



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations

Year 12 what next?

- > plan your post-school education and training
- > learn about future work opportunities
- > find out where to get help and information



getting started



This an exciting time. You have almost finished Year 12 and are about to start your post-school life!

Maybe you have a career path in mind or perhaps you are still a little unsure of which direction you want to take.

Whichever option you choose, this booklet is here to help you find the information you need to start this new stage of your life. You can also visit the website at **year12whatnext.gov.au**

Year 12 – What Next? brings together a range of information about:

- > the training options available to school leavers through an Australian Apprenticeship, University, TAFE, and other registered training providers
- > where the jobs are and what skills are in demand
- > setting up your own small business
- > gaining practical experience through volunteer work
- > the value of post-school education and training to your career and more.

As you explore your choices, it is a good idea to talk with your career adviser, teachers, parents or friends about what you are interested in doing with your life.

Here are some key things to be mindful of when thinking about your future:

- > career development is a lifelong journey
- > the world of work is always changing
- > Australia's population is ageing
- > your generation is likely to work longer than your parents
- > having one job for life is pretty rare these days
- > you will have a number of opportunities to change jobs, learn new skills and gain new experience throughout your career.

Therefore it is really important to keep learning and developing your skills and abilities throughout your life.

future work opportunities

The world of work is always changing. New industries and occupations develop as others decline.

Over the last few years Australia has seen strong employment growth in areas such as health, community services, business services, construction and retail. Occupations have become more specialised and new occupations in health services, information technology and communications have developed.

It is always a good idea to research different career options. There is an abundance of information on the web, including at myfuture.edu.au, and also at Career Information Centres, for location details visit the centrelink.gov.au site.

To really understand the occupation you are interested in, you will need to explore the industry, different employers, and the training and education pathways available. Besides knowing your own interests and career aspirations, knowing about the changing world of work and which skills will be in demand in the future can be an important element in deciding on the education and training you need.

Skills Shortages

When considering which direction to go in, be aware of the areas experiencing skills shortages. Choosing to study or undertake training in these areas will provide a great advantage when looking for work as these industries are looking for new people.

Skills shortages exist for a number of reasons including industry growth, lack of new graduates into a specialised field, changing technology and demographic reasons, such as the ageing population. Today, 45% of Australians are over 40, and by 2040, this will be closer to 60%.

Over the last five years, the greatest job growth has been in construction, retail trade, health and community services, and education. But employers are looking for a range of skilled workers in all states and territories across many trades and professions.

For more information and a list of skills in demand around Australia go to workplace.gov.au/skillsindemand

Employability Skills

When job searching, don't forget that employers are not only looking for specialised or technical skills, they are also very interested in your employability skills and personal attributes. You may be surprised how many employability skills you have already. For example, just by going to school, playing sport, or using computers you have probably gained communication, team work and problem-solving skills. For more information on employability skills visit year12whatnext.gov.au



post-school education

Projected Employment Growth by Industry to 2011-12(% share)



- health & community
- property & business services
- retail trade
- construction
- personal & other services
- accommodation, cafe & restaurants
- education
- government administration & defence
- transport & storage
- other industries

Australian Jobs 2007. DEWR

There have never been so many education and training options available to school leavers.

While university remains an option for about 30% of school leavers, Vocational Education and Training (VET) is becoming increasingly popular as a pathway from school to work. In fact it is now estimated that over half of all Year 12 leavers will go on to study a VET course within the first few years of leaving school.

This is great news because those people who go on to do post-school education and training are more likely to gain full-time employment and earn higher levels of income.

There is a lot of similarity between VET and university courses, as they can both lead to interesting, well-paid careers. A popular feature of VET courses is that they are often designed by industry for industry and therefore have direct relevance to employment. Another great feature about VET courses is that they are flexible. You can undertake short or long courses and if you start one that doesn't suit you, you can often obtain credit for what you have completed and move to another course or another institution. Once completed, some VET courses will also give you credit for further studies at university.

Remember that most courses have prerequisite requirements. For example, you may need to study particular school subjects to be eligible for entry.

For information on how to apply for university and some VET courses, contact your local Tertiary Admissions Centre. You can find their details and a great range of other university course information at

goingtouni.gov.au

Education & training



For other VET courses you will need to contact the training provider directly. You can find information on every accredited course in Australia by visiting and searching the Courses and Programs database in the Facts section of the myfuture.edu.au website.

You may also want to have a look at the Job Guide online for more information on different occupations and the training they require. Go to jobguide.deewr.gov.au.

It is always best to check with the training provider or university to make sure you are applying through the correct process.

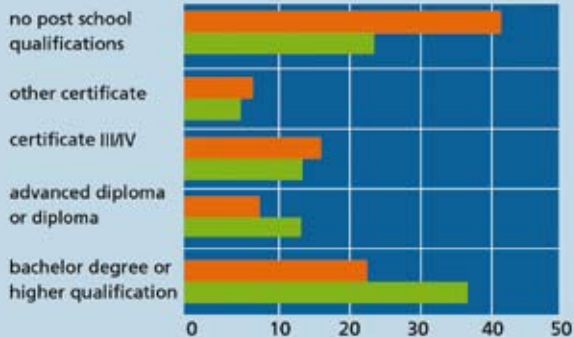
In line with the changing needs of the labour market, training providers are creating new courses. Some recently developed courses, from a range of universities, include:

- > Bachelor of Coaching Science and Sports Management
- > Bachelor of Arts in Kynandoo (Indigenous Studies)
- > Bachelor of Regional Resource Management

A sample of new courses from a range of Registered Training Providers and TAFEs include:

- > Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture
- > Diploma of Sustainable Water and Catchments Management
- > Diploma of Broadcasting (Radio and Television)

Education Profile of Health & Community Services Sector 2006 (%)



education and training pays off

It's worth considering doing some further study after school. Employment opportunities are better for people who do. This is shown by the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures which state that the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor degree or above (3%) was half the rate for those without such qualifications (6%).

