

# Transitions from school for 'vulnerable' youth: a longer term perspective

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# Not talking about Gonski?

- Yes and no
- Yes in sense ‘Gonski’ has moved from a report about funding to a broader reform agenda about improving schools and student achievement
  - and I’ll be looking at consequences of low achievement over the long term
- No, in the sense ‘Gonski’ has reached an implementation phase where I am an uninformed outsider

# What am I talking about?

- ‘Vulnerable’ youth – lowest achievement & SES quartiles in middle of high school
- ‘Transitions’ – look at the activities they engage in at around age 22,
  - five years after potentially would have been in Year 12
  - Activities: 1) full-time employment; 2) part-time employment; 3) part-time employment & study; 4) study, not employed; 5) no study or job
- Longer term – 22 in: 1983; 2003, 2006, 2010

# Why an historical perspective?

- Can separate trends from the economic cycle
- Can gauge impact of longer term trends on the experience of current cohorts
  - provides perspective against hyperbole
- Longer term trends might affect different groups differentially
- Backdrop of big increase educational attainment

# Educational attainment 1983 -2010

(by age 22 years)	1983	2003	2006	2010
	(%)			
<u>Level of school completed</u>				
Year 12	46.3	81.0	82.5	82.7
<u>Post-school study participation</u>				
Never studied post school	35.3	14.6	17.6	13.3
Studied, dropped out	17.3	14.4	11.8	8.3
Incomplete, but still studying	8.5	12.9	16.9	20.3
Completed a VET-- qualification	27.9	36.0	32.3	34.8
Completed a degree	10.9	22.0	21.5	23.4

# Changes in aggregate ABS data

- Differences in experiences of men and women<sup>1</sup>
- Big decline in number of 22 year olds working full-time for both men and women
- Increased numbers solely working part-time
- Increased numbers studying, including working part-time, though more so for women
- Notable for women – big decline in number of 22 year olds neither in study nor work
  - Likely associated with delayed family formation

# Same patterns in LSAY panel data

- Uses Youth in Transition 1961 cohort, LSAY cohorts Y95, Y98 & Y03.[3](#)
- Big decline in # of 22 year olds working full-time for both men and women (esp. men) (15 vs 10 %pts)
- Increased #s solely working part-time (7 %pts)
- Increased #s studying, including working part-time, though a more for women (17 vs 10 %pts)
- Notable for women – big decline in number of 22 year olds neither in study nor work (13 %pts)
  - Clearly associated with delayed family formation

# Same patterns in vulnerable youth?

- Similar, but not identical & not so positive.5
- Decline in #of 22 year olds working full-time for men, but not women (15 vs 0 %pts)
- Increases in # males working part-time (7%pts)
- Increase in #s females studying (11 %pts)
- Notable for women –decline in number of 22 year olds neither in study nor work (9 %pts)
  - So pre-2010 females shifted from NEET to part-time, for 2010 more in study
    - Males from full-time to part-time work



# Why poorer outcomes for vulnerable?

- Aggregate demand changes worked against unskilled labour
- Maybe lower achievement in group
- Increase in attainment different for this group

At age 22	Vulnerable	Others
% studying	2.7	12.5
% Completed VET	25.0	5.3
% Completed degree	0.8	13.1

