



Australian Government



Your
Career™

National Careers Institute



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

School Leavers Information Kit



Your guide to education, training and work

yourcareer.gov.au/schoolleaver

What's in this document?

Introduction	1
1 Further education and training	2
Vocational education and training (VET)	2
Apprenticeships and traineeships	2
Higher education	3
Pathways to university study	4
Short-term study and training	5
2 Financial assistance and planning	6
Financial tools and budgeting	9
3 Take a gap year	10
4 Build your future career	12
Industries in Australia	12
How to get job ready	14
Handy hints when looking for work	15
Thinking about starting your own business	16
5 Additional support	17
National services	17
State and Territory services	18
6 Wellbeing support	

Introduction



You've finished school, so what's next?

Life after school can be full of exciting opportunities. It can also be challenging to decide what you want to do.

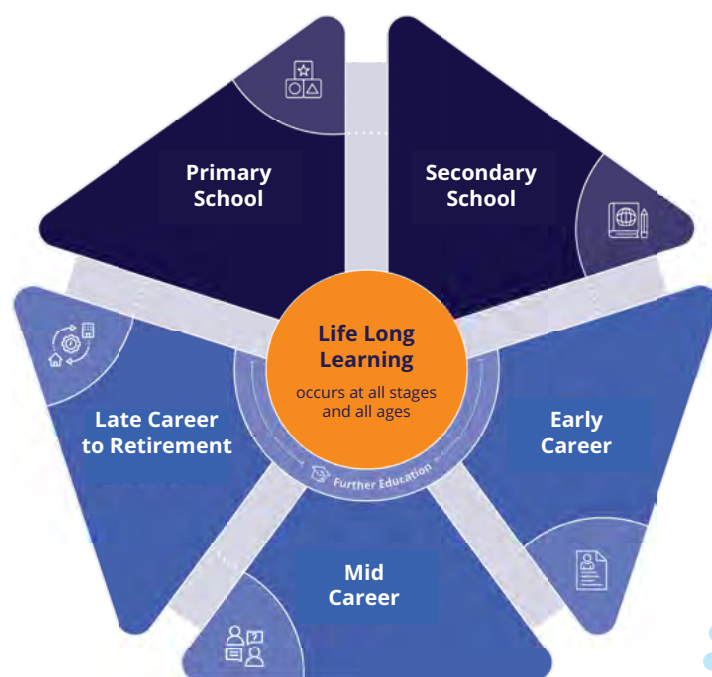
This **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander School Leavers Information Kit (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SLIK)** has been created by the **National Careers Institute (NCI)** to help you prepare for your next steps after school.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SLIK** is a collection of education, training, and employment information for you to explore when preparing for your next steps after leaving school including:

- pursuing further study/education
- volunteering
- doing seasonal work
- taking a gap year
- starting work.

In addition to this Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SLIK you may find extra information in our **Support for young people with disability** and **Support for regional, rural and remote young people** booklets. These booklets can be found on **Your Career** yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit.

While it may be challenging to decide what you want to do next, life after school is full of exciting opportunities and options. Remember whatever you choose to do after school, it will all contribute to your career, your way.



A career often involves forward, backwards, and sideways steps. Lifelong learning sits in the centre of the career journey, showing that we continuously learn and grow throughout our career.

1 Further education and training

Sometimes your career path might require further study or training. There are both long and short-term pathways available.

There are 3 main pathways to get qualified:



Vocational education and training (VET)

Remember if your career goals change, you don't have to stick with the qualification you started with. You can move between different types of courses and training if you want to.

Vocational education and training (VET)

VET is nationally accredited training designed to teach the skills needed to get a job and succeed in the workplace. VET courses may include studying Certificates I–IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Skill Sets, and accredited courses.

VET is not just for traditional trades – it includes hundreds of different occupations and industries including accounting, retail, hospitality, technology, and the arts.

Most Certificates can take between 3 months and 3 years to complete. Visit the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/skills for more information on VET courses and the providers that offer them.



Apprenticeships and traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships

An apprenticeship or traineeship offers you the ability to work while you learn. While working with an employer, you can get on-the-job skills and experience while being paid to study with a training provider and gain a qualification – from a Certificate II to an Advanced Diploma.

You can also undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship arrangement that suits your circumstances – they can be full-time, part-time, or school-based.

The type of qualification and the industry you choose will determine whether you need to complete an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Apprenticeships are usually a pathway to a trade, with structured training delivered through certificate level qualifications and take between 3 and 4 years to complete full-time.



Higher education

Most traineeships are in non-trade occupations, including services and administration, and take between 1 and 2 years to complete full time.

For more information on apprenticeships and traineeships visit the **Australian Apprenticeships** website apprenticeships.gov.au.

Higher education

Studying at university or another higher education provider

Studying at a university or other higher education provider allows you to get a bachelor degree. You can also get a diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree, or undergraduate certificate. After that, there are options to continue study at the postgraduate level, like a master's degree.

Higher education degrees could lead to many different occupations, such as a teacher, engineer, doctor, therapist, or open the door to interesting careers in business, health, communications, and so many more.

The length of time it takes to complete higher education varies. As an example, most bachelor degrees take a minimum of 3 years to complete, and a master's degree takes a minimum of 1 year.

