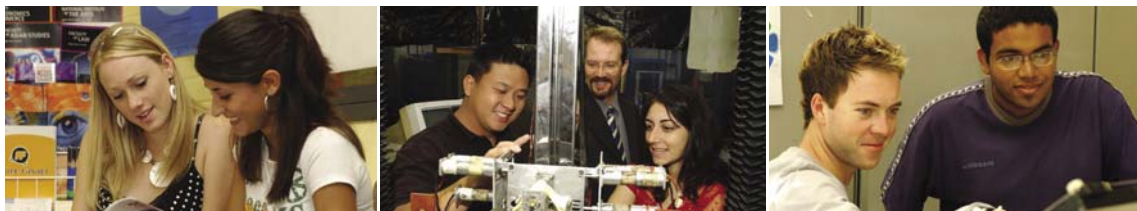




Australian Government

Department of Education, Science and Training

Year 12 - what next?



www.year12whatnext.gov.au

short cuts for students to help plan your
post-school education and training

Find out about working life in the future | Find out about course options
Find out where to get help and information

“As the world around us continues to change rapidly, especially with technological change, efficient and effective post-compulsory education and training systems will become more important. Current and future workers will need to improve and continually update their skill levels...”

Australia's Demographic Challenges, Australian Government 2004

Australia's population is ageing. Today, 45% of Australians are over 40. In 2040, this will be closer to 60%. This will have an impact on your life. It means you are more likely to:

- live and work longer than your parents
- need to continue to learn throughout your life
- build on the skills you gain at school
- be adaptable and change career directions several times.

In your last semester at school, you need to seriously consider your options. By this time, you have probably identified your first choice for study after school, but you may want to re-assess your direction in light of your results, or your changing interests.

Some of you will know exactly what you want to do and the course you need to get there. Some of you will have some idea but need more information to make a decision. Many of you will have only initial ideas, and you'll need extra time or help to make decisions.

To make the right choice for you, you will need information about the world of work and post-school education and training. Careers advisers, teachers and parents can help you with this.

To get started-

- think about what you're good at, and what you enjoy doing
- talk to people about what you want to do
- go to www.myfuture.edu.au
 - myfuture is an internet based resource which can help you identify your strengths and interests, and decide what you want to do. It has a personalised career exploration tool, called *my guide*, which you can use to create an individual profile.
 - It also has a useful section called *the facts* which has information about occupations, where the jobs are, courses and more.



As a first step, you need to know about the changing world of work and the skills which will be in demand in the future.

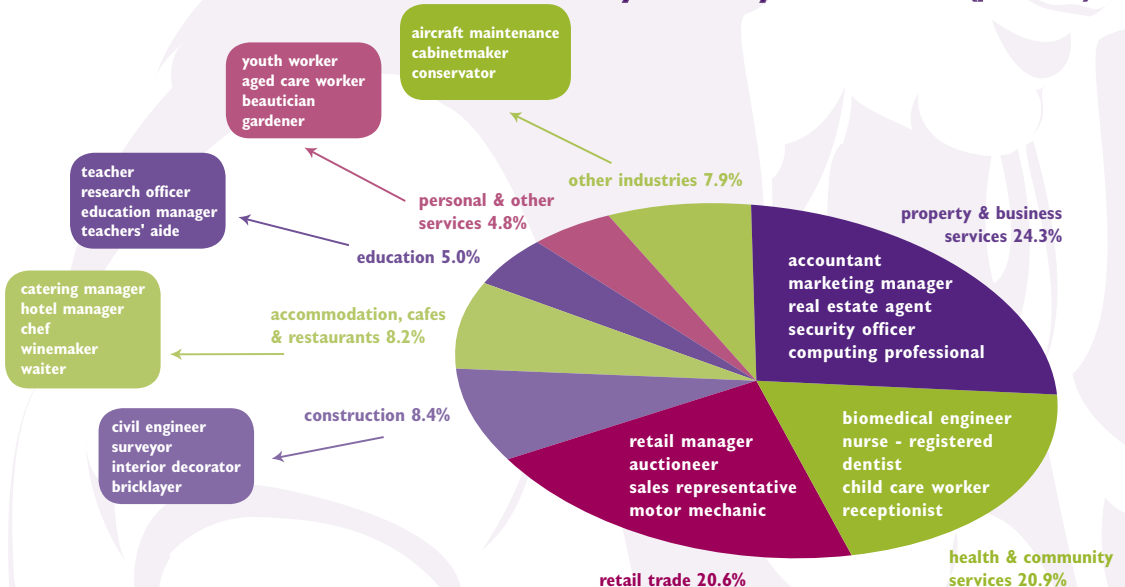
In the next six years, most of the **employment growth** – nine out of ten new jobs – is expected to be in the seven industries highlighted in the chart below. These industries include lots of interesting jobs like forensic scientists, advertising executives, health promotion officers, music therapists, chefs, financial advisers, surveyors, science teachers and fitness instructors.

