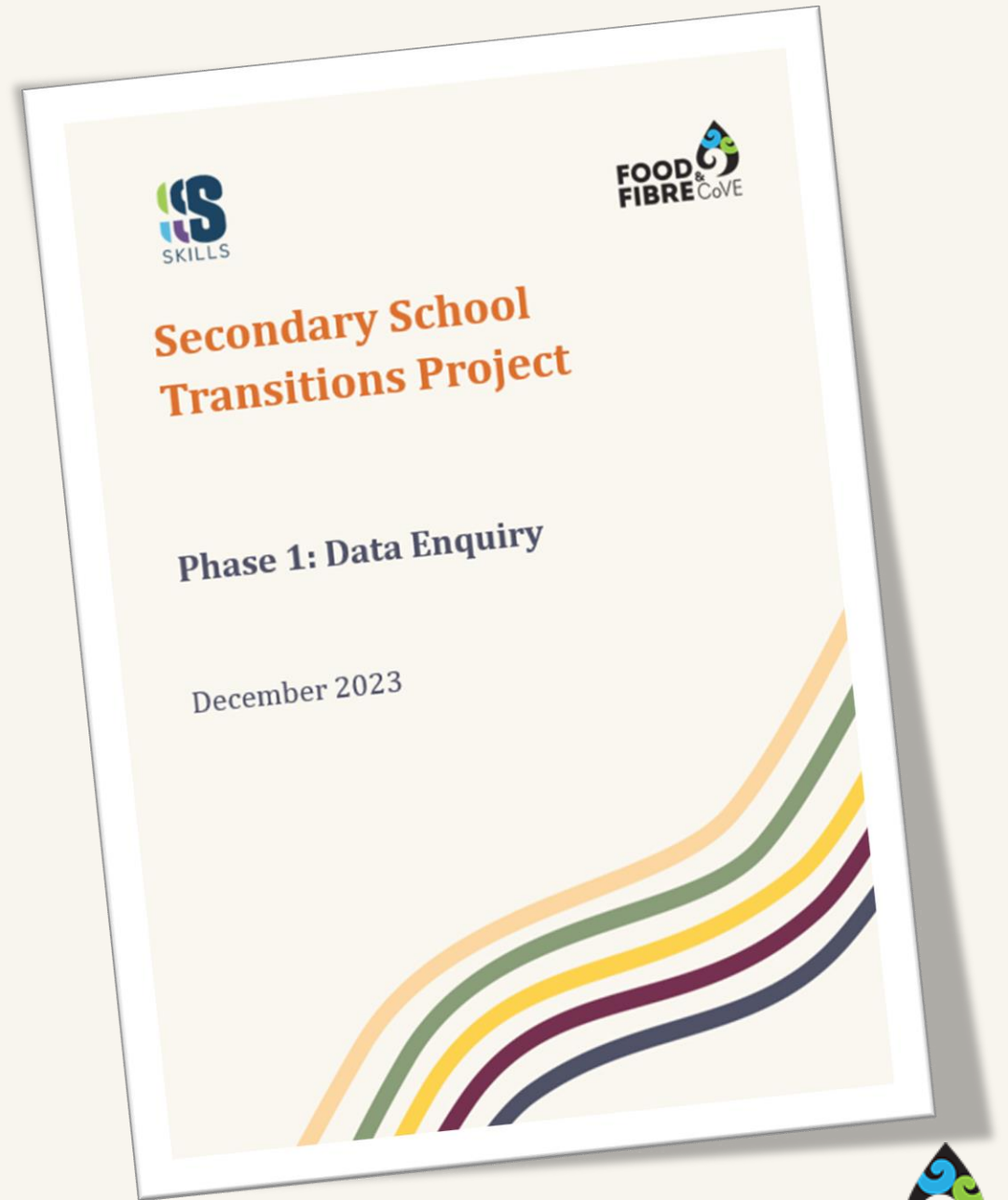
We've delivered an interim report to Food and Fibre CoVE in December 2023.

It covers the data inquiry and first round of stakeholder engagement.

