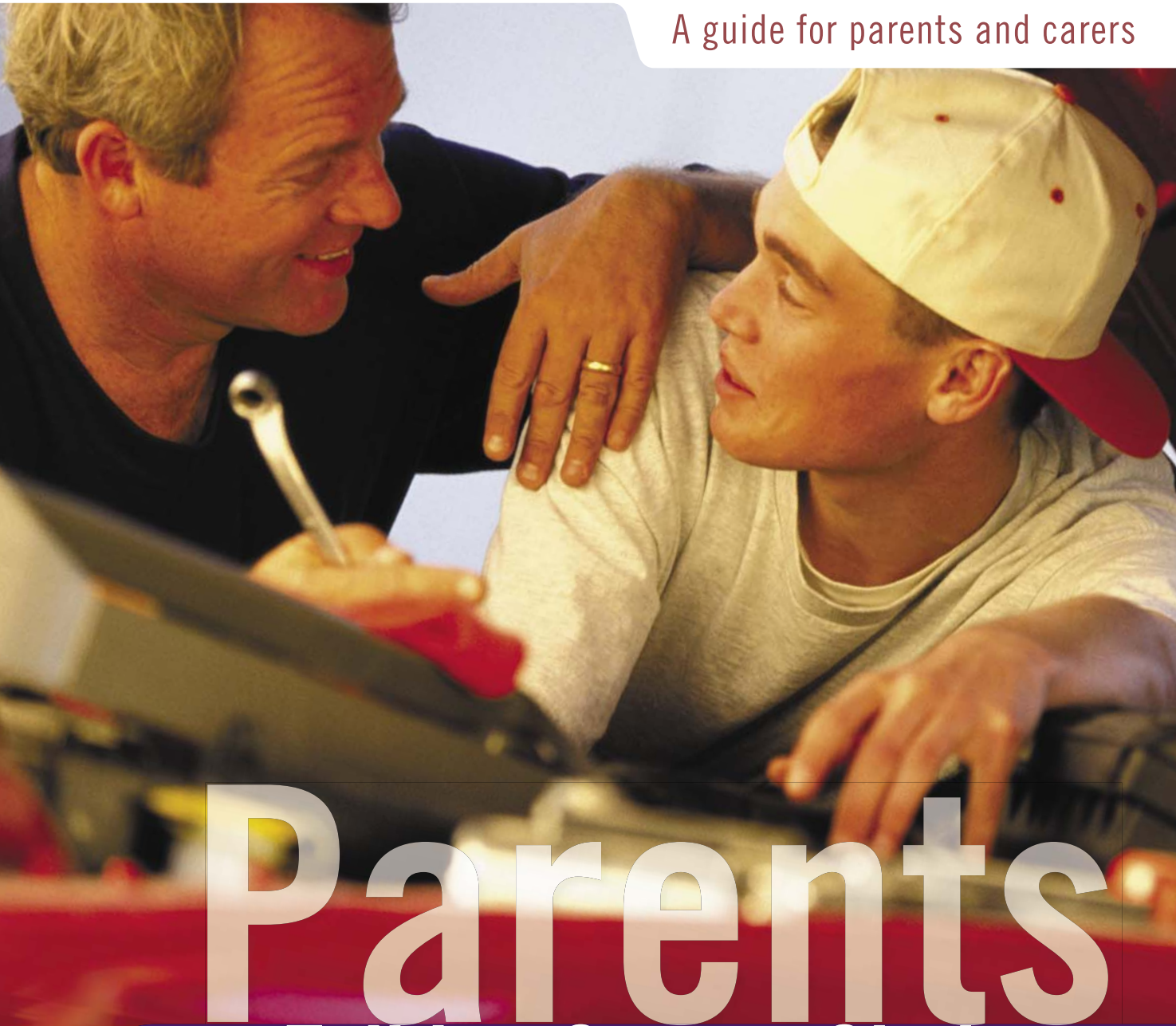




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education,  
Science and Training**

A guide for parents and carers



# Parents

## Talking Career Choices

[jobguide.dest.gov.au](http://jobguide.dest.gov.au)

# You Can Help

As a parent you have a key role to play in helping your child make career choices. To provide the best possible support and guidance parents need current information on the many pathways available to young people. It is important to talk through options available for further study and employment after school.

You can help your child by being positive about their ideas and their chances of finding a satisfying career path. Consider together their suitability for different jobs and help them identify their **ATTRIBUTES, INTERESTS, LIKES** and **EXPERIENCES**. Talk about their **HOPES** and **VISIONS** for the future and **WHERE** they want to **WORK** or **STUDY**.

