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Monitoring Gateway and Trades Academies



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

- The report was published earlier this year.
- It looked at the educational and employment outcomes of each programme.
- This work is a part of the Ministry of Education's monitoring work programme.
- Trades Academies were last monitored in 2017.
- It is the first time that Gateway has been monitored in this way.

Today's presentation

- What are Gateway and Trades Academies?
- How we monitored the outcomes.
- What we monitored.
- Findings in a nutshell.
- Selected findings (for all, Māori and Pacific):
 - Level 2 attainment;
 - Apprenticeships;
 - Substantial employment.

Gateway and Trades Academies

Gateway (established 2001)

- Gateway offers short-term, work-based placements aligned with student interests.
- It supports students who want to explore future education and employment options.
- Gateway is not limited to vocational occupations.

15,455 students in 380 schools (2024)

Trades Academies (established 2010)

- Trades Academies provide longer-term, structured learning in trades-related fields.
- It is supported by tertiary education providers.
- Trades Academies supports students to study vocational subjects while still at school.

11,515 students in 24 Trades Academies in 402 schools (2024)

Both programmes aim to:

- increase student retention at school;
- raise NCEA Level 2 achievement;
- support transitions into further education and employment.

17% of all senior secondary students were in one or both programmes.

How we monitored the outcomes

We compared two cohorts of students in Gateway and Trades Academies with similar students who were not in these programmes:

2014 cohort: age 16 in 2014 and 24 in 2023

2018 cohort: age 16 in 2018 and 20 in 2023

- Results show what the outcomes would be if:
 - A similar group of students were in Gateway and Trades Academies compared to a similar group of students who did neither programme.
- We included students who took part but didn't complete each programme.
- Students who did both programmes are included in the Trades Academy group.

There are some important limitations:

- The findings don't answer questions about how the programmes operate and why they achieve these results.
- Not able to include school attendance as an outcome, as data is only available for more recent years.
- Not able to fully control for student's interest or how schools select students. For example, students in programmes may be more interested in apprenticeships and effects might be overstated.

