

“What am I going to do in the future?”

Yeah... like anyone has that fully sorted 🤖

Don't stress! This six-step process will help you explore your options and get your ideas organised. It's not the only way to do it, but it's a great starting point.

Work through the worksheet as you go and keep adding to it during Years 11 and 12 as you learn more about yourself and the different pathways.



Step 1: Career decision making – the basics

- It won't just happen – you need to get started and take charge.
- It's your future, so the decision is yours (you don't want to end up in a job you hate!).
- A career counsellor helps you explore options, but they can't choose for you.
- You're not choosing one job forever – most people have lots of different jobs over time.
- There isn't just one “perfect” career for you. Your interests and goals will change as you grow and discover new opportunities.

Step 2: Look inwards – learn more about yourself

What do you do best? What are your strengths?

Do I like?/Are these my strengths?	What do you think?
Humanities, mathematics, science, physical education, etc.?	
Working with ideas, words, things, etc.?	
Working with people?	
Working with my hands?	
Working with computers or machines?	
Other strengths not listed here?	



What do you want a job to be like? Think about it ...

What I'm thinking about ...	What do you think?
Working with other people or working by myself?	
Working outdoors or indoors or a combination of both?	
Being at a desk all day or having some physical activity?	
Having lots of variety and activities or having a structured, predictable workday?	
Helping people in some way?	
Making heaps of money or having a 'good' income?	
Always learning on the job?	
Working 9 am to 5 pm, doing shift work, working from home, or having flexible hours?	
Thinking the job I have is a secure job?	
Having a job that people I respect think is a 'good' job?	
Feeling I am contributing to my community and beyond	
Working with things or with people as the focus of my job e.g. engines, computers, animals, children or the elderly?	
Developing ideas or using ideas (hands on) or both?	
Making my own work decisions or having someone direct me and/or closely supervise my work?	



What external factors will influence your career decisions

My career decisions will be influenced by:	A Yes or No answer here
What my family and friends think?	
How many jobs are out there?	
What I read or see in the media?	
How long I must study or train to get the job?	
My age?	
Staying in the local area?	
A disability or medical condition I have?	
Other influences not listed here?	

Build your Job Ideas list below

You might already have some jobs in mind – add them to your list on the next page.
To get more ideas, try one of these short career quizzes:

- ✚ [Myfuture](#) – shows what jobs involve, what you study, skills you need and similar careers (you'll need to register – it's free)
- ✚ [Your Career](#) – Click 'Try Career Explorer' to find study, training and job options that match your answers

After you finish a quiz, make a call on the jobs that interest you. Aim to have up to 10 jobs on your Job Ideas list.

Things to think about first:

- What are the most important things you want in a future job?
- Which values and strengths do you want to use at work?
- What factors influence your career choices the most (e.g. pay, lifestyle, helping others, creativity)?

Add jobs you have already thought about **and** new ones from the quizzes.

Include your **dream job** too – even if it feels hard to get. Why not aim high?

My Job Ideas List		

Before moving on, take a minute to review everything you've thought about so far.

Step 3: Look outwards – gather information

Time to research your job ideas

You know more about yourself – now learn more about the jobs.

Use these sites:

- [myfuture](#) – log in and search under *Occupations*
- [Your Career](#) – type in the job name
- [Career Bullseyes](#) – find jobs linked to school subjects
- [Jobs and Skills Australia](#) – explore industries and future demand

For each job, find out:

- What are the main tasks?
- Where do you work (office, lab, outdoors, site, hospital, etc.)?
- Average pay
- Study or training needed
- Do you work with people or by yourself?
- Different specialisations you can move into later
- Future job demand



Then compare with what you are looking for in a job:

- Does this job give you what you want?
- Does it use your strengths?
- Does it match what matters to you?

You can **add or remove jobs** – that's normal. Your goal is to narrow your list to **3–4 jobs** that suit you best. Remember, you are sorting options NOT deciding on careers ... yet!

Want to go further?

- Talk to someone who does the job
- Try work experience (see your Guidance Officer/Careers Adviser)

Finally, chat about your ideas with someone you trust. Other perspectives can help you see things more clearly.

Step 4: Prioritise the jobs

Put your researched jobs in order, starting with your favourite.

To help decide, try making a quick **pros and cons list** for each job and ask:

- How well does this job match what I want?
- Does it use my strengths?
- Does it fit my goals and lifestyle?

Then write your **top job ideas** below, in order from most preferred to least.

Why these jobs work for me!		
Jobs I am really interested in	How this job meets my work goals	Why I think I will enjoy this job

Step 5: Plan a training pathway

Yeah! You have done some quality research! Now to working out the pathway/s that best suits you. Having a problem with this? The following sites might help:

- [Your Career](#) – for vocational courses
- [Course Seeker](#) – for university courses.

Step 6: Act on your plan

Don't just have a plan. **Do something about it!**

Remember that:

1. This takes time and your ideas will change as you learn more.
2. Stay open-minded and be confident about updating your plans when you find better options.
3. You're not choosing one job forever – you're just choosing your **first step**.