A bachelor degree is often referred to as an undergraduate degree. Some providers may refer to degrees as courses and some refer to them as programs. The **Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** aqf.edu.au/framework/aqf-qualifications can help you find out about different types of qualifications.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at the heart of Australia's higher education system

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in higher education plays an important role in preserving the knowledge, understanding, and community partnership produced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and researchers across Australia are working through universities and other higher education providers to develop their own skills and knowledge, while also contributing to important research and development projects, such as re-awakening languages, creating culturally safe modes of medical care, and educating the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

To recognise the importance of your place in higher education, the Government has ensured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are eligible for subsidised course fees to study undergraduate courses (excluding medicine) at public universities. This is known as a **Commonwealth supported place (CSP)**, and it means that the Government pays part of the cost of your degree. There is more information on CSPs and other financial supports you may be eligible for in the **Financial assistance and planning** section.



Study in your community

Regional University Study Hubs help students in regional and remote areas access higher education without having to leave their community. The Hubs are located all around Australia and provide student support and campus-style facilities for students who study online, including study spaces, computer, and internet access. The Hubs support students to undertake their chosen course of study, delivered by distance, through any Australian tertiary institution. For more information and to see if there's a Regional University Study Hub in your local community, visit rucnetwork.edu.au.

If you live in a regional, rural or remote area, you may also be interested in the **Support for regional, rural and remote young people** booklet yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit/regional-rural-remote.

Study Options

You can search and compare undergraduate courses, and providers on the **Course Seeker** website courseseeker.edu.au. You can also use the **ComparED** website compared.edu.au to compare the job prospects, starting salary and previous student experiences of others (real students and graduates!) who studied in the area you're interested in.

Prerequisites for courses vary between education providers. You can check the provider's website for prerequisite information, or you can contact your preferred higher education provider directly for specific information about the level of knowledge that is expected for a particular course you might be interested in.

Pathways to university study

Tertiary preparation, undergraduate certificates, and foundation courses

If you haven't met the entry requirements for your dream higher education course, a tertiary preparation course or enabling course could help build skills and knowledge to get ready for bachelor-level study at a university. Some universities offer direct entry into a bachelor degree for students who complete the pathway program. The duration and type of foundation course varies by university.

Many universities offer pathway and tertiary enabling programs designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. You can check university websites for details.

Generally, these units are not credited towards any later bachelor qualification.

Educational Access Scheme

Educational Access Schemes aim to help students who have experienced significant educational disadvantage receive an offer to university. Learn more on the **Universities Admissions Centre** website uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes. Many universities also have specific Indigenous Access Schemes. Check on your education provider's website.



Short-term study and training

There's a range of short-term education and training options that could get you skilled up fast, from a few hours to a few months.

The best part is that they can sometimes be credited towards a full qualification if you decide to continue further study.

You can choose from a wide range of options:

- Short-term education and training options
- Higher education short courses
- Tertiary preparation courses.

Short-term education and training options

Short-term education and training options are designed to help you upskill fast and come in many forms within the VET system (accredited, unaccredited and industry certified) and higher education system.

Accredited Skill Sets are nationally recognised microcredentials, comprising one or more units of competency, currently developed by industry. For example, you could undertake a Hybrid Electric Vehicle Inspection and Servicing Skill Set that covers the essential requirements for inspecting and servicing hybrid electric vehicles in the automotive industry. Unaccredited short courses are not nationally recognised but address a local need and can be recognised by a single state or territory.

To learn more about short-term education and training options and to compare courses offered by registered higher education providers and selected VET organisations, visit the **Microcred Seeker** website microcredseeker.edu.au. You can also head to the **Your Career website** yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit/further-study-and-training#shortcourses for more information and to search for Skill Sets you can undertake.

Higher education short courses

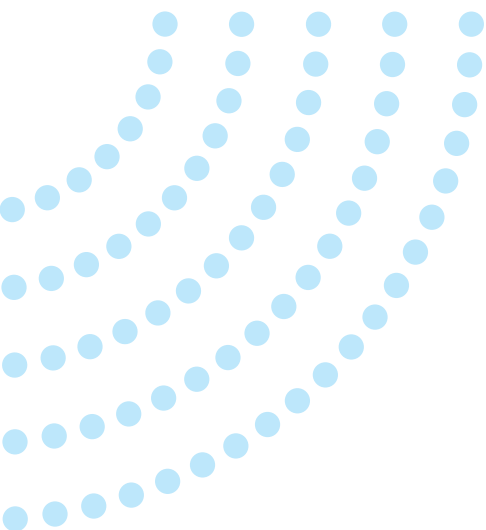
Short courses offer an introduction to a higher education degree through an undergraduate certificate offered by a university or other higher education provider.

Short courses are generally 6 months long and can be credited towards another higher education qualification, like a bachelor degree, if you continue further study.

You can find information on higher education short courses through the **Course Seeker** website coursesseeker.edu.au.

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

If you decide to do a nationally recognised VET course or go to university, you'll need a USI. A USI is your individual education number for life and creates an online record of your Australian training achievements. You will need a USI to get Commonwealth financial assistance, and your qualification or statement of attainment. Visit the **USI** website usi.gov.au for more information.



2 Financial assistance and planning



This section explains some of the general support as well as specific support available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school leavers

ABSTUDY servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy is a group of payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and apprentices. Depending on circumstances, ABSTUDY can help with:

- school fees
- boarding fees
- living costs
- travel costs
- buying school materials.

If you are eligible for ABSTUDY, you may also be able to get other payments, including:

- **Relocation Scholarships:** A once-a-year payment if you move to or from a regional or remote area for higher education study.
- **Remote Area Allowance:** A regular extra payment if you live in a remote area.
- **Rent Assistance:** A regular extra payment to help you with the cost of renting.
- **Student Start up Loans:** An up to twice-a-year loan you can get if you're a higher education student.