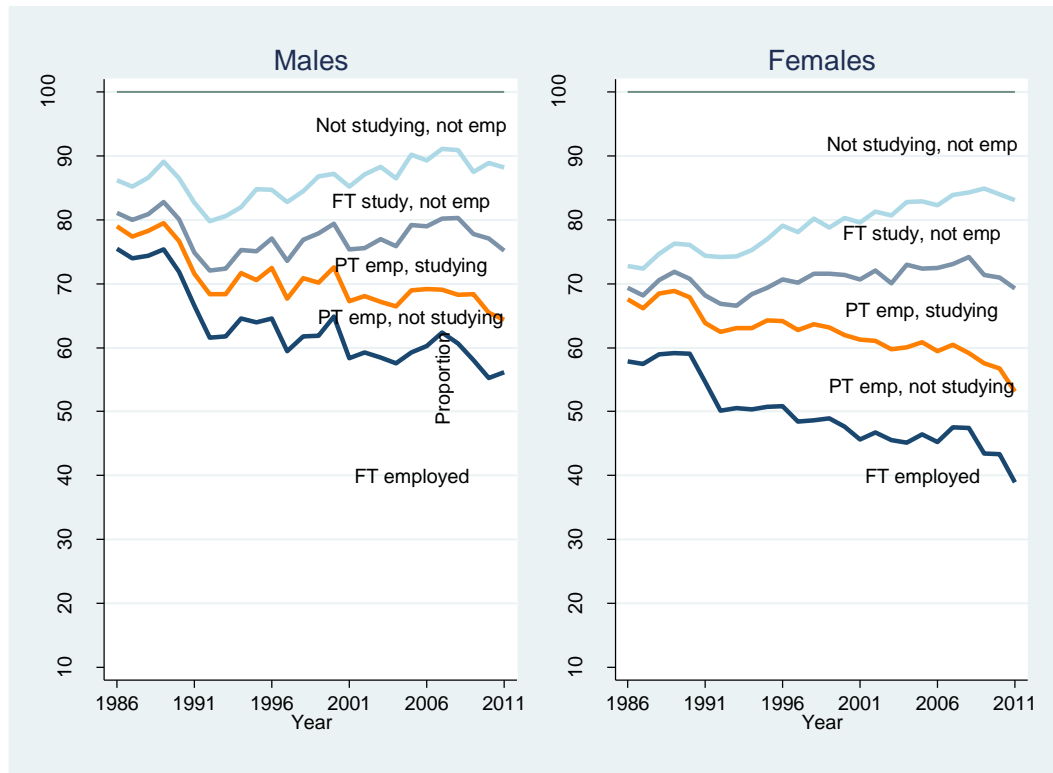
# Some good news

- Post-school qualification effects seem as large for this group now as in past
  - So qualifications do have a payoff for this group
    - VET and degree level qualifications
    - VET effects of 10 %pts on full-time employment
    - Degree effects approaching 20 %pts on full-time employment for the vulnerable group
  - Extra curricular activities: sport; volunteer work
  - But Year 12 effect seems weaker in later cohorts

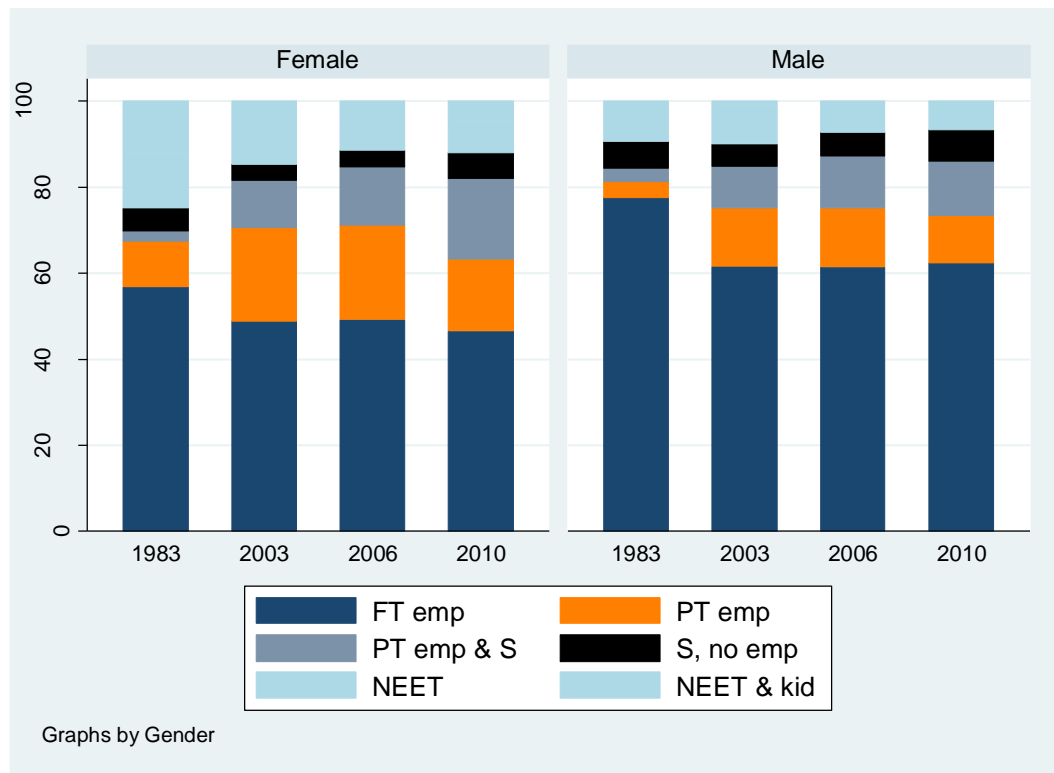
# What to do/concluding remarks

- Improve achievement of this group
  - ‘Gonski’ reforms, if not funding, have elements with scope to do this
- Encourage participation in post-school education & training
- Aim to study what it is about extracurricular activities that lead to positive associations
  - But hard to be definitive

