Australian Doctoral Graduates: where are they going?

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Traditionally considered preparation for an academic career, more than half of Australia’s doctoral graduates gain employment outside university settings, a proportion which has been increasing steadily since the early 1990s. This paper reports on preliminary findings of a study on the outcomes of Australian doctoral education. The paper has three sections. The first provides an overview of doctoral education trends nationally and internationally, with a specific focus on outcomes. The second discusses the initial findings of our analysis of Australian doctoral graduates from 2000-2006 in terms of employment trends over a seven year period, type of employer, as well as variations based on type of university (Group of Eight, Innovative Research University, Technology University, Regional). The final section of the paper explores implications for academic employment and the purposes of doctoral programs.