The **Tertiary Access Payment** servicesaustralia.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment is a one-off payment of \$5,000 to assist school leavers from remote areas who move more than 90 minutes from home to study. You don't need to be receiving ABSTUDY payments to get this support.

To learn more about these payments, and other payments you may be eligible for search for the '**Get a Centrelink Payment**' tool on the **Services Australia** website servicesaustralia.gov.au/get-centrelink-payment or check out some short videos on **Services Australia's YouTube channel** by searching online.



General support for school leavers

Assistance for TAFE/VET students

Fee-Free TAFE

Fee-Free TAFE provides fee-free VET to students wanting to train, retrain or upskill. You can study an accredited diploma, certificate, or a short course. These courses can prepare you for work in fast-growing industries needing skilled workers. For more information, visit the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/fee-free-tafe.

VET Student Loans (VSL)

VET Student Loans (VSL) help eligible students pay tuition fees for approved higher-level (diploma and above) VET courses. To check your eligibility and find out how to apply visit the **VET Student Loans** website dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans.

Assistance for apprentices and trainees

You may be eligible for financial and non-financial support if you're undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship. To check out what support you may be eligible for, visit the **Australian Apprenticeships** website apprenticeships.gov.au/support-and-resources.

Assistance for higher education students

You could be eligible for:

- a **Commonwealth supported place (CSP)**, which is a subsidised course fee
- a **Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)** loan and
- a scholarship.

From 2024, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are eligible for subsidised course fees to study entry-level (undergraduate) courses (excluding medicine) at many universities. This is known as a **Commonwealth supported place (CSP)**. In a CSP, the Australian Government pays some of your fees and you pay the rest, this is called your 'student contribution amount'.

- **HECS-HELP** can be used to pay your student contribution amount. If you aren't enrolled in a CSP, you are enrolled in a fee-paying place.
- **FEE-HELP** can be used to pay your fees in a fee-paying place.

You can access HECS-HELP and a CSP for most courses offered by universities. If your chosen course doesn't have a CSP, or you'd prefer to study at a private higher education provider, you may be able to access a FEE-HELP loan to cover the upfront cost of your course.

General support for school leavers (continued)

There are also HELP loans available to assist you to cover costs like student and amenities fees and overseas study (such as exchange programs).

You should also check whether a provider is approved to offer Commonwealth assistance before you enrol. To get more information about CSP and the different HELP loans visit the **StudyAssist** website studyassist.gov.au/help-loans.

Scholarships

There are many scholarships available to students across Australia, including specific scholarships and grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who aspire to teach can apply for a **Commonwealth Teaching Scholarship** to support them while they study. New undergraduate teaching students can receive up to \$40,000 and new postgraduate teaching students can receive up to \$20,000. To see if you're eligible and check the application dates, visit the **Department of Education** website education.gov.au/teaching-scholarships.

The **Aurora Education Foundation** is an Indigenous organisation that supports students to reach their education and employment goals. The Foundation lists hundreds of scholarships for Indigenous students, both in Australia and overseas. To view them, visit aurorafoundation.com.au/our-work/indigenous-pathways-portal.

To see what **other scholarships** are available, you can browse your chosen provider's website, or do an online search. Many organisations have a list of available scholarships by field of study and location. If you don't know which provider you might go to yet, you can do an online search to find what scholarship might be best suited to you.

Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) loans allow you to study without paying any tuition fees upfront. A HELP debt is paid back through the tax system once you earn above the compulsory repayment threshold.

Want more information on financial assistance?

For more information about what financial assistance you may be eligible for, visit **Your Career** yourcareer.gov.au/support/financial-assistance.



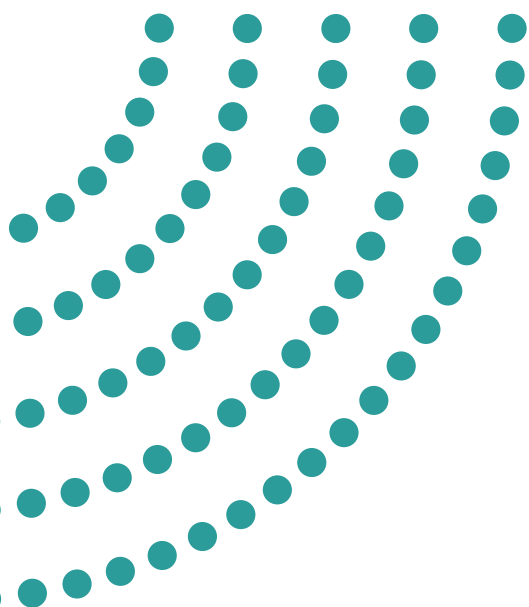


Financial tools and budgeting

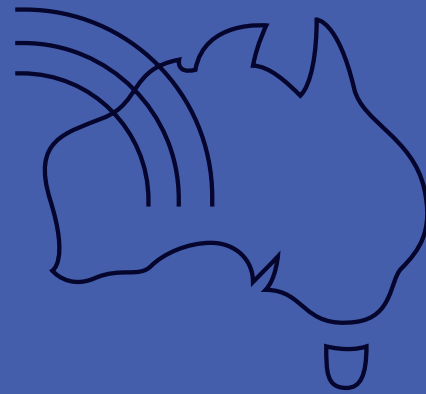
Leaving school can mean that you have a lot of new responsibilities, including living away from home, managing your money and planning for your future.