It's a cracker, but it's not out yet.

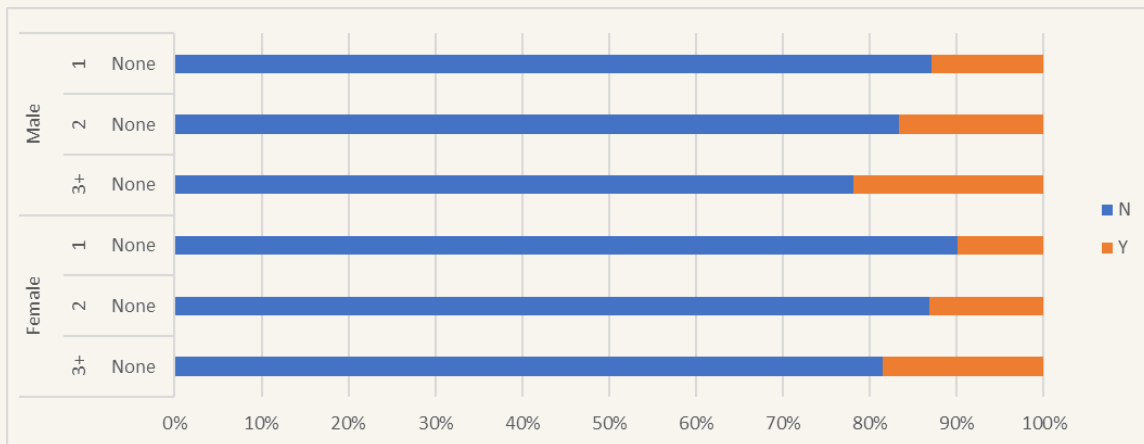
It's being peer reviewed to check our math, because the findings appear to be exciting and we want to be right.

Notwithstanding this interim status, we shall now bravely tell you what we think.



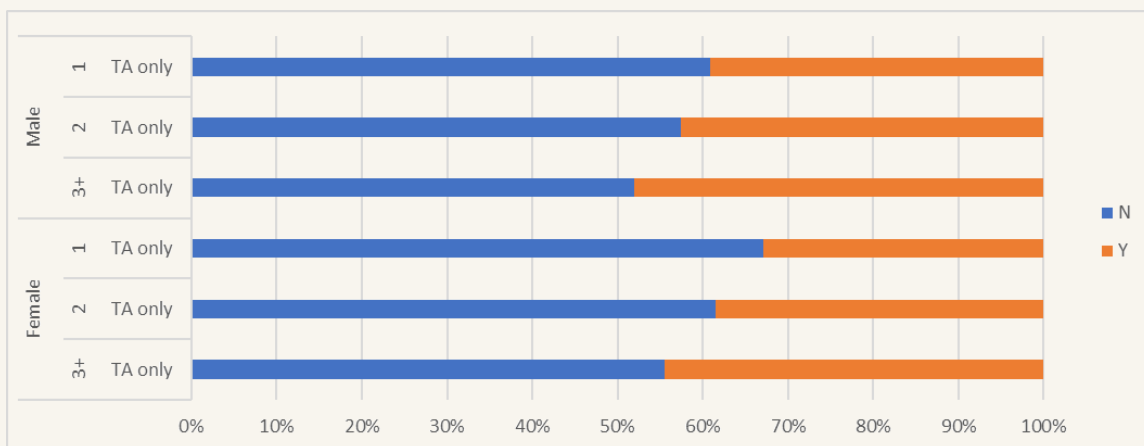
We find stunning (but not surprising) results for Trades Academy learners.

#1 – chances of entering the industry.



Proportion of school leavers entering food and fibre 1,2 and 3+ years following school – no Trades Academy.