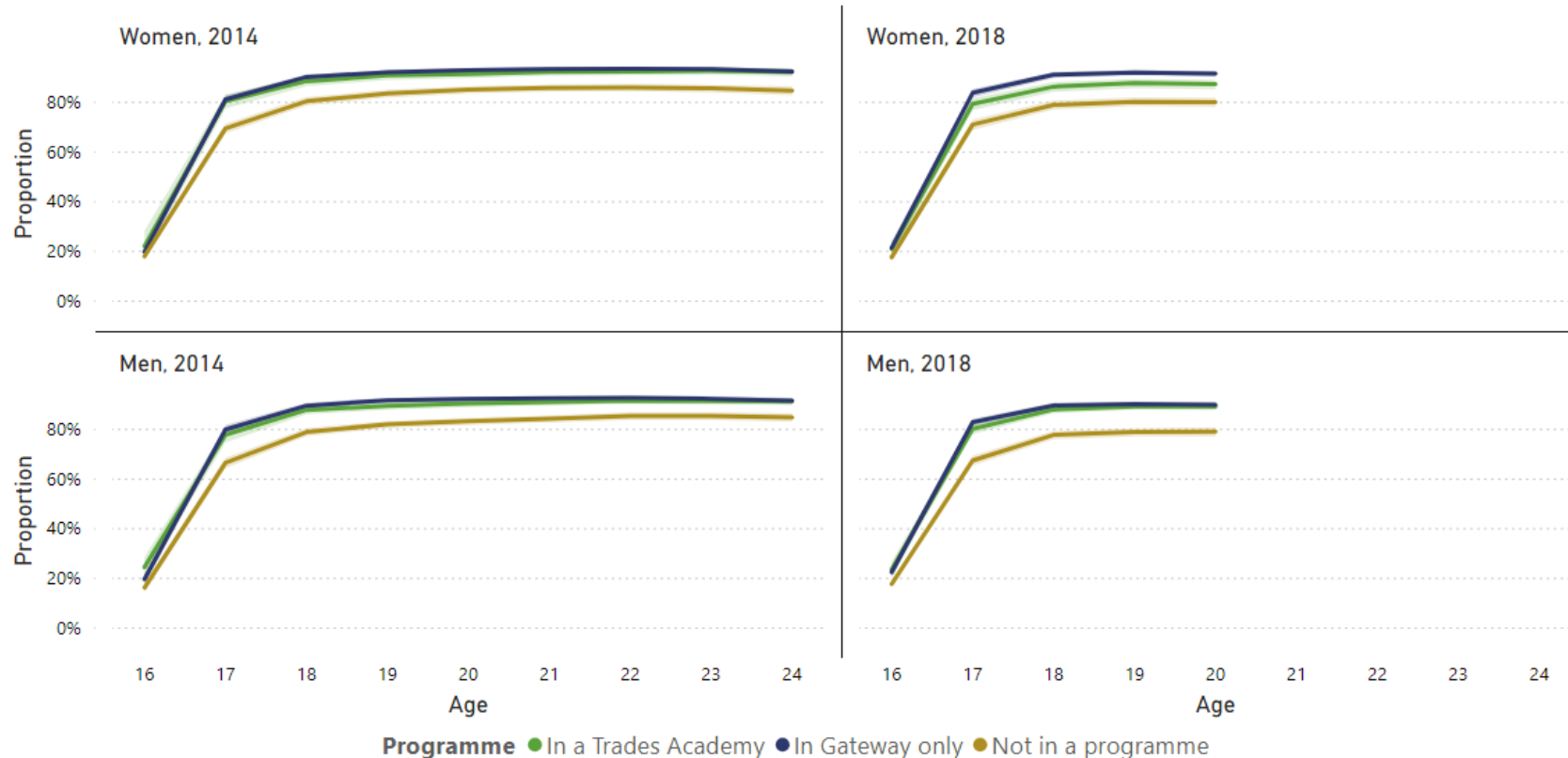
What we monitored

Topic	Indicators
Education	Currently enrolled in school or tertiary education
	Completed a school or tertiary qualification at Level 2 or higher
Pathways to vocational education and training	Currently enrolled in an apprenticeship
	Ever been an apprentice
	Completed an apprenticeship
Employment	Currently in limited employment
	Currently in substantial employment

Findings in a nutshell

- **Similar outcomes for Gateway and Trades Academies:** Even though they offer different thing to support different needs and interests.
- **Education outcomes:** More students in both programmes stayed in education at age 17 and achieved a Level 2 or higher qualification by age 18.
- **Pathways to vocational education and training:** Men in both programmes were more likely to enrol in and complete apprenticeships. Women's apprenticeship participation remained low.
- **Employment outcomes:** Students who had been in either programmes were less likely to be in limited employment and more likely to be in substantial employment, particularly for men.
- **Ongoing benefits:** The positive effects of both programmes were sustained over time.
- **Expanding Trades Academies:** The effectiveness of Trades Academies has been maintained since the number of places were increased from 2019.
- **COVID-19 resilience:** There is some evidence that being in either programme helped protect students from negative educational impacts during the pandemic, particularly for women.