The **Manage your money** webpage servicesaustralia.gov.au/manage-your-money can help you better manage your money, budget, deal with debt and build your savings. **MoneySmart** moneysmart.gov.au has calculators and tips to help you make the most of your money. It also has specific information for students to help if you are moving out of home and living on a student budget. Take a look at **MoneySmart moving out of home** moneysmart.gov.au/student-life-and-money/moving-out-of-home.

You can also speak to a Services Australia **Financial Information Service (FIS)** Officer for free via phone or video. FIS Officers can share tools, resources and information that can help you make more informed decisions about your money and future financial needs servicesaustralia.gov.au/financial-information-service.



3 Take a gap year



Unsure of your next steps?

While some people decide to go directly into further education or full-time employment after finishing high school, many choose to take time off for what is known as a gap year. A gap year can be a year, but it can also be for a shorter period.

A gap year can include:

- working
- volunteering or undertaking an internship
- travelling and/or working in Australia and/or overseas
- enrolling in short-term study.

No matter which path you decide to follow, all these options will help you develop valuable skills. The best part is that you don't have to pick just one!

While information regarding work, education and training can be found in earlier sections of the booklet, below you will find additional information related to a few alternative options.

Working holidays

The Working Holiday Maker program offers the opportunity to travel and work overseas in over 40 different countries or jurisdictions. Participants can generally stay for up to 12 months and undertake short-term work and study. Visit the Department of **Home Affairs** website for more information immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/whm-program/working-holidays-for-australians.

Harvest Trail

Seasonal harvesting work is a great way to travel, see beautiful parts of Australia, earn some money, meet new people and add solid work experience to your resume.

To see what jobs are available now check out the **Harvest Trail** website workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/careers/harvest or call 1800 062 332.

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year programs

The Navy, Army and Airforce all have gap year programs, where you get paid for working while travelling around Australia. For more information go to the **ADF** website adfcareers.gov.au/students-and-education/gap-year. The ADF also offer a range of Indigenous Career Pathways, see the **Careers in the Australian Government** section.



Internships

An internship is a type of supervised work placement and can be paid or unpaid. It's designed to help you gain professional skills and experience in your preferred industry.


Internships are usually completed over a set number of days during a fixed period but will vary for each internship and workplace. In some cases, full-time internships may also be offered over summer or winter study breaks. Search online to find internship opportunities in your area.

Volunteering opportunities

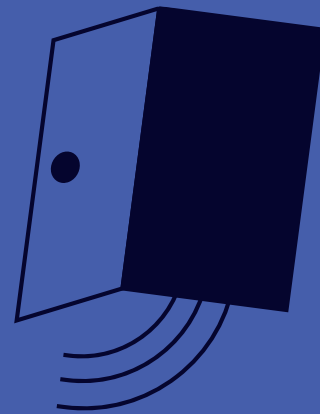
Volunteering can give you the chance to make a difference and help build valuable skills for your future. There are many organisations that you can get involved with, depending on your interests, location, and availability. Find information on volunteering opportunities in your area by searching online.

Short-term work placements

Early experience in your industry of interest can give you a taste of the future and help you decide whether a particular job is right for you. Consider the types of roles that you are interested in and how they might further your career. Search online to find short-term work placement opportunities in your area.



4 Build your future career



Are you ready to jump into the world of work to build your career?

The NCI's **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au is designed to help you navigate your study and work options.

You can use the **Your Career** website to explore:

- growing industries
- trending occupations
- how to get job ready
- support services available to help you find employment.

Try the career finder

Answer some questions and find out which occupations match your preferences. You will be asked about your interests, industries you have in mind, and any deal-breakers like shift work. Try the career finder on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au.

Industries in Australia

If you are thinking about your future career, it's good to have an idea about the industries that are in Australia. Remember within each industry there is a range of jobs – some are well known, and others are emerging.

Think broadly about your skills, interests, and abilities. You don't have to lock yourself into one industry; there might be lots of different jobs in several industries that suit you.

Explore the large range of industries you can choose from on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/industries.

Interested in labour market trends in Australia?

Explore the **Australian Jobs 2023** yourcareer.gov.au/resources/australian-jobs-report to learn about the most up to date trends in the Australian labour market. You can also explore emerging skills in the workforce and see the type of skills that are transferrable.

Growing industries and occupations in 2023^{1,2}

Dive into these exciting industries that are on the rise. They could offer you fantastic career opportunities.



Health Care and Social Assistance

- Registered Nurse
- Aged and Disabled Carer
- Child Carer



Construction

- Carpenter and Joiner
- Electrician
- Plumber



Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

- Software and Applications Programmer
- Accountant / Solicitor
- Management and Organisation Analyst

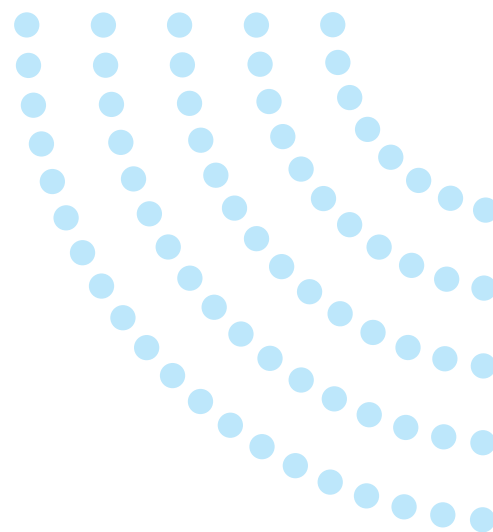
Learn more about these fast-growing industries and occupations on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au.

