

**YOUNG PEOPLE - EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION
THE AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL SURVEY PROGRAM**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Australian Longitudinal Survey (ALS) program began in the then Bureau of Labour Market Research. It is now the responsibility of the Economic and Policy Analysis Division (EPAD) of the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET). As originally designed, the program had two phases - a sample of long term unemployed youth registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES sample), and a sample selected to represent the general population of young people (Youth Area Sample or YAS).

The CES sample was selected from the population of young people aged between 15-24 at 1 September 1984 who were registered with the CES as unemployed for at least two months on 1 August 1984. For efficiency and practicality reasons two stage sampling was used - 63 CES offices were selected nationally with probability proportional to size and then about 50 people were selected from each office. The selected people were interviewed in September 1984, and were subsequently interviewed in 1985, 1986 and 1987. The aim of this sample was to obtain information about the particular problems of the long term unemployed and their likely employment outcomes. Considerable information was obtained on family background, current living conditions, education history and aspirations, employment history, health and economic status from the interviews.

The YAS commenced with 9000 young people (aged 16-25 in 1985) selected by area sample methods to represent the general population of Australian young people not living in remote areas. The sample was interviewed in 1985, 1986, 1987 and