Education and training not only improves your chances of gaining long-term employment. It also means you are likely to earn more money than those who don't go on to further study or training.

At first glance, the cost of further study may seem overwhelming. You need to take into account course fees, text books, transport and living expenses. Fortunately, there are many services out there that can support you.

In general, university costs are higher than costs for going to TAFE. However, there are arrangements in place to help students fund their way through study. Some examples of assistance that you may qualify for are Austudy, ABSTUDY or Fares Allowance. To learn, read, or find more about them and the eligibility requirements visit the centrelink.gov.au site.

The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) assists eligible students to pay their tuition costs. If you are a Commonwealth Supported student you can pay your student contribution by taking out a HECS-HELP loan. If you enrol in a full fee-paying course, you may have access to a FEE-HELP loan. To find out more about this assistance visit the goingtouni.gov.au website.

If you are deciding to study at TAFE you would be glad to know that programs and courses at TAFE cost considerably less than at university. TAFE course fees can range from \$30

to \$7,000 per semester; however the average cost is \$523 for fees and \$85 for materials per semester for full-time students. For more information on specific course fees you need to contact the relevant TAFE institution.

In 2007, the Australian government introduced VET FEE-HELP for selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses offered through registered training organisations such as a TAFE. To find out more visit deewr.gov.au or phone **13 38 73**.

For people with a disability, there is information and practical support available to help you to successfully move from school into training or higher education. Contact your training provider or university to find out what services they offer for students with disabilities.

Don't forget there are also scholarships available that you can apply for which will help to pay for all or part of your study. Individual institutions offer scholarships for students who have excelled or to assist students with special needs, including rural students or students from low income families. A searchable database for scholarships nationwide can be found in the Facts section of the myfuture.edu.au site.

Some employers offer cadetships which combine 'theory and practice' at the workplace with earning an income and completing your course. Cadetships are often advertised through schools and in newspapers from July to September each year. Information for cadetships for Indigenous students studying full time at university can be found at nicp.deewr.gov.au

work while you learn



There are so many options now for students to explore and develop their career. If you would like a change from full-time study there is a range of excellent pathways available to you including through an Australian Apprenticeship, voluntary work or starting your own business. These are just some of the ways you can learn and develop valuable skills.

Australian Apprenticeships

One of the best ways to get hands-on experience in the workforce is through an apprenticeship. These days you can undertake apprenticeships in a whole range of qualifications, anything from horticulture to telecommunications. The Australian Government also provides income support payments to eligible Australian Apprentices, to assist them in the early years of their apprenticeship when their wages are at their lowest. Visit the australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships website to learn more about what they can offer you.

Volunteer Work

Doing voluntary work after finishing school is another way to gain a good perspective on your career goals. Volunteer work is very rewarding and you can become involved in community groups and organisations which will help you build on team work and problem solving skills. About 25% of 18-24 year olds volunteer in Australia. Visit volunteerssearch.gov.au to find out more about volunteering opportunities.

Start a Business

Did you also know that 50,000 young Australians aged 15-24 run their own business? If you have a good business idea, why not enrol in a business course? Even a short course could help set you on the path to business success. Visit business.gov.au to find out more about starting your own business.

Part-time work

Even if you are studying full-time, working part-time can help supplement your income, develop valuable skills, and add to your bank of experience.

For more information on your work options visit jobjuice.gov.au. This website, designed for young people like yourself, also contains practical tips and help on applying for full-time and part-time jobs.

extra bits



As a school leaver you are either already 18 years of age, or soon will be, so now is the time to think about a few important issues.

Voting

18 year olds are able to vote in local, state and federal government elections. It is a great privilege to be able to have your say at an election. Get involved and participate in this democratic process; it is important that everyone's voice is heard. If you are 17, you can apply for enrolment and when you turn 18 you will automatically be put onto the electoral role so that you can participate in the next government election. To make this happen visit the Australian Electoral Commission website at aec.gov.au or call **13 23 26**.

Tax File Number

Everyone needs a tax file number (TFN). If you have had a part-time job through school, you may already have one. If not, now may be a useful time to apply for one. Your TFN is used to identify your tax records. TFNs are used by:

- > Employers who must take 46.5% tax out of your wages if you don't have a TFN;
- > Centrelink, when assessing eligibility for payments such as Youth Allowance or Austudy;
- > Education institutions – without one you cannot take out a HELP loan for your tuition costs;
- > Financial Institutions which tax your interest by 46.5%, if you don't have a TFN.

To apply for a Tax File Number visit the Australian Tax

Office website at ato.gov.au or call **13 28 61**.

Medicare Australia

Medicare Australia is an Australian Government agency that ensures that all Australians have access to free or low-cost medical, optometric and hospital care. You may already be enrolled in Medicare and be listed on your parents' card, however young people over the age of 15 may enrol or transfer onto their own Medicare card. To find out more about getting your own Medicare card visit medicareaustralia.gov.au

ADF Gap Year

ADF Gap Year is a new Australian Defence Force (ADF) program for students or recent school leavers. This 12 month program is designed to provide you with a unique opportunity and invaluable skills and experiences. You will be paid for your participation in the program, and there's no requirement to serve after your gap year. For more information visit defencejobs.gov.au/ADFGapYear