For more information visit the *careers section* of www.workplace.gov.au or www.jobguide.dest.gov.au.

Science and innovation has an important role in shaping society, setting economic directions and generating jobs for the future. A career in science and innovation is likely to be interesting and creative, as well as valuable to the community.

You can find out more about careers in science, engineering and technology, from astrophysics to sports science, at <http://smartmoves.questacon.edu.au>.

Share of Projected Employment Growth by Industry to 2010-11 (per cent)



03 Post-school education and training

By 2015 - 80% of people currently in the workforce will still be in the workforce but 80% of current technology will be replaced with new technology.

Employers are looking for skills: technical skills and employability skills

Today, high rates of employment and a strong economy has produced **skill shortages** in many industries. Currently, national skill shortages have been identified in a range of professional areas including nursing, accounting and health and in trades including electricians, bricklayers, carpenters, chefs and hairdressers.

You can find out more about the labour market including current skill vacancies at www.workplace.gov.au. For information about opportunities in the trades, you can check out www.getatrade.gov.au.

Employers look beyond technical skills, to employability skills. **Employability skills**, personal attributes like motivation and flexibility and abilities like communication, teamwork and problem solving, are all just as important as technical skills. These skills provide you with the foundation for any job and your studies. An important employability skill is adaptability. With the nature of jobs changing so much everyone needs to be able to **adapt to change** and to **learn continuously**.

In today's society, it is increasingly important to continue with education and training. Twenty years ago, about 40% of all school students went on to further study. Now that percentage is 60%. **Today, people without post-school qualifications are less likely to gain long-term full employment.**

Most Year 12 school leavers will go on to do tertiary education, whether that be at TAFE, university, or a private training organisation.

People tend to know more about university courses than they do about vocational education and training (VET), although in most fields of study you'll find both university and VET courses to choose from. It's best to know about both.

VET provides practical and career-oriented education. You can study on the job, or off the job, at TAFE, or at a private training provider. These days, there is a lot of similarity between VET courses and uni courses. Many VET institutions provide specialist training in areas of expertise. Just like uni, VET courses can lead to interesting, lucrative and independent careers.

What often appeals to students about VET is its direct relevance to employment. Many VET courses are designed by industry for industry. The style of training can often also be more practical — more applied, and less theoretical than university study. These days, if you want, you can go on to university from VET.

Whatever option you choose, you will be learning in a world class system. Australian **VET and university qualifications** are recognised nationally and internationally. Graduates can be confident that they have the education and skills employers look for.

In 2002, 57,000 Year 12 students went on from school directly to vocational education and training and 84,000 went directly to university.

The top five diploma courses studied by these VET students were:

1. Community Services
2. Hospitality (Management)
3. Business
4. Information Technology
5. Accounting (Advanced)

The top five courses studied by these university students were in:

1. Society and Culture
2. Management and Commerce
3. Health and Physical Sciences
4. Engineering & Related Technologies
5. Education

There are many resources around to help you **find out more** about courses. Unfortunately there is no single source that will give you all the information you need.

