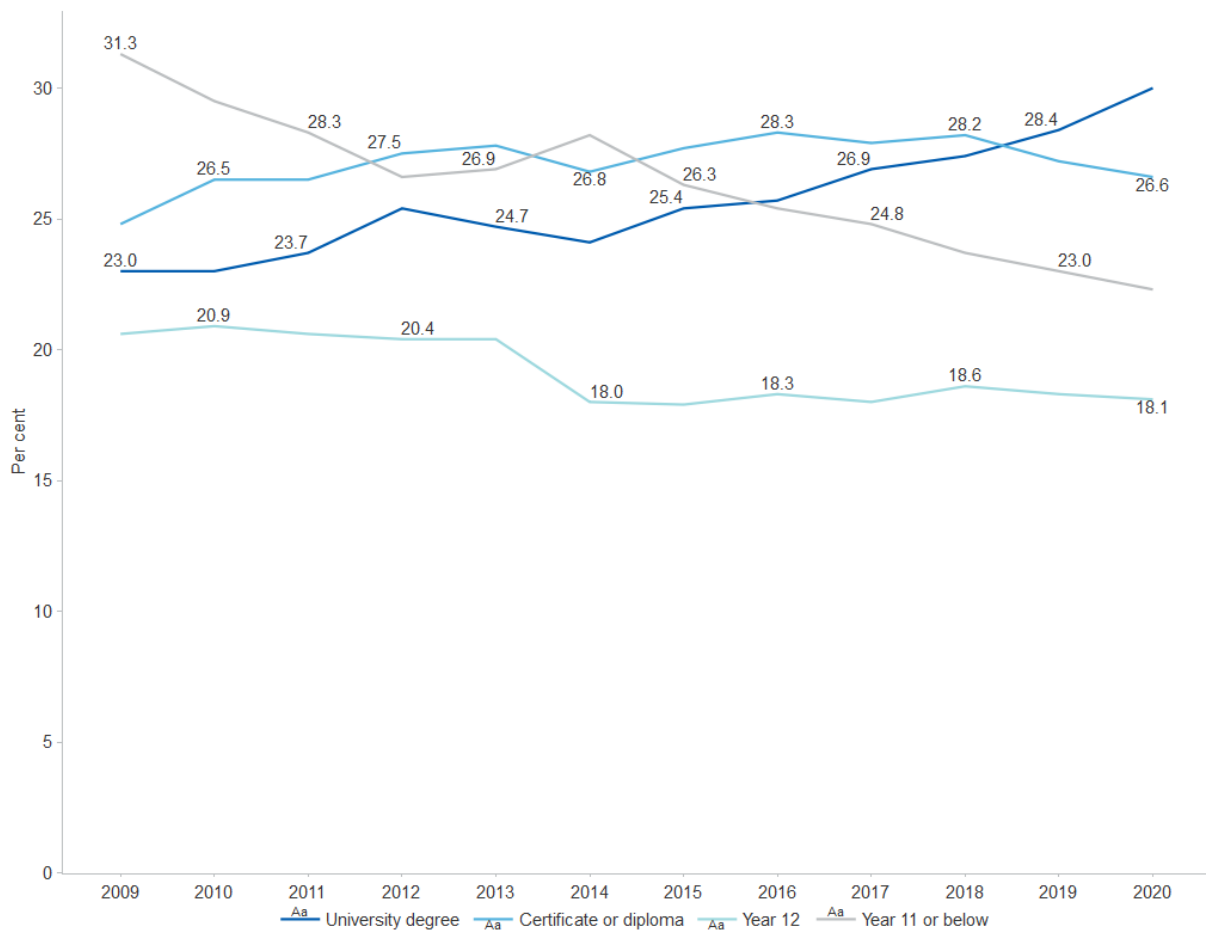


5.1.1 Adults with school and non-school qualifications

The progression from secondary education to both tertiary academic studies and vocational qualifications is an important step towards the formation of specialised skills and capabilities in a variety of fields and disciplines. Three in 10 Australian adults have attained a *University degree* in 2020, rising from 23 per cent in 2010. The share of those with a *Certificate or diploma* has remained relatively stable in the same period at 26.6 per cent. Consequently, the share of adults with *Year 12* or *Year 11 or below* qualifications have fallen over this period. All four measures are affected by a change to the age range question that was introduced in the 2014 survey. This change added older people (aged 65–74 years) to the survey population and consequently increased the share of adults with *Year 11 or below* qualifications, whilst decreasing the other categories.¹

Figure: Adults with school and non-school qualifications, by education level, per cent, latest 2020



¹ ABS, *Education and Work, Australia*, Cat. No. 6227.0 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/education-and-work-australia/latest-release>)