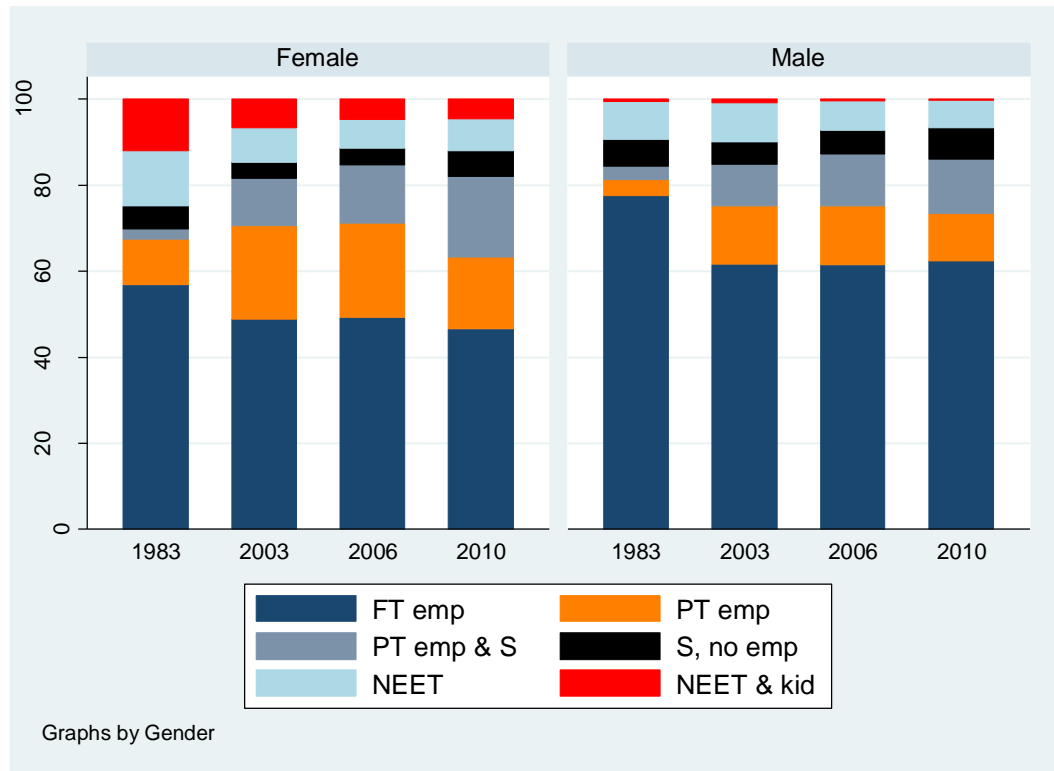
# ABS: Activities of 22 year olds<sub>2</sub>



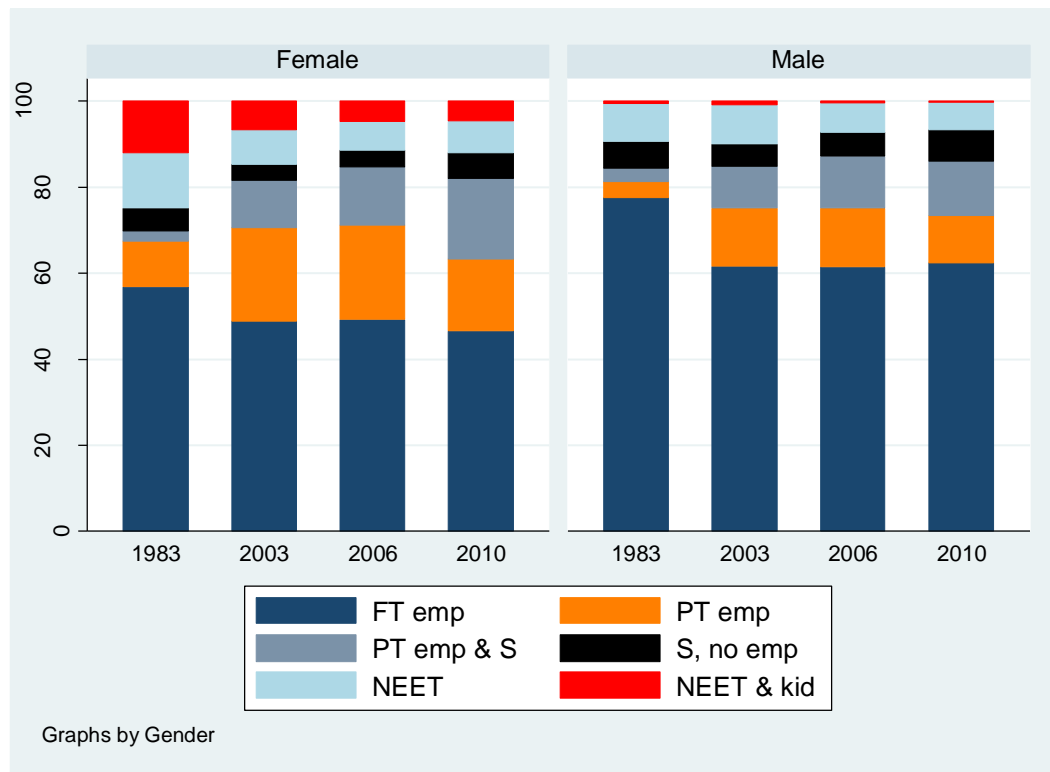
# LSAY: Activities of 22 year olds



# LSAY: Activities of 22 year olds<sup>4</sup>



# LSAY: Activities of 22 year olds



# LSAY: Activities of vulnerable 22 year olds