For more information about university and VET courses you can explore the handbook or website of the Tertiary Admissions Centre in the State where you want to study. For the final word on the content of courses and entry requirements check directly with the institutions — universities and TAFE colleges generally have course information officers you can talk to about what is on offer.

You may also want to talk to potential employers, and find out what skills they value, and their opinions on which institutions provide the best education. You may be surprised at what you find.

Getting into a course today — both at university and in VET — can be highly competitive, although increasingly, courses rely on criteria broader than cut-off scores for entry. The Tertiary Admissions Centre websites will tell you how to apply for university and some TAFE courses. For other VET courses you will have to apply directly to the institution.

Tertiary Admissions Centre sites:

www.uac.edu.au (NSW, ACT)
www.vtac.edu.au (Victoria)
www.qtac.edu.au (Queensland)
www.tisc.edu.au (Western Australia)
www.satac.edu.au (South Australia)
www.cdu.edu.au (Northern Territory)
www.utas.edu.au (Tasmania)

Institutions:

www.ntis.gov.au for details of VET training and institutions
www.avcc.edu.au for individual universities

Australian Government sites:

www.myfuture.edu.au
www.jobsearch.gov.au/Training
www.goingtouni.gov.au

Commercially available guides:

www.thegoodguides.com.au or
Directory of Higher and Further Education Courses 2004 –available only in hard copy

Talk to your school careers adviser.

Some courses are harder to get into than others, but research shows that most Year 12 leavers achieve their preferred post school pathway. Most students who miss out on their first choice or change their mind generally find a satisfying alternative. Courses tend to be very flexible – if you start one that doesn't suit you, you can often obtain credit for what you have completed if you move to another course or another institution, or between VET and uni.

Remember there are many education and training options that can lead in the direction you want to go. Sometimes, the best path may not be the most obvious path. **The hardest part is not getting in, but getting the information you need to make the right choices for you.**

04 Work while you learn

You may feel that after Year 12, you have had enough of full-time study for a while. There are good ways to combine work, education and training, and earning money at the same time.

Perhaps the best known option is a **New Apprenticeship**. New Apprenticeships are available in over 1500 qualifications, ranging from aviation to horticulture and aquaculture, design and engineering.

A New Apprenticeship gives you the chance to work, learn on the job, build up knowledge and skills, and gain a national qualification — all while you earn money.



With growing shortages of employees in many trades, the prospects for a qualified tradesperson today are brighter than ever before.

For more information check out www.newapprenticeships.gov.au.

Some school leavers prefer to **take a break** in their first year out of school, to travel, earn money or gain some life skills before moving on to formal study.

A year out can give you an understanding of a field of study and experience and time to decide what to do next. Visit websites such as www.iep-australia.com and www.interexchange.org to find out more about working, travelling and meeting new people overseas.

Community involvement, with youth, cultural or creative groups and **volunteer work** are great ways to gain experience and knowledge. They also show you can work in a team, solve problems and commit to a task. These are all attributes employers value highly.

Volunteering is more popular than you might think. Around 500,000 18-24 year olds in Australia volunteered in 2003. It's a great way to make a contribution to your local community and meet other people. It can also add to your résumé. For some ideas check out www.govolunteer.com.au and www.volunteerssearch.gov.au.

Over 50,000 young Australians aged 15-24 **run their own business**. If you have a good business idea, attending even one business course can substantially increase your chance of success.

You can read stories about young people who have started up businesses and see what training programs are around at www.enya.org.au. It's also worth looking at www.business.gov.au for useful information on running a business.

Dear Year 12 student

This guide, *Year 12 - what next?* prepared by the Australian Government, gives you important information to help you make decisions about what you will do after you finish school.

200,000 Year 12 students all over Australia will soon start to make decisions about their study and work options. For many of you and your families, making choices from the options open to you after school will be challenging, but information is available and there are many places to go to for advice.

Year 12 - what next? can help you find what you need at this critical time, whatever your post-school plans may be.

