



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

real skills for
real careers



FACT SHEET

WHAT ADVISORS NEED TO KNOW

Vocational education and training (VET) is a tertiary education pathway that parents, carers, teachers and career advisors need to know about. They also need to know about My Skills – the national directory of VET courses and training providers – because it can help young people make choices about their training options and careers.

QUICK FACTS

Vocational education and training (VET)

- Not just for trades
- Valued by employers
- Offers skills for the real world

ADVISING ON CAREERS

As parents, guardians, career advisors, teachers, supporters and carers, we need to talk to young people about the kind of career they want, and we need to equip them with the resources they need to get there. More than ever, young people need transferable and innovative skills to compete in new and emerging industries and gain fulfilling, well paid careers.

WHAT IS VET?

VET is a tertiary education pathway that enables individuals to gain qualifications for employment. It is designed to deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge-based competencies in a wide range of occupations.

Diversity and choice

VET offers nationally recognised training and qualifications across a range of industry sectors, including information technology, avionics, small business management, nursing, fashion and floristry – just to name a few.

There are thousands of qualifications to choose from, and unlike other learning options, VET lets young people undertake partial qualifications, short courses, skill sets and units of competency, allowing them to gain the specific skills they need, when they need them.



Nationally recognised training and qualifications are available through registered training organisation (RTOs), which are also known as *training organisations* or *training providers*.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VET?

VET helps young people get on the path to a long-term career. Operating like an education highway, VET offers its users choice, with multiple entry, exit, merging and re-entry points. When talking with young people about tertiary education, be sure to mention the following:

- VET isn't just for trades – it's for careers and options they may not have thought of
- VET offers qualification that are nationally recognised, transferable and valued by employers
- VET will equip them with skills for the real world.

VET students are taught by industry professionals and trained in real workplace situations. VET is also a great way for young people to start their education journey if they are thinking about continuing on to a university degree.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

If you work through the following steps with a young person, you will increase their competitive edge for today's competitive job market.

Talk

Talk to them from an early age about careers and opportunities.

Provide

Provide them with all of the options available, without direct recommendations.

Discuss

Discuss ALL career choices, even if they say they are going to university.

Think

If you are a parent, think about your child's personality – what they love doing and what they hate doing – before advising on the best tertiary education option for them.

My Skills

Use the My Skills website to find a VET qualification that will give them the hands-on knowledge and experience they need to become a skilled professional.

MY SKILLS

The My Skills website is the national directory of VET courses and training providers. If a young person has made a career choice, My Skills will help them find a qualification to match. They can search for VET courses and compare information such as fees, durations, graduate satisfaction and available subsidies.

Whatever your role is in a young person's life, the My Skills website can help you help them find the skills they need for the career they want through vocational education and training.

RESOURCES

With so much information about careers, it's hard to know where to start or where to look. Here's a few sites that you may find useful once you've found the right VET course and training provider on My Skills:

- Australian Apprenticeships
<https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/>
- Job Jumpstart
<https://www.jobjumpstart.gov.au/>
- Job Outlook
<https://joboutlook.gov.au/>
- Preparing Secondary Students for Work
<http://www.pssfw.myskills.gov.au/>
- Study Assist
<https://www.studyassist.gov.au/>
- Unique Student Identifier.
<https://www.usi.gov.au/>

I WILL SUCCEED MY WAY.

There are many ways to succeed. Do it your way with Vocational Education and Training.

myskills.gov.au



CAREER STORIES

VET can lead to fantastic employment opportunities for its graduates – read the following stories and see for yourself. Be inspired and help a young person enrol in a qualification to get the skills they need to start their career.

MADELINE'S STORY

**VET Qualification: Certificate III in Aged Care;
Certificate III in Disability**
Career: Direct Care Assistant

Madeline Ziegler always had an interest in a career in the healthcare industry. Wanting to gain a head-start on her career, Madeline completed three nationally recognised qualifications before she had finished Year 12, including a Certificate II in Retail, a Certificate III in Aged Care and Certificate III in Disability. Madeline is employed as a Direct Care Assistant and is now at university studying a Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-Registration).

The opportunity to complete a Certificate III in Aged Care and a Certificate III in Disability came up when I started my Year 12 studies and I jumped at that opportunity and I've been happy with it ever since. I've absolutely loved it.

COURTNEY'S STORY

**VET Qualification: Certificate III in Automotive
Mechanical Technology (Light Vehicle)**
Career: Mechanic

Courtney Harrison has completed a Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology (Light Vehicle) through an Australian Apprenticeship at a diesel and turbo specialist shop in Inverell. This trade, as the foundation of a career in the world of cars and mechanical technology, will provide her with many options for future pathways.

You can achieve anything so long as you want to and you're driven to. So if it's what you want to do; definitely go and pursue it and chase it and don't look back.





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FAQS

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