

## Media Release

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### **Aussies concerned today's children aren't being properly equipped for future jobs**

*93.4 per cent of Australians worried about how well children are being educated for the future workplace*

Survey finds Australians are fearful for the future of the nation's children, with more than eight in ten saying the current school curriculum is not equipping them with the skills needed for the workplace of the future, according to new research by Real Insurance.

Released today, the [Real Insurance Future of Australian Education Survey](#) is the twelfth instalment in a series of national studies investigating the shifting values and concerns affecting Australian families.

The rapidly changing climate of today's society and the impacts technological advancements may have on future generations, raises the issue of the current school curriculum. Nearly three quarters (74.2%) believe the current skills or subjects that children are being taught in school will be irrelevant once they enter the workforce. In addition, there is concern that the current curriculum is lacking in the areas of basic literacy (23.2%), life skills (13.7%) and social skills (12.3%).

Real Insurance spokesperson, Tania Bradley, says: "With technology being integrated across every aspect of our lives, including the education system, it makes sense that children are learning the tech skills that will form part of their future roles. In this context, the concerns around upskilling our children for their careers are understandable."

"As vital as it is for our children to have literacy, social, and life skills taught day-to-day, it is equally important that children are being prepared for the future, because the workplace is evolving."

Whilst 87.5 per cent surveyed say they are comfortable with the technology-based learning systems used today in schools, two-thirds (66.5%) think 'virtual teachers' or 'virtual classes' would result in a poorer quality education. Close to three in five think these tech changes would likely reduce the amount of interaction children have with teachers (57.8%) and give them fewer opportunities to practice dealing with real world situations (57.4%).

Morris Miselowski, Business Futurist, says: "Technology in the classroom can often lead to a heated debate around the pros and cons. But while there is some validity to the concern that more tech in classrooms may lead to fewer interpersonal interactions, the potential benefits of technology – such as providing access to top-quality education to more children and finding new ways to engage students – shouldn't be understated."

The new research reveals that it is not just education in schools raising eyebrows, with concerns

also being expressed regarding the state of tertiary education. The vast majority of respondents believe universities can learn a lot from apprenticeships and TAFE in providing more practical or vocational skills (89.3%) and what is gained on the job is far more valuable than anything learned through traditional education (87.4%).

Despite contemporary developments, basic skills such as problem solving and decision making (79.0%) and communication and people skills (74.4%) are the areas university and TAFE-educated respondents think tertiary educators should focus on more, to ensure their students keep up with the speed of change in the workplace.

This need is becoming more urgent, with close to half expecting technology to decrease their employment opportunities (46.4%) and reduce job security (47.8%), while the overwhelming majority expect that workers of the future will require a greater need to adapt to different roles (93.8%), multi-skill (93.2%), and interact with robots or smart technology (92.2%) as the workplace evolves.

Mr Miselowski concludes: “It is evident that a holistic approach to education is key to ensuring today’s children are prepared and ready to enter the workforce of tomorrow. As important as it is that children are engaged with the traditional life and education skills that they learn in the classroom and the playground, technology should be given equal consideration when developing a curriculum that will help future-proof the next generation.

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#### **About Real Insurance**

Real Insurance is an award-winning Australian insurer, with a goal to protect the quality of people’s lives. Real Insurance has been named as the top Risk and Life Insurer in Roy Morgan’s 2017 and 2015 annual Customer Satisfaction Awards and was also awarded the 2014 Highly Commended Trusted Brand Award in the Life and Funeral Insurance categories, as voted for by Australian consumers. The company has been in the Australian market since 2005 with product offerings in car, home, life, income, pet, funeral, travel and bike insurance. Real Insurance is a trading name of Greenstone Financial Services Pty Ltd and The Hollard Insurance Company Pty Ltd.

#### **About the ‘Real Insurance Future of Education Survey’**

In order to explore the future of education in Australia, CoreData surveyed 1000 Australians across the nation in June 2018.

The sample collection employed soft quotas to monitor representativeness of the Australian adult population. Hard quotas by state were also engaged to ensure all the main states were represented with sufficiently robust samples (NSW = 200, VIC = 200, QLD = 200, WA = 200, Remaining states/territories = 200)