In making your choices, you need to ask yourself some important questions – what do I enjoy most? what am I best at? what are my strongest talents? what are the jobs that best suit my talents, and which will provide a stable and interesting career in the future? what education and training do I need?

This guide and the accompanying website www.year12whatnext.gov.au will ease the stress for you and your family and make it easier for you to answer these questions.

Year 12 - what next? gives you important information you need and shows you where to find out more. You can go through the guide with your school careers adviser, your teachers and your parents.

By completing Year 12, you have given yourself the best possible foundation for success in the future. I congratulate you on this and wish you the best of luck with your end of school studies and in finding and achieving your own potential.



The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP

Australian Government Minister for Education, Science and Training

August 2004

05 Education and training pays off

There are real **benefits from post-school education and training**. Further study after finishing school can mean that over a lifetime, you will be more employable, more mobile, earn more money and enjoy greater satisfaction in your career.

The immediate benefits of a post-school qualification can be measured in terms of the income you will earn. Check out the *students* section at www.ncver.edu.au and *what job for you* section at www.gradlink.edu.au to find out the job outcomes and salaries of VET and university graduates.

The **costs of studying** involve course costs as well as living costs such as accommodation and transport. For up-to-date information about the costs of a particular course, see the relevant handbook or contact the institution.



From 2005, Commonwealth supported students (formally HECS) at university will on average make a contribution of around 27% of their total course costs per year. Most students have the option of deferring payment of this student contribution, until they earn over \$35,000. If students choose to pay the course cost up-front, a 20% discount applies.

Some universities also offer full-fee paying places to students. For more information, look at www.goingtouni.gov.au.

Range of student contributions - full-time university, 2005*

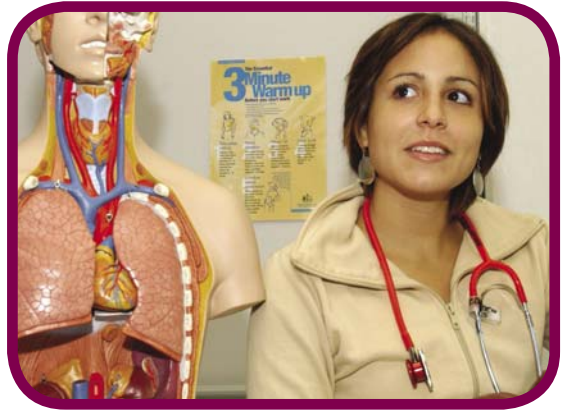
Teaching, nursing (national priority fields of study)	\$0 to \$3,847 p.a.
Humanities, arts, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts	\$0 to \$4,808 p.a.
Accounting, commerce, administration, economics, maths, statistics, computing, built environment, health, engineering, science, surveying, agriculture	\$0 to \$6,849 p.a.
Law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science	\$0 to \$8,018 p.a.

* course costs will depend on the individual subjects and institution chosen. From 2005, universities can set their own level of student contribution in these ranges.

TAFE colleges and institutes of technology charge fees that are generally lower than university. Most institutions require students to pay their fees up-front, although concessions are available and some institutes offer loans. On average tuition fees range from around \$300 to \$1000 per year, although tuition fees for New Apprentices are often lower. Fees charged by private training institutions vary.

A range of **assistance and support** is available at both the point of entry to a course and once you've started it.

You may be eligible for Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY. You can check the eligibility requirements at www.centrelink.gov.au.



You can find out more about the assistance available for people with a disability enrolling in post-school education and training at www.adcet.edu.au/rdco.

Individual institutions sometimes offer **scholarships** for students who have excelled or to assist students with special needs, including rural students or students from low income families. Handbooks and websites are the best source of this information. There is also some information about scholarships in *the facts* section of www.myfuture.edu.au.

Some employers offer **cadetships** that typically combine study with work. Cadetships are often advertised through schools and in the press between July to September each year. Information about cadetships for Indigenous students studying full-time in an undergraduate degree at university can be found at www.nicp.dewr.gov.au.