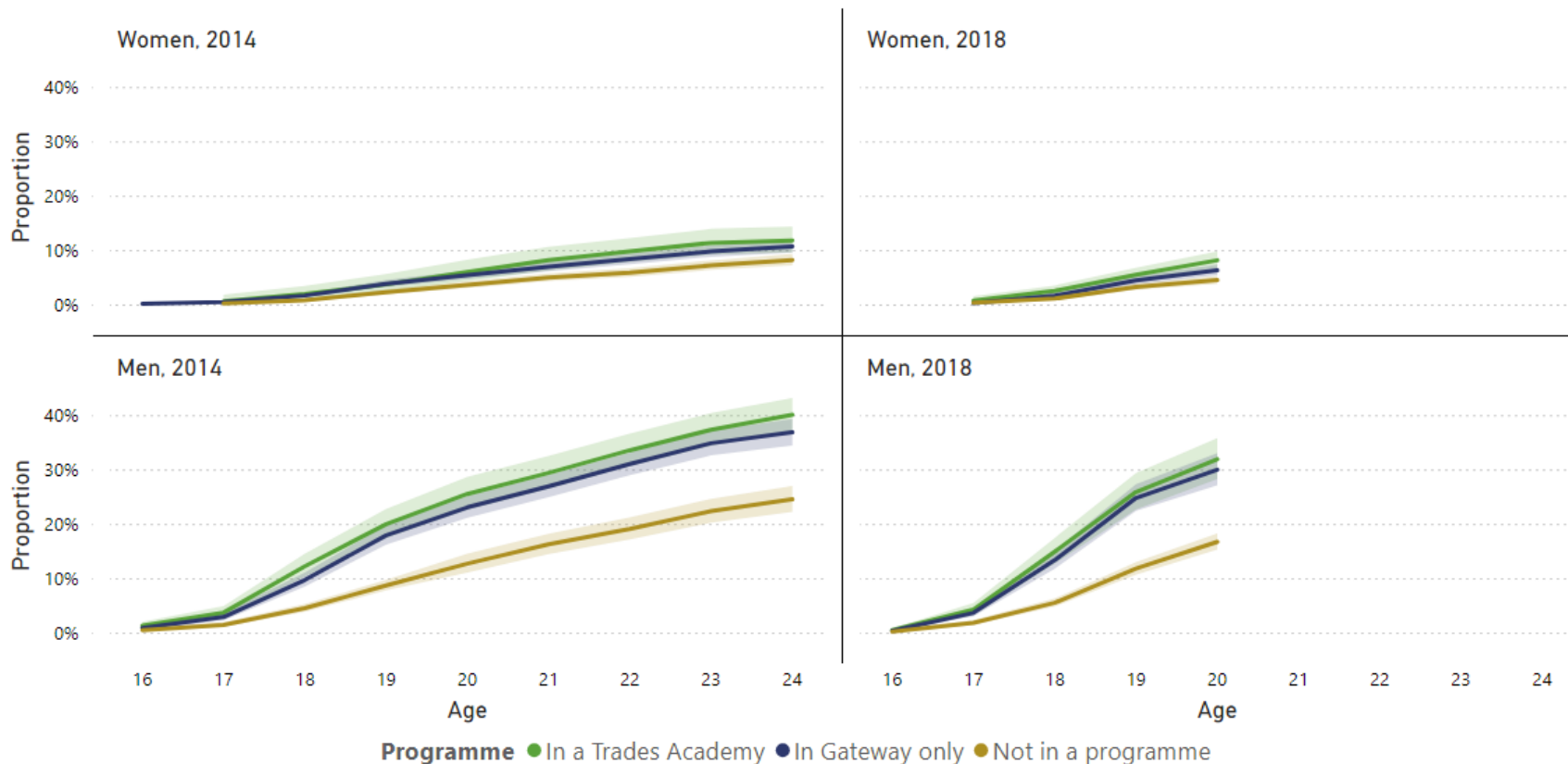
Education: attaining Level 2 or higher



Similar in both programmes:

- **9 percentage points** higher than similar students at age 18 (2014 cohort).
- Consistent pattern across genders and ethnic groups.