Emerging industries

Jobs in Clean Energy

You could contribute to a more sustainable future and help drive innovation with a career in clean energy. The clean energy sector has career opportunities at all levels. There are many pathways to enter the sector, from entry level jobs that require no formal training through to higher skilled roles that require a qualification. To find out more about these industries, visit the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/resources/clean-energy.

If you're thinking about an Australian Apprenticeship in the clean energy sector, you may be eligible for financial support. Australian Apprentices undertaking an eligible qualification in a New Energy pathway may qualify for up to \$10,000 over the course of an eligible apprenticeship. Find out more on the **Australian Apprenticeships** website apprenticeships.gov.au/support-and-resources/financial-support-apprentices-priority-occupations.



¹ jobsandskills.gov.au/reports/labour-market-update-september-2023

² yourcareer.gov.au/industries

Careers in the Australian Government

Interested in an exciting career in the Australian Government? Here's some of the employment programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people:

- **The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Indigenous Career Pathways** adfcareers.gov.au/indigenous/Indigenous-Career-Pathways has a range of exciting programs that run over a few weeks or months to help you start your career in the Navy, Air Force or Army.
- **The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Directions Program for First Nations people** afp.gov.au/jobs/pathway/first-nations-directions-program is a great start to a rewarding career in the AFP.
- **Apprenticeships and Traineeships** programs apsjobs.gov.au/s/career-pathways-home/career-pathways-program/indigenous-apprenticeships-program provide Indigenous Australians with the necessary skills, knowledge and a pathway to a career.
- **The Indigenous Graduate Pathway** apsjobs.gov.au/s/graduate-portal/streams provides a rewarding career in the Australian Public Service (APS) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary graduates.

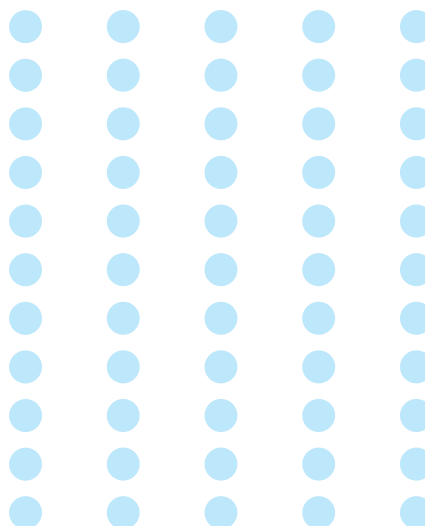
For more help on finding jobs now, in both the private and government sector, check out the **Handy hints when looking for work** section.

How to get job ready

Before you start working

To help transition to life after school, you first might need to:

- get a tax file number (TFN). Applications for a TFN are free and you can apply for one on the **Australian Taxation Office (ATO)** website ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number.
- find out how tax and superannuation works from the **ATO** ato.gov.au/individuals/super, and what you need to do.
- create a myGov account on the **myGov** website my.gov.au and link to your Centrelink online account (if you have one).



Handy hints when looking for work

The following steps can help you get a job:

1 Set your expectations

- Consider how many hours you can and want to work each week. What days or times do you want to work? Do you want or need flexibility in your work schedule?
- Does the job have licensing, training, or registration requirements?
- While most employers do the right thing, it is always good to understand your rights at work, including minimum wage and conditions. You can find more information on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/support/work-support.

2 Network with family and friends

- Talk to your friends, family and schoolmates and let them know you're actively seeking a job. Having a connection to a role significantly increases your chances of obtaining the position.

3 Identify your skills

- To see how your skills match the skills employers are looking for go to the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/occupations.

4 Write a resume and prepare for interviews

- There are many resume building tools to help you get started. Check out the Resume Checklist and take the Resume Quiz on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/get-job-ready website.
- Prepare for interviews by watching some helpful videos on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/get-job-ready/videos.

5 Search for a job

- There are many tools and applications both online on your computer and on your smartphone that can help. Some solely focus on the job search, while others include other features like social media and networking elements.
- View jobs with current vacancies near you and access further support and information to improve your chances of getting a job on the **Workforce Australia** website workforceaustralia.gov.au.
- There are many entry-level and school leaver programs available for school leavers, across both government and private sectors. To see what government organisations offer, visit the **Australian Public Service apprenticeship, trainee and school leaver career pathways** apsjobs.gov.au/s/career-pathways-home.
- For more job search help, visit **Services Australia's Job Hunting** page at servicesaustralia.gov.au/looking-for-work-and-job-hunting.
- You can also find more opportunities by searching online and visiting websites of the organisations, departments, and agencies you're interested in.

6 Manage your personal brand

- Social media can be a great way for hirers, employers, and recruiters to get an idea of who you are.
- Consider what you are posting online and if you would be comfortable with a future employer seeing it.

Want more tips for getting job ready?

Visit the Get Job Ready page on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/get-job-ready for information on writing job applications, preparing for online interviews, and how to market yourself to employers. There you'll also find checklists, factsheets, tips, and helpful videos to help you get your dream job.



Thinking about starting your own business

Self-Employment Assistance can help you turn your business idea or existing small business into a viable business. You can access Self-Employment Assistance while you are in school or higher education to prepare and assist with the transition into your own business once you finish your studies. Self-Employment Assistance can help you:

- determine if self-employment is for you
- decide on a viable business idea and develop a business plan
- get a business up and running
- get assistance to access finance.