1 year later – males 13%, females 10%

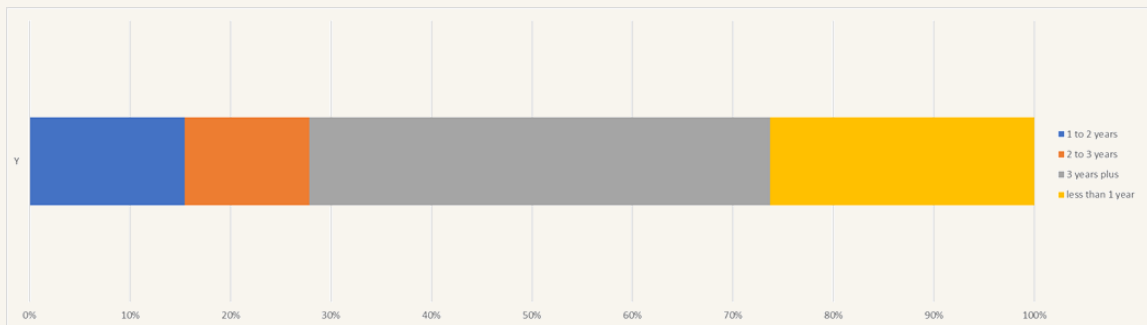


Proportion of school leavers entering food and fibre 1,2 and 3+ years following school – WITH Trades Academy Programme.

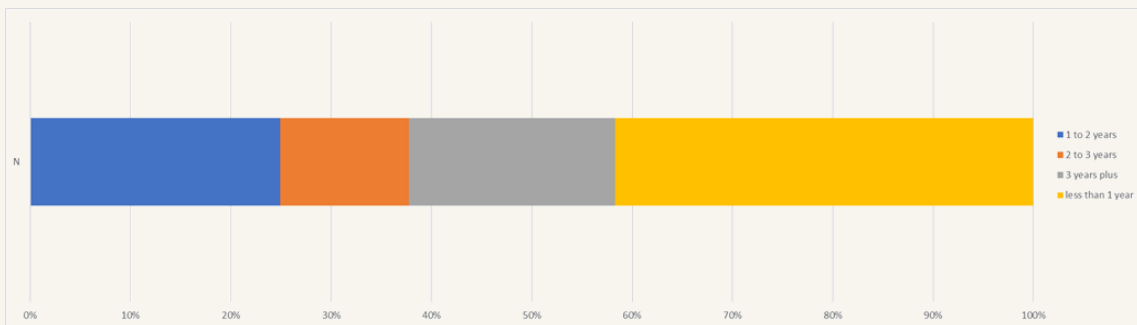
1 year later – males 39%, females 33%

We find stunning (but not surprising) results for Trades Academy learners.

#2 – retention in the industry.



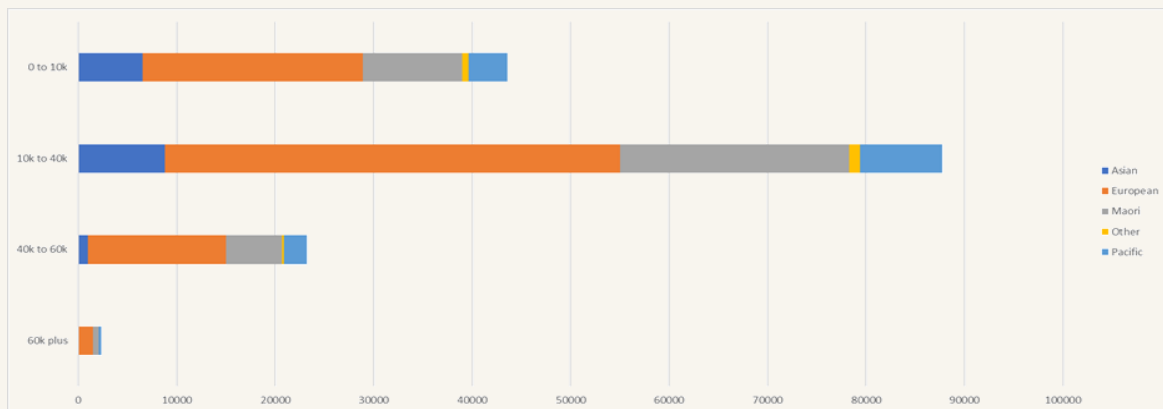
Non-Trades Academy students:
42% stay less than a year
21% there three years or more.