Pathways: ever been an apprentice



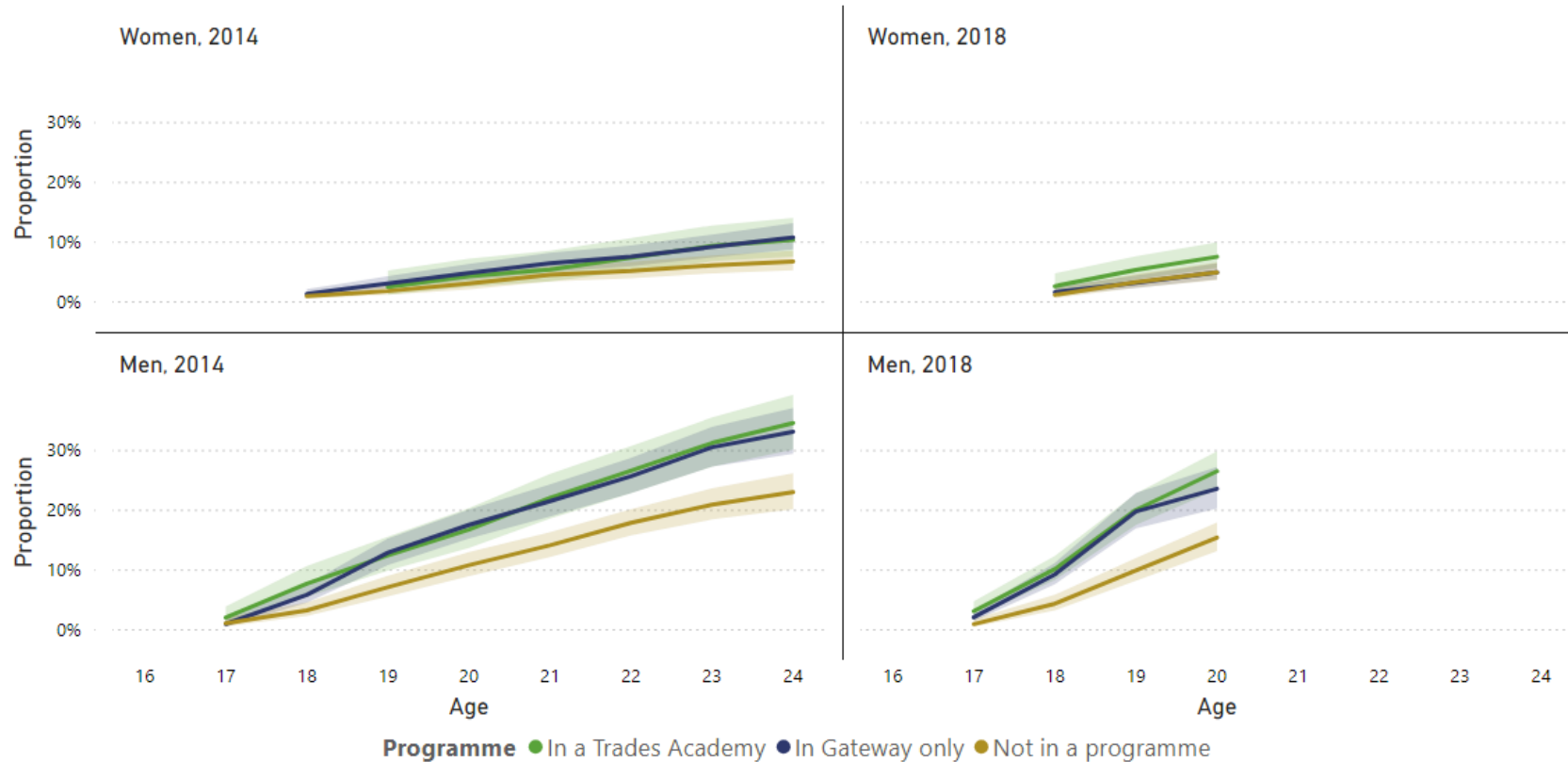
By age 24, men in either programme were more likely to have been an apprentice:

- 12 percentage points higher for Gateway
- 16 percentage points higher for Trades Academies.

Small effect for women:

- Around 3 percentage points higher.