To learn more, jump on the **Department of Employment and Workplace Relations** website dewr.gov.au/self-employment-assistance.

5 Additional support



There are many programs and support services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are setting out on their journey after school.

These services empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make informed career and pathway choices.

The list below outlines some of the support available nationally, as well as those offered in different states and territories.

These are just some of the support options available – there's plenty more out there. You can also seek help from your family, teachers or community.

National services

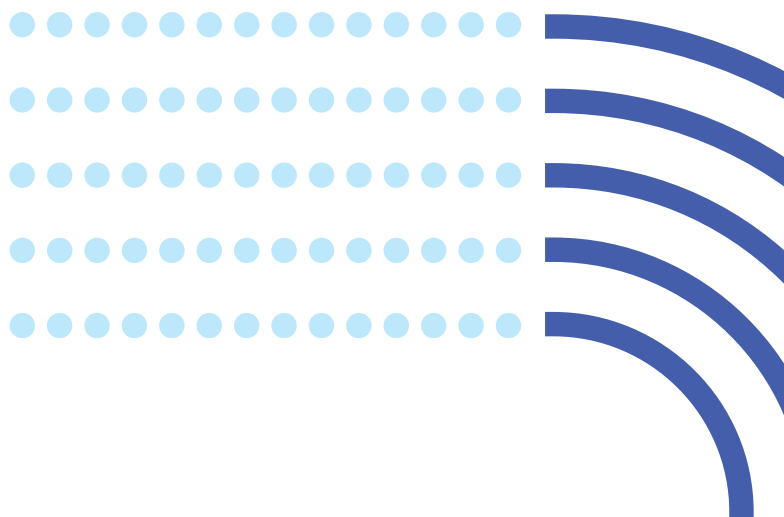
Indigenous Higher Education Units (IHEUs) are in universities all around Australia to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. They offer academic assistance, mentoring, safe cultural spaces, and other support. You can find out more on the **National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)** website niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/education/indigenous-higher-education-units or through your university's website.

Educational Access Scheme uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes help students who have experienced significant educational disadvantage receive an offer to university.

Toorong Marnong ATAR Hotline is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people seeking advice about university entrance. It's a 24-hour service available from when ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) scores are released until the beginning of Semester 1. Visit vaeai.org.au/support-for-koorie-learners-heading-to-university or call **1800 862 827**.

Indigenous.gov.au indigenous.gov.au can connect you to government services and programs in your closest regional office.

The **Community Development Program** niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/cdp supports job seekers in remote Australia to build skills, address barriers to employment and contribute to their communities through activities and training.



Youth Off the Streets youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support provides many supports like crisis accommodation and housing services, alcohol and other drugs counselling, employment programs, and cultural support.

The **Clontarf Foundation** offer Clontarf academies within over 150 schools throughout Australia. The academies provide support in areas like education, leadership, employment, sport, and life skills. Any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male enrolled at the school is eligible to participate in the academy. To learn more, visit clontarf.org.au.

The **Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy** provides tailored support for Indigenous young women to help them get into a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The academy is run in regions across Australia with new regions being added each year. To learn more about the academy visit csiro.au/en/education/Programs/Young-Indigenous-Womens-STEM-Academy.



State and Territory services



Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Catholic University's **Dhara Daramoolen Indigenous Higher Education Unit** offers study options, entry pathways, scholarships, and student services nacchocommunique.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/iheu_dhara-daramoolen.pdf.

The **Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth Centre** gugan-gulwan.com.au provides many supports and programs including tutoring for students up to Year 12.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation Program** canberra.edu.au/future-students/get-into-uc/pathways-programs/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-foundation-program provides an alternative entry pathway for students to study at the University of Canberra if you didn't meet the university's admission requirements.

The **Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre** anu.edu.au/students/contacts/tjabal-indigenous-higher-education-centre provides a meeting place and support-base for students and staff at the Australian National University.

The **Yurauna Centre** cit.edu.au/study/cit_yurauna provides tailored Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander courses, study support and cultural advice.



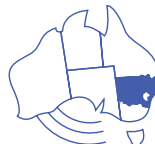


Northern Territory

The **Northern Territory Government's Engagement programs** for Aboriginal students nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/engagement-programs-for-aboriginal-students is available through many schools and help students' achievement at school and explores options for training and employment beyond school.

Charles Darwin University cdu.edu.au/study/essentials/study-pathways/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people can help with pathways and bridging courses, academic support, pastoral care, advocacy and referral to general support services.

The **Office of Youth Affairs** tfhc.nt.gov.au/social-inclusion-and-interpreting-services/office-of-youth-affairs brings together many programs and services available, including financial assistance.



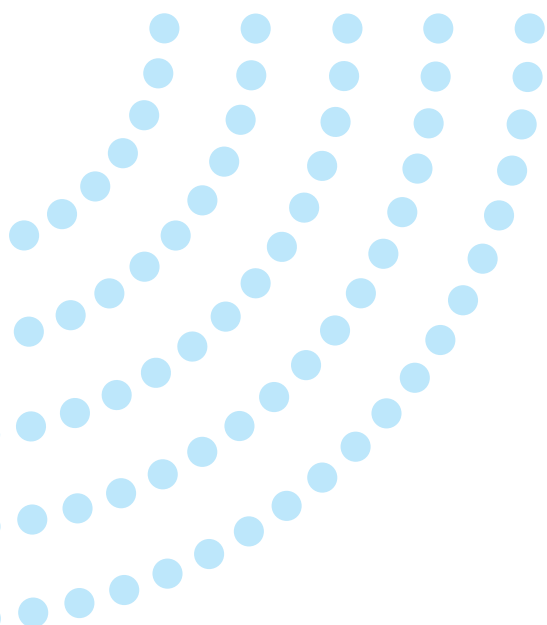
New South Wales

The **NSW Government** has a fact sheet with lots of useful information, all in one spot. It covers everything from fee-free government subsidised training, sporting academy opportunities to scholarships for STEM qualifications [education. nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/career-learning-and-vocational-education/post-school-options/fact-sheets/13-fact-sheet-aboriginal-youth.pdf](https://nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/career-learning-and-vocational-education/post-school-options/fact-sheets/13-fact-sheet-aboriginal-youth.pdf).



