



Newsletter October 2014 “High School and Beyond”

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Greetings from the STEPS Study!

It has been 16 years since you last participated in the STEPS Study at high school from 1996-1998. It has been a busy time during which we have all been working hard to reconnect with as many of the original STEPS participants as possible.

It's time to catch up with you (and all your classmates!) to explore your current interests, work experiences and life pursuits that we will compare with what you had thought you would be doing back in high school. Did you pursue the job you thought you would? How have your teenage goals been shaped by your life experiences and people in your life? How have your plans, beliefs and interests changed over time?

You were the first group that started the STEPS Study – 1,323 students from Killara, Carlingford and Killarney Heights High Schools. Federal funding continues to support the project and the findings have attracted worldwide attention. You are helping us understand how and why young people pursue their education and career plans, and plan for fields where Australia faces increasing shortages of suitably qualified people.

The new survey will be e-mailed to you very soon! By participating you will be one of the first to hear about the findings from the first ever Australian study to encompass this scope and timeframe. It's like the famous documentary “7—Up!” where we catch up with you and your former high school classmates in your mid—30s. Much research has focused on young people's future intentions, but we lack reliable information about actual outcomes.

You can win! Participants who complete the survey will automatically go in a draw to win one of six \$150 Coles Myer vouchers as a small “thank you”.

Thank you for your willingness to share your thoughts and for your time in doing so – the information you provided has already been very valuable. This Newsletter reports some recent findings and explains how you can help us to stay in contact with you.

STEPS has Grown

Additional STEPS cohorts have been recruited to expand policy impact of the study, including:

- **STEPS: Year 10 Onwards** commenced in 2012 with 1,172 Year 10 students from nine schools across Melbourne and Sydney. This cohort allows us to compare what has changed since you were in high school in the 1990s.
- **STEPS: University & Beyond** involves 696 university students, who are being followed up to explore changes in their career motivations and aspirations after completing their studies.

How Can You Help?

The success of STEPS depends on being able to stay in contact with you. Please take a moment to:

1. Sign up to our STEPS Facebook Group



2. Update your contact details here

<http://tinyurl.com/stepscontactA>

or, by email or telephone:

E: steps@monash.edu T: (03) 9905-3818

We also have a LinkedIn contact:

au.linkedin.com/pub/steps-high-school-and-beyond/31/ab7/799/

3. Reconnect your classmates

On the next page is a list of “lost” participants from your school and Year. Please forward the information onto any of them with whom you are still in contact!



DO IT NOW! The new survey is about to go live in the coming weeks, so let's make sure we have all your correct contact details now. Also, Facebook is a great way for you to hear about the findings as they develop.

Recent News: STEPS and STEM

A/Prof Helen Watt was the Keynote Speaker at the 2014 *International Conference on Motivation*. Because of your participation she delivered inspiring findings from STEPS titled “Passion and Persistence in STEM Pathways”.

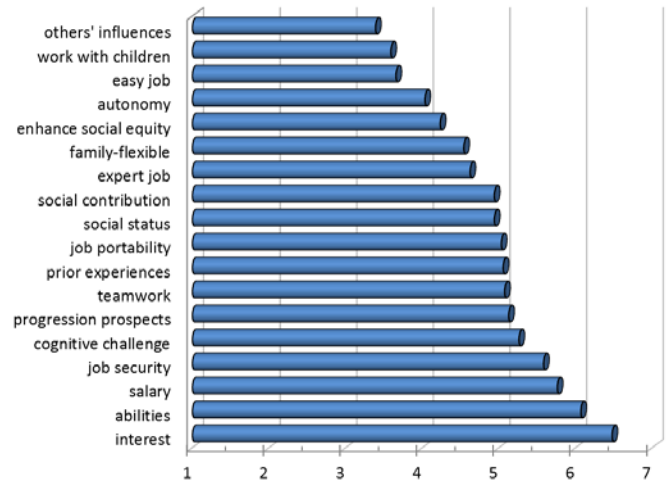


There is growing concern in Australia, the United States and Europe about declining participation in “STEM”: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Between 1992—2009 in Australia the proportion of Year 12 students studying sciences fell by 32% in biology, 23% in chemistry, 31% in physics. This trend was echoed in Year 12 STEPS data from the 1,172 participants this year:

- 44% of males and 35% of females studied no science;
- 37% of males and 27% of females studied no maths.

What’s important for school-leavers today?

For Year 12 students today, by far the most important factor in planning their future work was something that they would find interesting and enjoyable. Next most important was to find something they would be good at, that suited their abilities. You can see the average rated influences below in order of importance.



Can you Help us Reconnect with “Lost” Participants?

Killara High Class of 1999 (alphabetical by surname)

We are still working hard to find everyone, but need your help!

If you are in contact with any of the below people please ask them to get in touch so that we can invite them to continue in the STEPS Study too.

A—G:

- Matthew ALLAN
- Vahid ARANI
- Peter AYRES
- Sylvia BIALAS
- Peter CARNACHAN
- Shannon CARROLL
- Sussan CHANG
- Timothy COOMES
- Danielle EZRA
- Simon GOLD

H—Z:

- Ben HOUSEMAN
- Karina MADRID
- Jade MATZICK
- James MOYLE
- Peter OHNO
- Annemarie PASSER
- Shigeru SAKAKI
- Sophia SHEPHARD
- Michelle THIPTHORP
- Nicole THIPTHORP

To increase your chance to win the \$150 Coles Myer vouchers:

1. Reconnect a classmate to be entered in the draw again:
ask your classmate to email us “**(your name) reconnected (their name)**”;
2. Complete the new STEPS survey (coming soon).