Pathways for Māori: ever been in an apprenticeship



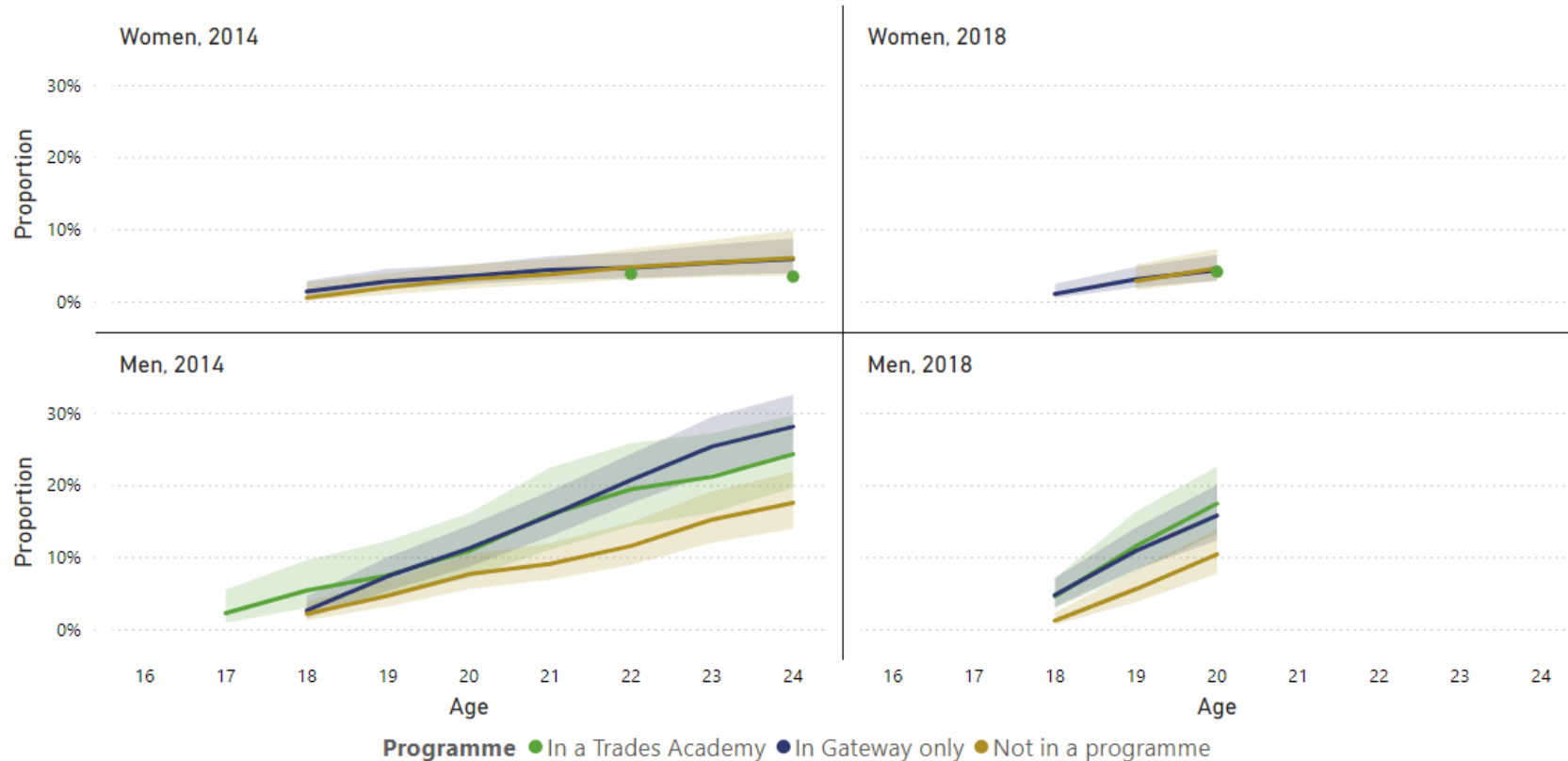
By age 24, Māori men in either programme were more likely to have been an apprentice:

- 10 percentage points higher for Gateway
- 12 percentage points higher for Trades Academies.

Small effect for women:

- Around 4 percentage points higher.