## Explore possible occupations

- read the Job Guide together
- explore [www.year12whatnext.gov.au](http://www.year12whatnext.gov.au) and [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)
- talk about the things they want to learn
- look at what activities they are involved in outside of school
- talk to your child's teachers and the school career adviser
- reflect on work experience and community work they do
- go to careers expos and TAFE and university open days
- research people they admire

Movement between pathways can be in any direction at any time in life.

## Start a conversation

You can start a conversation with your child when they ask questions about life after school. Most young people respond to casual conversations about career choices. Talk about the world of work, share some of your own work and life experiences and ask some questions.

- How would you and your friends decide what courses to take?
- Have you thought about a New Apprenticeship?
- Would you like to go to university?
- What have you learned at school about making career choices?

## Pathways from school

There are many pathways from school that can lead to rewarding careers. Help your child to work out where these can take them. It is important to remember that people will move between pathways and are not locked into one occupation or education level. It's easy to move from work to study, TAFE to university, or from a New Apprenticeship into a long-term professional career.

## What are pathways?

After school most young people choose between:

- continuing a further education and training program through vocational and technical education or university
- undertaking a New Apprenticeship
- finding employment
- taking a gap year when they may participate in community or volunteer work and/or travel overseas
- starting a business

## Vocational and technical education

[www.training.com.au](http://www.training.com.au)

Vocational and technical education is competency based and directly job-related. These courses are great for people who like study that is practical and hands-on. Courses are offered through:

- TAFE
- secondary school
  - VET in schools
  - School-based New Apprenticeships (SBNAs)
- Australian Technical Colleges
- private Registered Training Organisations
- community training providers.

People can obtain nationally recognised qualifications in areas as varied as aviation, aged care, cardio technology, childrens services, car mechanic, earth science, plumbing and nursing.

Many schools offer VET in schools courses that count towards both the senior secondary certificate and a nationally recognised vocational qualification. School-based New Apprenticeships provide the option of starting a New Apprenticeship while still at school and the student actually earns a wage as they work and study. In this way, young people can keep their options open after school.

## New Apprenticeships

[www.newapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.newapprenticeships.gov.au)

A New Apprenticeship offers practical work experience and formal training at the same time. New Apprenticeships are now offered in over 500 occupations and can provide new skills, a great start on an interesting career and a pay packet for the time spent on the job.

There are amazing opportunities to explore in the trades  
[www.getatrade.gov.au](http://www.getatrade.gov.au)

Apprentices may qualify for support such as Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship that consists of some tax exempt payments when undertaking a qualification leading to an occupation in an area of skills needs. Additional support may be available through the Tools For Your Trade initiative which provides up to \$800 to eligible New Apprentices to help them acquire tools they may need for their new job.

### Find out more

- The *Learning Pathways* section in *Job Guide 2006* provides details about VET in schools
- Talk to your child's teachers and school career adviser
- Contact the Education Department in your state



## University

[www.goingtouni.gov.au](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au)

### The direct route

Around 30% of students go directly from school to university. In considering this option it is important to fully explore the university and course requirements. Look at prerequisite Year 11 and 12 subjects and at the range of courses and the campuses at which some courses are offered. They should consider the cost of university study and the cost of living as well as opportunities for work after graduation.

### Alternative pathways to university

It is possible to pursue the university option without taking the direct route. Alternative pathways can be taken by transferring from recognised VET studies or undertaking bridging or foundation programs, which help to prepare students for university courses. Studying by distance education through a university or Open Learning Australia (OLA) is another way to get to university.

### Find out more

- Talk to your child's teachers and the school career adviser
- *Job Guide 2006* occupation profiles provide course locations and prerequisites
- The Tertiary Admissions Centre in your state or territory which can advise you further about course requirements and applications for entry
- For more details about OLA go to [www.ola.edu.au](http://www.ola.edu.au) or phone 1300 363 652 or (03) 9903 8900

## Employment

[www.jobjuice.gov.au](http://www.jobjuice.gov.au)

A full-time, part-time or casual job brings with it an income, freedom and the chance to learn and do new things. Gaining a first job isn't always easy. People often apply for quite a few jobs before being successful – but they have a much better chance of finding a job with a Year 12 or equivalent qualification.