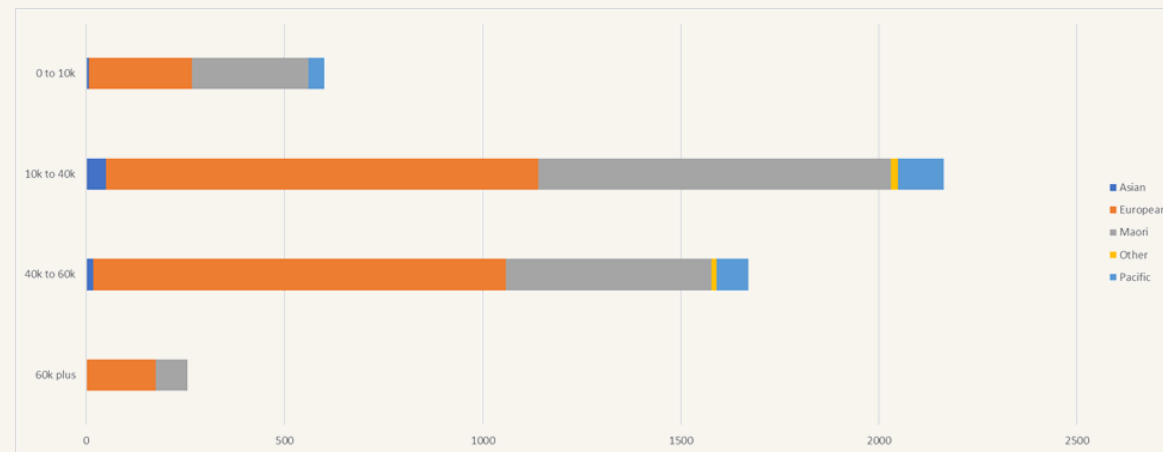
Trades Academy students:
26% stay less than a year.
46% there three years or more.

We find stunning (but not surprising) results for Trades Academy learners.

#3 – Earnings



**Non-Trades Academy students,
Earnings three years after leaving school**



**Trades Academy students,
earnings three years after leaving school.**

40% increase to average income from completing Trades Academy programmes.
Higher earnings on entry, then incomes rise faster
Effect observed across all ethnicities.

Early reckons that are subject to change.

Encouraging shifts in perceptions of vocational options and pathways.

The persistence of the subject-based paradigm in Secondary Schools is not supported by results.

There's too much focus on "transitions". We need an effective interface between school, tertiary, and work.

Trades Academies really work for both learners and employers.

Interesting things are happening "off the grid".

Weak efforts at employer engagement.

Less talk of "vocational" and more of work integrated learning.

COVID plus RoVE disruptions have doubly disadvantaged a generation.

In which the authors deliver several challenging messages to government agencies

Stewardship of the 'careers and interface systems' appears fragmented and overlapping at agency level.

No visible strategy to optimise Trades Academies.

Resume MoE evaluations of Youth Guarantee and Trades Academies.

The National Careers Strategy took a long time to emerge and is disappointingly light.

Little impact from the inclusion of 'work-integrated learning' in the National Education Learning Priorities.

Te Pūkenga has not yet helped secondary-tertiary options 'on the ground'.

There remains promise and hope for the role WDCs can play in this area.

Schools have been overwhelmed by the amount and pace of change

“The last three years have been like being held underwater, just watching opportunities fly by”

What we do next

A listening tour of system influencers, careers practitioners, employers, and industry reps.

Seek out examples of good strategy and implementation of vocational learning.

In depth case studies – not just school driven or focused.

Fill out the ‘demand side’ picture from employers.

A review of the school to work “ecosystem” is equally about what employers and industry do as it is about the education system – there will be challenging messages for them too and for their industry organisations.



Thank you – Ngā mihi maioha

Food and Fibre Centre of Vocational Excellence Forum
Wellington March 2024.