Queensland

The Queensland Government qld.gov.au/education/schools/student/indigenous provides information on school-based traineeships and VET qualifications, as well as scholarships and grants for Indigenous students and school leavers.



State and Territory services (continued)



South Australia

The **TAFE SA Aboriginal Access Centre** tafesa.edu.au/services/aboriginal-support helps students access and participate in vocational education, including in regional and remote locations. While studying at TAFE SA, a Training Support Officer can be made available to students for the duration of their course.

The **Workabout Centre** education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/curriculum-and-learning/aboriginal-school-programs-and-initiatives/workabout-centre-aboriginal-students offers a range of services that support students make a successful transition from school to work, higher education or further training.

Various South Australian universities encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to access higher education and help once they have enrolled in a course, including:

- **Wirltu Yarlu** adelaide.edu.au/wirltu-yarlu at Adelaide University.
- **Woirringka Student Services** i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/wirringka-student-services at the University of South Australia.
- **Yungkurinthe** students.flinders.edu.au/support/indigenous-student-support at Flinders University.

The **South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)** sace.sa.edu.au/about/what-we-do/aboriginal-education supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete qualifications and develop the skills they need to succeed, while maintaining their cultural identity.



Tasmania

The **Aboriginal Employment Portal** dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/ssmo/aboriginal_employment_strategy provides access to a range of resources, advice and tools to support you to be job ready and gain employment with the Tasmanian State Service.

The **Riawunna Centre** utas.edu.au/uni-life/aboriginal-students-riawunna provides a culturally welcoming space for students to study and pathways into the University of Tasmania.

TasTAFE tastafe.tas.edu.au/students/support/atsi-support offer a range of services for Aboriginal students to help with training and career goals including financial and tutorial support.





Victoria

Marrung education scholarships vic.gov.au/marrung#marrung-education-scholarships support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete Year 11 and 12. They offer scholarships of \$5,000 (\$2,500 per year over 2 years).

The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) **Wurreker Brokers** vaeai.org.au/wurreker-brokers are located throughout regional Victoria and provide advice about access to training and tertiary education opportunities.

Toorong Marnong toorongmarnong.com.au can help students find courses and receive further information from universities and TAFE. The hotline runs every December to link students to Aboriginal academic and administrative advisors. Call **1800 862 827**.



Western Australia

The **Aboriginal school-based training program** jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training/schools-and-school-students helps Aboriginal students gain the skills to keep studying after school or get a job.

Jobs and Skills WA jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-services can link you to a range of culturally sensitive career support services to help get into training, find employment or further your career.

Choose a path jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-services/jobseekers/choose-path offers support with selecting the right path following school. You can also hear from some like-minded individuals about how they chose their path after school.



Other State and Territory supports

In addition to these supports, you can find more information, resources, and support services to empower you to make informed career and pathway choices in your state or territory. Visit the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit/additional-information/information-in-your-state-territory.

Support for people with disability and special education needs

There are a range of programs and support for students with disability or special education needs.

Disability may mean that you might need extra support in the years following school.

Support can come from the people around you, like your teachers, friends, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) workers, and parents or guardians. There are also many programs and services that you can access to help you shift from school to work, training or further education more easily.

Download the **Support for young people with disability** booklet yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit/people-disability to find more information on the programs and support services available to you.

Support for disadvantaged students

There are many ways you might be disadvantaged.

You may not be in a situation to afford further education, or you might need someone to support and mentor you through the coming years. If this is you, then we have included some services you can access for extra support.

The **Transition to Work** (TtW) service supports disadvantaged people aged 15–24 years. You can receive intensive support over 25 hours a week to:

- identify and explore career options
- finish your education
- connect with further education or training
- develop skills to get a job and address barriers to employment
- connect with organisations and government agencies to access support.