### Helping your child find work

- The *Looking for Work* section in *Job Guide 2006* provides details about financial assistance and other support programs for job seekers
- Lend a hand with writing job applications and resumes
- Practice interview techniques
- Show an interest in their efforts to find work and encourage them to remain positive

## Community and volunteer work

[www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

Volunteer work is an excellent way of experiencing new challenges and learning about the world of work. Volunteers provide an unpaid but valuable service to the community. There are a variety of organisations that rely on volunteers and it can be a great way to build new skills and add to work experience.

Schools, industry and parents are working together to support young people through a national network of Local Community Partnerships (LCPs). For further information or to find the LCP in your area email [lcp@dest.gov.au](mailto:lcp@dest.gov.au) or ring 1800 635 035.



## Start a business

[www.innovation.gov.au](http://www.innovation.gov.au)

Starting a business is another option to consider. You do not need formal qualifications or business experience to start and run a business. These things can be helpful – but they are not necessary. There are a number of programmes aimed at helping people build their enterprise skills and develop innovative ideas, as well as providing sources of training and education that assist in following innovative career pathways.

## The skills young people need

Employers are interested in what they describe as employability skills when deciding who to employ and who to promote within their organisations. Employability skills are the skills that we need to function in a wide variety of daily life and work tasks. They are not the technical skills required by an occupation but are the skills that allow people to do their jobs well in all circumstances.

Employability skills and personal attributes are important no matter where people work or what work they do.

Employability skills	Personal Attributes
Communication	Loyalty
Teamwork	Commitment
Problem solving	Adaptability
Initiative and enterprise	Enthusiasm
Planning and organising	Reliability
Self management	Personal presentation
Learning	Sense of humour
Technology	Ability to deal with pressure
	Motivation
	Honesty and integrity
	Positive self esteem
	Commonsense
	Balanced attitude to work and home life



## The future job market

In planning a career consider which skills will be in high demand in the future. Strong economic growth and record low unemployment have meant that there are shortages in areas requiring technical skills. These skills are highly likely to provide opportunities to secure well-paid employment.



Skill shortages have been identified in a range of areas including nursing, accounting and health. In

the trades there is a shortage of electricians, bricklayers, carpenters, chefs and hairdressers.

## Employment growth

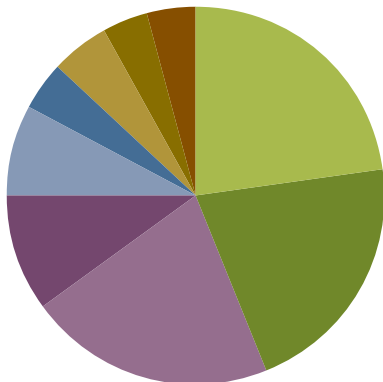
[www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)

Over the past few decades the Australian labour market has undergone considerable change. Ageing of the population, increased participation of women in the workforce, changes in industry structure, technological advances and a requirement for greater flexibility have all contributed to changes in the labour market.

In the next five years, most of the employment growth is expected to be in seven industries with property and business services and health and community services expected to experience the largest jobs growth.

# Job Growth

## Opportunities



Property & business services	23%
Health & community services	21%
Retail & trade	21%
Construction	10%
Accom, cafes & restaurants	8%
Education	5%
Personal & other services	4%
Cultural and recreational services	4%
Other industries	4%

(Source: Australian Jobs 2005)

### Find out more about skills shortages and job prospects

**[www.getatrade.gov.au](http://www.getatrade.gov.au)**

lists skills shortages at national, state and regional levels.

**[www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)**

for information on job prospects, employment rates and average income of various occupations

**[www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au)**

for information on employment, government assistance, training and working conditions

## Checklist

You can help your child start their career planning with some careful thinking about who they are and their future goals.

- Have you talked about potential career pathways together?
- Have you spoken to the career adviser and teachers at your child's school?
- Have you looked at a variety of career resources together?
- Have you checked if there are any upcoming career information evenings at school or in the local community?
- Have you attended a career expo together?

## Where to Now?

*Job Guide 2006* offers an in-depth look at more than 500 entry-level occupations and the education and training pathways leading to them. There are also useful tips on job seeking and information on where to get further help to support young people's employment, education and training goals. *Job Guide 2006* is available online at [jobguide.dest.gov.au](http://jobguide.dest.gov.au) and in hard copy. Job Guides are widely available through libraries and career advisers in schools, TAFEs, universities, and can be accessed through Career Information Centres.

There is a wide range of career information available at [www.dest.gov.au/careerdevelopment](http://www.dest.gov.au/careerdevelopment) in electronic and printed formats.