Pathways for Pacific: ever been in an apprenticeship

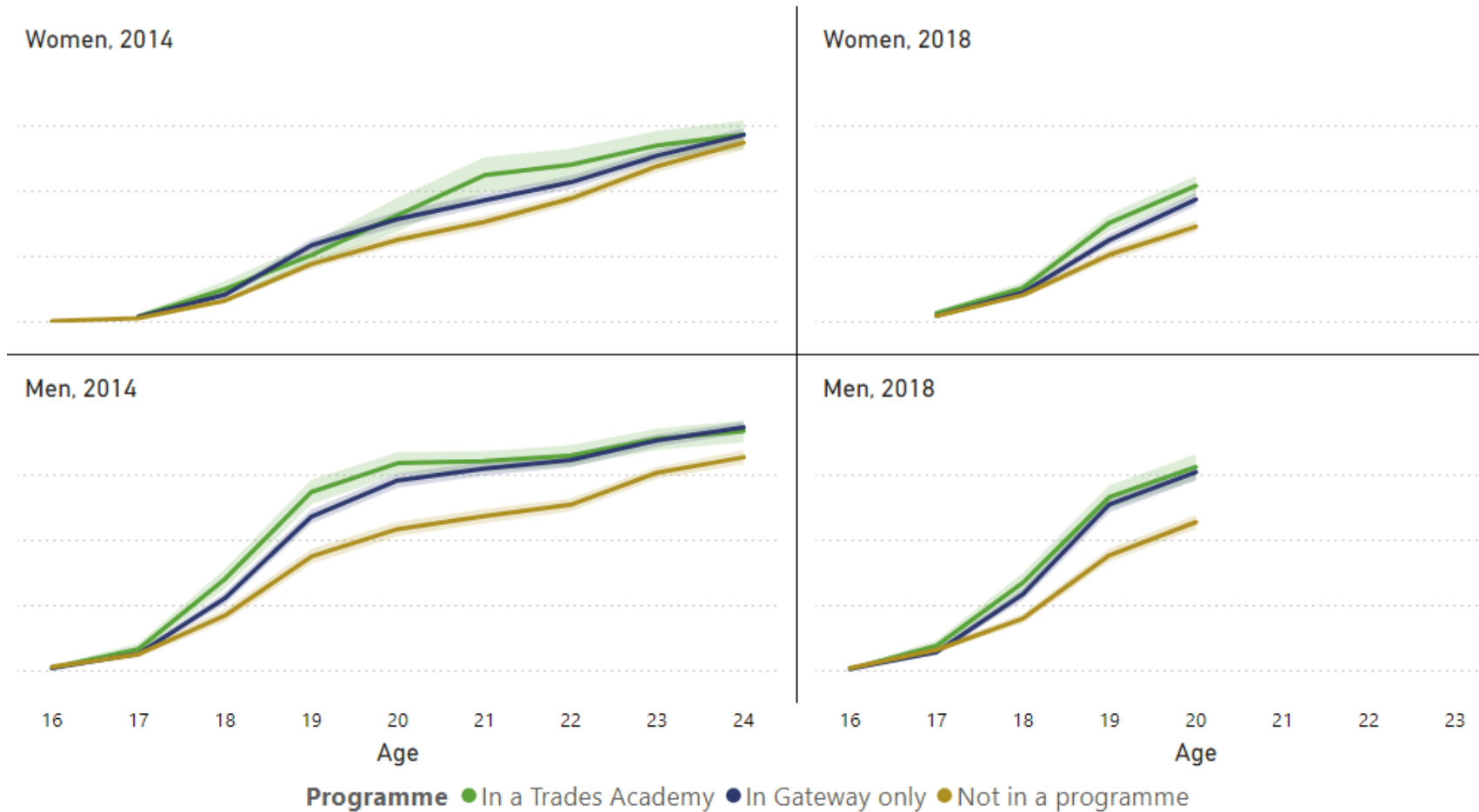


By age 24, Pacific men in either programme more likely to have been an apprentice:

- **11 percentage** points higher for Gateway
- **7 percentage** points higher for Trades Academies.

No differences for Pacific women. Some numbers too small to report.

Employment: in substantial employment



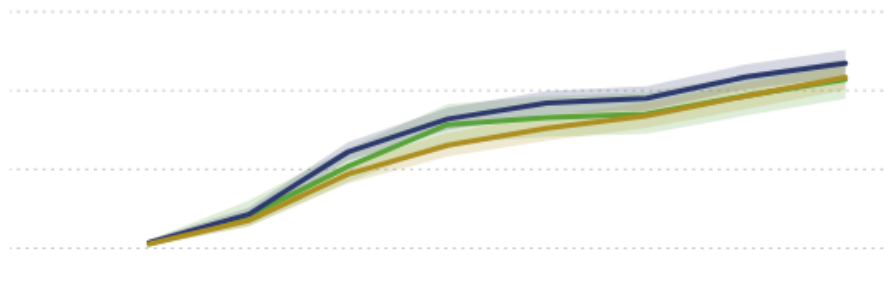
Stronger effects for men than for women:

- 15-20 percentage points higher for men at age 20
- 6-8 percentage points higher for women at age 20 (2014 cohort).

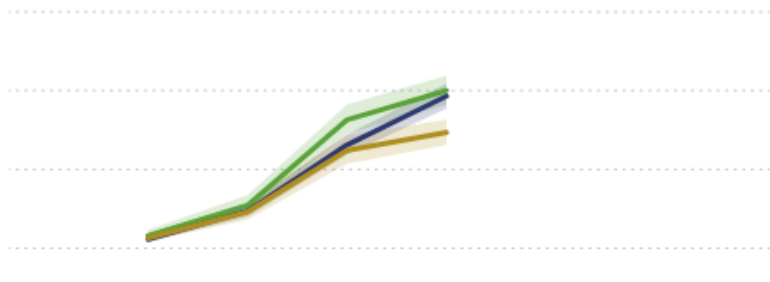
Similar in 2018 cohort.

