

Helping your child with career decisions

“As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child make educational choices and career decisions. This role begins when your child is young as they watch you and others around them take part in working life.

As they grow older, you can play an even greater part in guiding their career development and fostering their optimism, enthusiasm, energy and curiosity.”

From: *Parents talking career choices*, p. 1 (This leaflet can be downloaded from <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/parents-talking-career-choices-0>).

There are a number of things you can do to help your children with their career exploration and decision-making. The following are some of them.

Understand that:

- Today’s world of work is rapidly changing and your children might have to make many career decisions in the future. Also, ongoing learning will be a feature of their working lives as new occupations emerge and current occupations change or become obsolete.
- Career decision-making is not magic; it is a process during which your children need to explore many options and decide on their ‘first step’ occupation.
- Your children must be actively involved in the career decision-making process; you can’t do it for them.
- The career counsellor’s role is to work with your children to help them explore options and make decisions; not tell them what to do. This way they will learn lifelong career management skills.

Make opportunities to:

- Have discussions with your children about what they might like to do when they leave school.
- Listen to your children’s career dreams even if you think they are unrealistic (career exploration can start with a dream).
- Talk with your children about your job (take them to work with you) and your career decision-making experiences.
- Help your children gain awareness of their strengths, interests, values (what they think is important) and the things that might influence their career decisions (e.g. your opinion, the opinions held by their friends, the length of training to get into the job, the income from the job, employment opportunities, the media, etc.)

Encourage your children to:

- Be curious about jobs and the world of work when they are young; don’t wait until they have to start making career decisions.
- Be aware of the jobs they encounter in their daily lives.
- Use the resources below to read about jobs.
- Ask people from their social network (relatives, your friends, parents of their friends, neighbours, sports coach, etc.) about their jobs.
- Test out jobs they are interested in by asking questions, work observation, work experience, volunteering, getting a part-time job, etc.

Learn about the:

- Options available to young people at the end of secondary schooling.
- Tertiary entry processes in Queensland (university, TAFE and private institutions).
- The Australian Qualifications Framework (<http://aqf.edu.au/>).

Useful websites

<p>Myfuture http://www.myfuture.edu.au/</p>	<p>This is Australia's career information service. When you first enter the site, you need to 'Sign up'. On this site you can develop your profile and come up with jobs you may be interested in. The site contains information on occupations and courses and has articles relating to career development (in the 'Career Insight' section). You might find the following articles useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 tips to increase your child's interest in careers http://myfuture.edu.au/career-insight/how-to-increase-your-childs-interest-in-careers • Help your child choose school subjects http://myfuture.edu.au/career-insight/help-your-child-choose-school-subjects • 9 activities to help children understand careers http://myfuture.edu.au/career-insight/9-activities-to-help-children-understand-careers.
<p>Job Outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au/</p>	<p>Occupational and labour market information can be found on this site. It also has a career quiz that matches your responses to possible jobs.</p>
<p>The Good Universities Guide http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/</p>	<p>The 'Careers' section of this website has a job search function with information on almost 500 occupations.</p>
<p>Student Connect https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/</p>	<p>Links to information on future options, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Learning Accounts and career planning can be found on this site.</p>
<p>QTAC http://www.qtac.edu.au/</p>	<p>Tertiary courses, prerequisites, application processes, special admissions schemes – everything you need to know about tertiary entry in Queensland can be found here.</p>
<p>TAFE Queensland http://tafeqld.edu.au/</p>	<p>This site has links to all TAFE Queensland campuses. the courses offered and upgrade pathways through TAFE.</p>
<p>Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/</p>	<p>The QCAA website provides information about secondary studies, assessment and tertiary entrance (click on 'Senior Schooling').</p>