

Helping your child with career decisions

As parents and carers, we all want the best for our children. We want to support them as they move through high school and make their first career decisions.

To do this well, it helps to stay informed about the world of work and the pathways available after school. A lot has changed since most of us were students. Giving young people out-of-date or incorrect information can make their decisions harder, not easier.

The most reliable and current career information is usually found online. This handout explains today's career landscape and shares trusted sources to help your child explore their options with confidence.



First things first – What to keep in mind:

- The world of work is changing quickly. Your child will make many career decisions over their lifetime.
- Ongoing learning will be part of their working life. New jobs are emerging while others are changing or disappearing.
- Career decision-making is a process. Young people need time to explore their options and choose their first step after school.
- Your child needs to take an active role in this process. Try not to make decisions for them.
- Career counsellors help students explore options and make informed choices. They guide, rather than tell students what to do. This helps young people build lifelong career-management skills.

Where to find information

There are plenty of places to find up-to-date and reliable information to help you feel confident when talking with your child about their future. The following resources are a great starting point and will help you understand the career landscape your child is stepping into.

How you can help

Make time to:

- Talk regularly with your child about what they might like to do when they finish school.
- Remind them that the decision they make when they leave school is simply a first step.
- Listen to their career ideas and dreams, even if they seem unrealistic. Many careers begin with a dream.
- Share your own work and study experiences. If appropriate, take them to your workplace.
- Help them understand their strengths, interests and values. There are many online quizzes that can help identify what they're good at and what matters to them.
- Talk about things that can influence their choices—such as family opinions, friends, length of training, cost, job opportunities, pay and even the media. Understanding these influences helps young people make positive decisions.

While your child is still at school

[Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority \(QCAA\)](#)

The QCAA oversees what children learn from kindergarten through to the end of high school in Queensland. Their website provides clear information about school assessments, exams and subject syllabuses. It's a helpful place to understand what your child is studying and how their learning is assessed.

[Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre \(QTAC\)](#)

QTAC manages applications for most university and TAFE courses in Queensland and northern New South Wales. They calculate students' ATARs and issue offers for courses at university and TAFE (diploma level and above). Their website is a great resource when your child starts exploring post-school pathways.

Specific occupation information

Accounting, Finance and Insurance

- [Chartered Accountants Australia – New Zealand](#)
- [Accounting Careers](#)
- [Careers in Insurance](#)

Architecture

- [What does an architect do?](#)

Careers in Health

- [First Nations Peoples health workforce](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [My Health Career](#)

Construction Industry

- [Construct My Career](#)
- [CSQ](#)
- [Construction Placements](#)

Defence jobs

- [Australian Defence Force Jobs](#)

Engineering

- [Engineers Australia](#)

Information Technology

- [CSIRO Digital Careers](#)
- [IT Career Finder](#)
- [Information Technology Jobs and Descriptions](#)

Manufacturing

- [myfuture](#)
- [ACS Professional Association for Australia's ICT sector](#)

Mathematics

- [Careers In Maths](#)



- [Australian Mathematical Society](#)

Mining

- [Myfuture](#)
- [Occupation and Industry Profiles](#)
- [Australian Mining](#)
- [Minerals Council of Australia](#)

Performing and Visual Arts

- [Arts Hub](#)
- [Stage Whispers](#)
- [Arts and Recreation Services](#)

Police – State/Federal

- [Queensland Police](#)
- [Australian Federal Police](#)

Printing & Graphic Communications

- [Printing and Graphic Arts](#)
- [16 Jobs in Printing Technology](#)

Project Management

- [Project Management](#)

Psychology

- [Australian Psychological Society](#)

Real Estate

- [Real Estate Institute of Queensland](#)

Racing Industry

- [Racing Jobs](#)

Sport and Recreation

- [Careers in Sport](#)
- [Careers in Sport and Recreation](#)

Science

- [Careers that started in Science](#)



- [Careers with STEM](#)
- [Science Careers List](#)

Surveying

- [Surveying](#)
- [Queensland Spatial and Surveying Association](#)

Teaching

- [Queensland Government](#)
- [Queensland College of Teachers](#)

Tourism and Hospitality

- [Queensland Tourism Industry Council](#)
- [Australian Travel Careers Association](#)
- [Workforce Australia](#)

Veterinary Science

- [What's it like to be a veterinarian?](#)
- [A career in veterinary science](#)

Training sites

[Queensland Government Apprenticeships & Traineeships](#)

[Australian Apprenticeships](#)

[Group Training Australia](#)

[Your Career](#)

[Queensland Skills Gateway](#)

[Training](#)

Selected Qld tertiary institutions

[Australian Catholic University](#)

[Bond University](#)

[Christian Heritage College](#)

[Central Queensland University](#)

[Federation University](#)

[Griffith University](#)

[Griffith College](#)

[James Cook University](#)

[Queensland University of Technology](#)

[SAE University College](#)

[TAFE Queensland](#)

[The University of Queensland](#)

[Torrens University Australia](#)

[University of Southern Queensland](#)

[University of the Sunshine Coast](#)



Labour market information

[Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

[Australian Jobs 2025](#)

[Occupation and Industry Profiles](#)

[Jobs and Skills Australia](#)

Miscellaneous websites

[Year 13](#)

[Australian Defence Force events](#)

[Australian Qualifications Framework](#)

[Career FAQs](#)

[Enterprise Network for Young Australians \(ENYA\)](#)

[Foundation for Young Australians](#)

Conclusion

Where you can find reliable information

You can find valuable, up-to-date information from a range of places, including:

- **The websites listed above** – Online information is updated regularly, so it's worth checking key sites throughout the year.
- **The fortnightly Options Career Information bulletin** – Available through your school via the Options Career Information app or through a family subscription. The bulletin provides clear and current updates about careers, study pathways and opportunities.
- **Career expos and open days** – These events give you and your child the chance to explore different courses, meet staff and ask questions.
- **Your school's guidance officer, counsellor and/or VET coordinator** – They can provide personalised advice and help your child understand their options.