Employment for Māori: in substantial employment

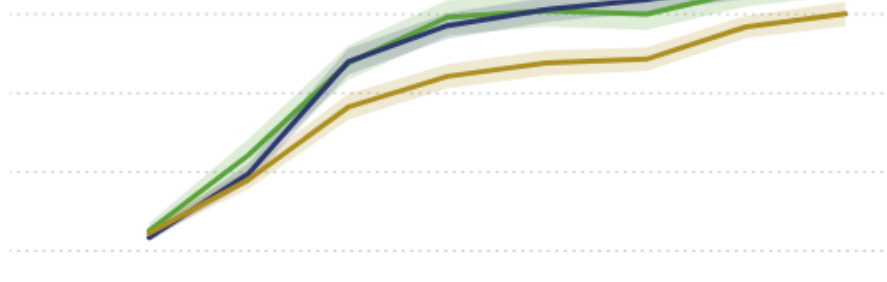
Women, 2014



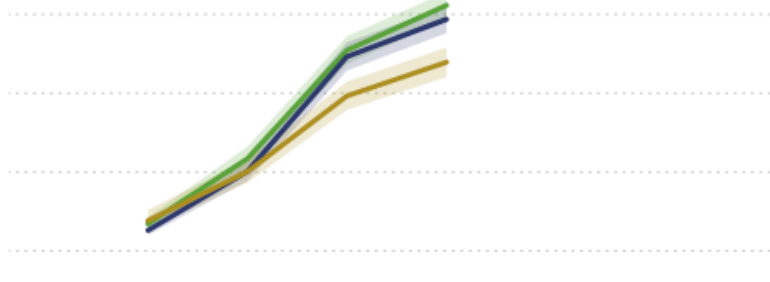
Women, 2018



Men, 2014



Men, 2018



Programme ● In a Trades Academy ● In Gateway only ● Not in a programme

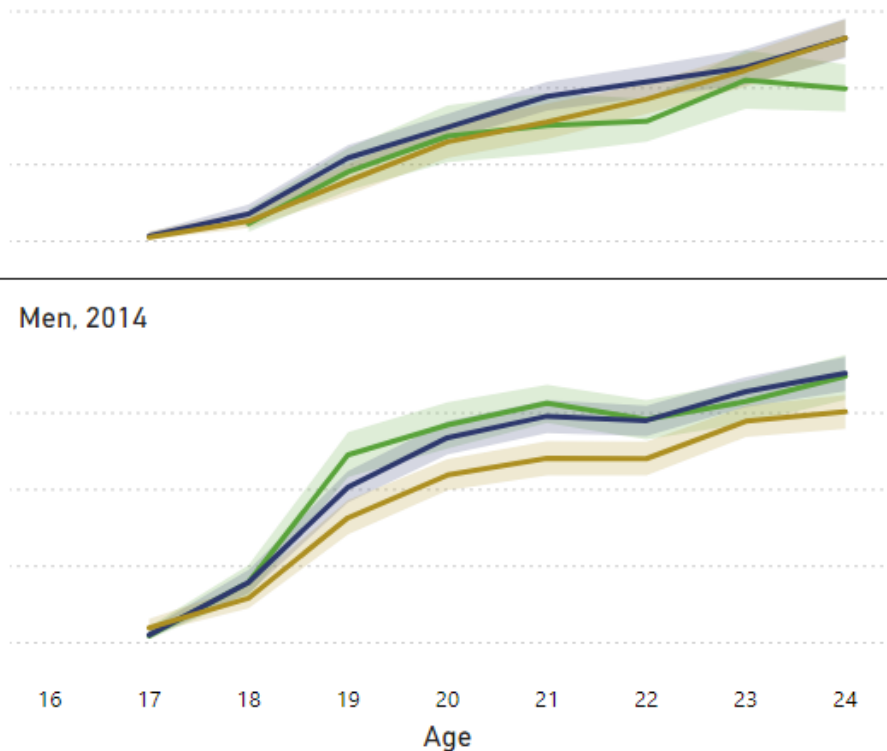
Stronger effects for Māori men than for Māori women:

- 13-15 percentage points higher for men at age 20
- 6 percentage points higher for women at age 20 (2014 cohort).