## Useful websites

### Career planning and pathways

**education.gov.au** The Government Education Portal points the way to education and training information from authoritative Australian Government, State and Territory sources.

**jobguide.dest.gov.au** Describes nearly 600 occupations, and their education and training pathways, as well as career planning and job seeking information.

**www.myfuture.edu.au** Online career exploration and information service useful for all students and parents.

**www.year12whatnext.gov.au** A guide for Year 12 students planning their post-school education and training.

**www.career.edu.au** An Australian Government initiative designed for parents and career practitioners to access career development learning opportunities.

**www.futurefinder.com.au** A free personalised career information service for browsing careers and courses suited to individual interests.

**www.youthpathways.dest.gov.au** The Youth Pathways Programme (YPP) helps eligible 14–19 year olds through their schooling and their transition to work or further education and training.

**https://transit.dest.gov.au** To find the Local Community Partnership (LCP) in your area follow the LCP map link.

**www.newapprenticeships.gov.au** Information about New Apprenticeships in a range of industries and how to find them (available in several languages).

**www.getatrade.gov.au** Information about apprenticeships, training, labour market information and more for those considering a trade-based career.

**www.grouptraining.com.au** Information about Group Training Organisations that take on New Apprentices, loaning them to 'host' employers.

**www.training.com.au** A gateway to information about VET.

**www.ntis.gov.au** The National Training and Information Service provides information about courses, qualifications, competencies, training packages and Registered Training Organisations.

**www.thegoodguides.com.au** A comprehensive database of courses, careers, and education institutions, as well as the unique ratings and rankings which help students choose between them.

**www.workplace.gov.au** An entry point to information about employment in Australia including wages and working conditions, labour markets and careers.

**www.questacon.edu.au** Science career information.

**www.australiantechnicalcolleges.gov.au** Information about Australian Technical Colleges.

**abc.net.au/catapult** Innovative and creative ideas in action.

**abc.net.au/acedayjobs** Online videos about people who enjoy their work.

**www.enya.org.au** Promotes the active participation of young people in business.

**www.innovation.gov.au** Information about setting up innovative business.

### State and territory

**www.decs.act.gov.au/schools/voced.htm** Information about 'VET in Schools' from the ACT Department of Education, Youth and Family Services.

**www.deet.nt.gov.au** Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training.

**www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/schooltowork/index.htm** Information about 'VET in Schools' and the school to work transition from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

**girlswork.det.nsw.edu.au** Work options for young women from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

**boyzatwork.det.nsw.edu.au** Work options for young men from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

**www.nt.gov.au/dcm/youth\_affairs** The Northern Territory's Office of Youth Affairs.

**education.qld.gov.au** Education information from the Queensland Department of Education and the Arts.

**www.smartfuture.qld.gov.au** Career profiles and other information from the Queensland Government.

**www.decs.sa.gov.au** The South Australian Department of Education and Children's Services.

**www.opcet.tas.gov.au** The Office of Post-Compulsory Education and Training, Tasmanian Department of Education.

**www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/parents** Information for parents from the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

**www.yel.vic.gov.au** Youth employment link for career pathways, education and training, and job opportunities.

**www.training.wa.gov.au** Western Australian Department of Education and Training.

**getaccess.westone.wa.gov.au** Information about work, careers, apprenticeships and training from the Western Australian Department of Education and Training.

### Industry

**www.autocareers.com.au** Careers in the retail automotive industry.

**www.chef.org.au** Careers in commercial cookery.

**www.ee-oz.com.au** Careers in the electrical, electronic and communications industry.

**www.bigplans.com.au/home.html** Careers in the building industry.

**www.makeit.net.au/** Careers in manufacturing.

**www.ruralskills.com.au/Ontrack** Careers in agriculture, horticulture and animal care as well as areas like land and park management, the environment, aquaculture and livestock production.

**www.zoom.aigroup.asn.au** Careers in engineering and manufacturing.

**zoom2.aerospace.aigroup.asn.au** Careers in the aerospace industry.

**zoom3.aigroup.asn.au** Careers in the boating industry.

**www.careerthatgo.com.au** Careers in science.

**www.plumbingcareers.com.au** Careers in the plumbing industry.





**You taught them to dream.  
We'll help them to fly.**

Your guidance has always been important for your kids' development. Which is why myfuture has a parents' information section covering a huge range of career issues. There's even an exploration tool for teens to discover the careers they're suited to, for happy and content futures.

**myfuture.edu.au** is Australia's online career information and exploration service and is a joint initiative of Australian, State and Territory governments.



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