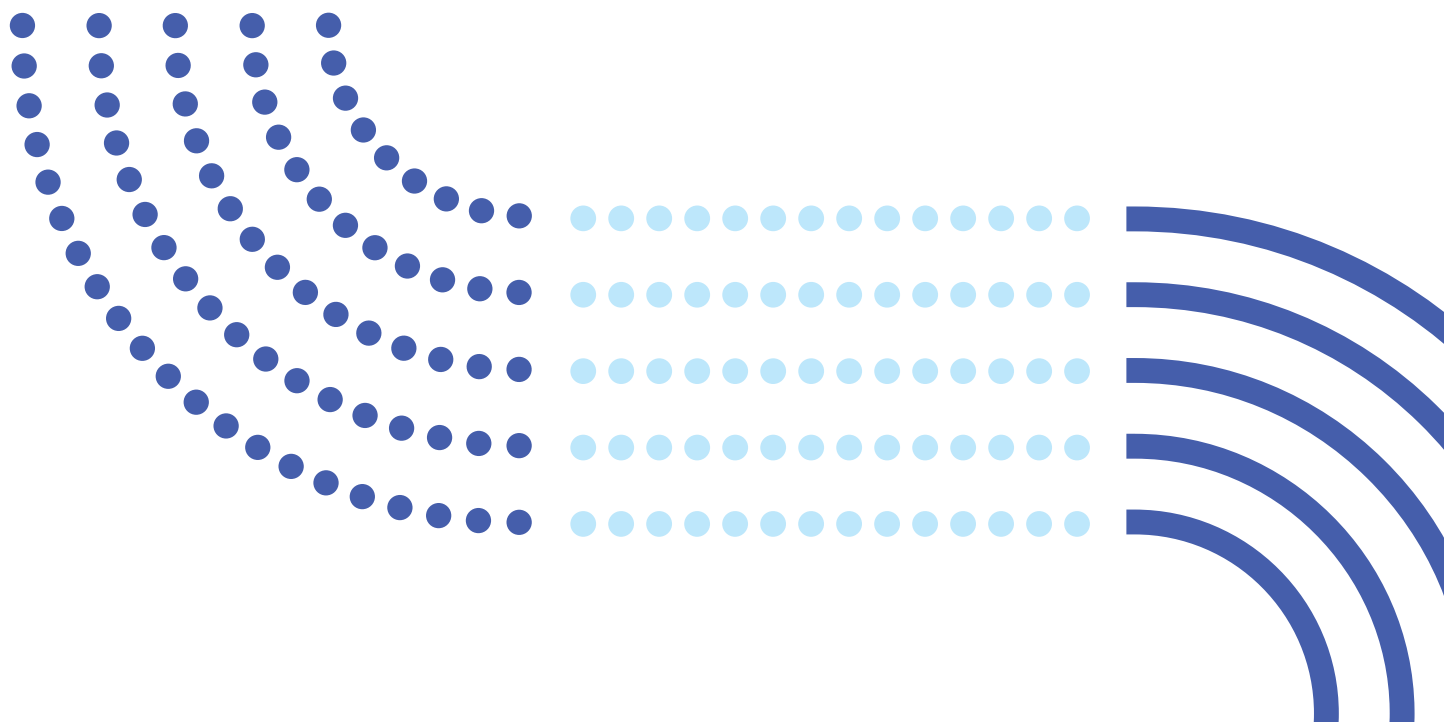
You can chat with a TtW provider to see if you're eligible. Visit the **TtW** website dewr.gov.au/transition-work to find out more and find a provider near you.

Support for students living in a regional, rural or remote area

Depending on what you want to do after leaving school, if you live in a regional, rural, or remote area, you may face some extra challenges. Check out the information for regional, rural and remote young people on the **Your Career** website yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/school-leavers-information-kit/regional-rural-remote.

The Smith Family

The Smith Family provides eligible students with mentoring and sponsorship to develop their academic skills to go on to further studies or employment. For more information about additional support, visit **The Smith Family** website thesmithfamily.com.au/programs.





6 Wellbeing support



Leaving school can sometimes be challenging. There are plenty of people you can talk to if you need support.

Talk to your parents, guardians, or someone at your school

If you're still at school, your career advisor, guidance counsellor, school psychologist or wellness team can provide wellbeing support and help you identify the right options for your circumstances, as well as provide information on what support is available in your state or territory.

You can talk to someone at university or TAFE

If you're studying at university or TAFE, you can book an appointment with your career advisor, campus counsellor or a student advisor to help you discover which support and career pathways are suitable for you. They can also provide information on what other support options are available in your state or territory.

13YARN

13YARN provides crisis support 24/7, offering confidential one-on-one yarning with a Lifeline-trained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

- Website: 13yarn.org.au
- Phone: 13 92 76

KidsHelpline

A free, private, and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5–25 years.

- Website: kidshelpline.com.au
- Phone: 1800 55 1800

Headspace

Headspace offers support and resources for young people aged 12–25 years including a range of resources for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- Website: headspace.org.au
- headspace.org.au/explore-topics/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-peoples
- Phone: 1800 650 890

Beyond Blue

Beyond Blue is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to reduce the impact of anxiety, depression, and suicide in Australia. Beyond Blue can also link you to a range of resources and supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

- Website: beyondblue.org.au
- beyondblue.org.au/who-does-it-affect/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people
- Phone: 1300 22 4636

Lifeline

Lifeline provides confidential crisis support that is accessible 24 hours a day.

- Website: lifeline.org.au/gethelp for Lifeline Chat Service (24/7)
- Phone: 13 11 14
- Text: 0477 13 11 14

Head to Health

Free and low-cost, trusted online and phone mental health resources including support and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- Website: headtohealth.gov.au
- headtohealth.gov.au/living-well/support-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-people
- Phone: 1800 595 212

Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, water, and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the Elders past and present.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges diversity and respectfully uses the term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' throughout this document.

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The document must be attributed as the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander School Leavers Information Kit. Your guide to education, training and work.**

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (department) takes reasonable care to ensure that the information and advice provided is accurate and up to date. However, it is your responsibility to give us correct and complete information about your circumstances and to decide if you wish to take any action or decision based on any information or advice provided by our information officers. Before doing so you should exercise your own independent skill and judgement and make your own further enquiries relevant to your particular circumstances.

The department is not liable for any loss resulting from any action taken or reliance made by you on any information or advice provided to you.

January 2024.



yourcareer.gov.au/schoolleaver