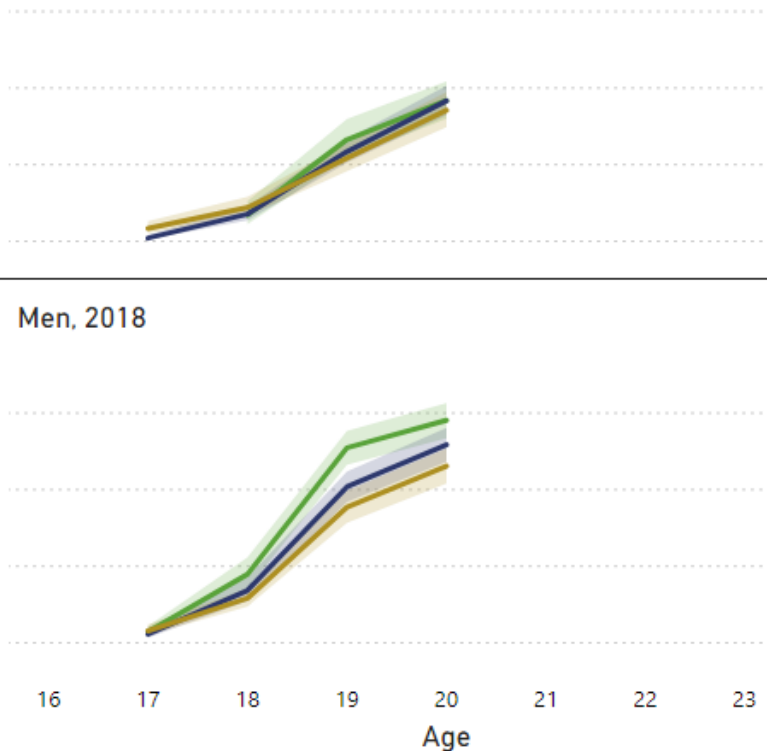
Similar in 2018 cohort.

Employment for Pacific: in substantial employment

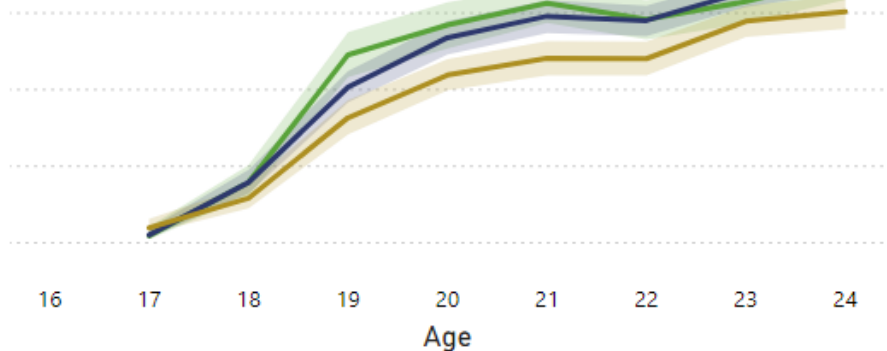
Women, 2014



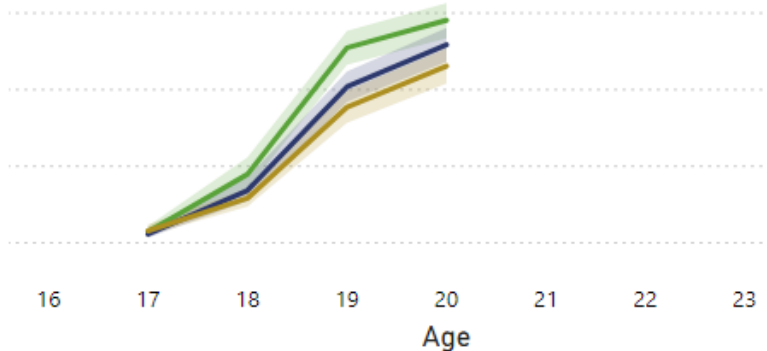
Women, 2018



Men, 2014



Men, 2018



Programme ● In a Trades Academy ● In Gateway only ● Not in a programme

Stronger effects for Pacific men than for Pacific women:

- 10-13 percentage points higher for men at age 20 (2014 cohort).

Similar for 2018 cohort.

Difference not statistically significant for Pacific women in either cohort.

Conclusions and discussion

Education outcomes:

- Both programmes improved outcomes for all participants.

Pathways to vocational education and training:

- Both provide improved pathways for men.
 - But smaller effects for Māori and Pacific men.
- Little to no effect for women.

Employment outcomes:

- Stronger effects for men than women.
- Smaller effects for Māori and Pacific.

These are all influenced by:

- Who goes into the programmes.
- What industries or occupations are focused on.
- How well the programmes work for Māori, Pacific and women.
- Challenges Māori, Pacific and women face in the labour market.

Full report: [Monitoring Gateway and Trades Academies, 2025 | Education Counts](#)

Questions

Further information: tertiary.information@education.govt.nz