

# SKILLS & THRILLS PARENT SHOWCASE

## KEY INFORMATION

### What is Vocational Education and Training (VET)?

Vocational Education and Training allows students to gain qualifications for all types of employment and specific skills required in the workplace.

VET qualifications differ from university qualifications as they provide a practical workplace focused skillset. There are also differences in the grading and assessment process, with VET qualifications using competency-based assessment, and higher education qualifications generally using a grading approach to assessment.

VET qualifications range across four levels of certificates (Certificate I, II, III and IV), as well as Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses.

### What will VET provide?

VET courses will broaden skills in a specialised area and give practical and hands-on experience needed for the workplace.

Hands-on application of study teaches students how to design, plan and execute the practical and technical aspects of the field of study within an industry context.



### Where do you go to study a VET qualification?

Vocational training is provided at secondary schools, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes, adult and community education providers, agricultural colleges, and private providers. All of these vocational training providers are referred to as Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). RTOs offer nationally recognised training and accredited qualifications.

It is worthwhile when considering avenues for study to look into all types of VET providers for the desired course.

Consider the following;

- Do they offer the course you want to undertake?
- Are courses nationally recognised and accredited? (check for an RTO number) Accredited qualifications are accepted all across Australia and they are recognised by all universities and training providers in Australia (and in some cases overseas).
- What is the mode of delivery of the course? (eg face to face, online, self- paced or mixed)
- Are trainers qualified and do they have industry experience?
- What is the class size?
- What facilities and services are provided?
- Are they well known?

# IN SCHOOL OPTIONS

## Starting while at school - the options

### VET (A great option for students who want to trial vocational qualifications while at school and have these count towards the HSC)

VET courses are open to school students in Years 10, 11 or 12, covering a wide range of industries through HSC subject options.

VET courses are 'dual accredited', counting as units of study to both the HSC and a nationally recognised Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification (i.e. a Certificate or Statement of Attainment). VET courses also provide credit towards further TAFE NSW or university studies

VET courses may be delivered in school or externally through EVET in conjunction with a local TAFE or private provider. Many will require work placement (see information below).

School delivered VET and EVET allows a student to:

- select from a wide range of courses
- get hands-on practical training and gain valuable insights into a chosen industry
- develop work related skills and experiences recognised by employers
- develop independence and confidence in an adult learning environment
- gain an insight into various industry areas to assist with decisions on a career pathway
- potentially gain recognition for prior learning from previous study or work
- learn from industry experienced teachers
- articulate into traineeships or apprenticeships and receive advanced standing for TAFE NSW certificate courses

### Work Experience

Typically conducted in year 10, work experience is an opportunity for students to spend time in an industry or job of their choice, allowing them to get a feel for the industry and connect with employers.

Often work experience is organised by the student with the assistance of the school, and typically runs for 1-2 weeks (alternatively it can be organised for one day a week during a school term in some schools).

### Work Placement

Work placement is a feature of many VET courses (**School delivered or EVET**). During this time, students develop industry specific competencies, employability skills and appropriate attitudes in a work environment.

Completion of 70 hours of work placement during Years 11 and 12 is common. The school or EVET provider will organise a suitable host employer through a contracted work placement service provider.

# IN SCHOOL OPTIONS

## Starting while at school - the options

### **School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (A great option for students who are sure of a certain career pathway and want to get started while at school)**

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs) are available to Year 10, 11 and 12 secondary school students in NSW. Students are able to commence an apprenticeship or complete a traineeship while at school.

SBATs combine paid work, training and school. Students gain an industry recognised national qualification as well as credit towards the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Some apprenticeships and traineeships also contribute towards the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

SBATs are generally undertaken throughout Years 11 and 12 (some may start at the end of Year 10). School based apprentices work part-time and complete the first stage of their apprenticeship training before the end of the HSC year. School based trainees work part-time and complete their traineeship by the end of their HSC year.

School based apprentices will commence full-time employment as a 2nd year apprentice from January after their HSC, providing they have successfully completed both their on-the-job and off-the-job training program during their senior secondary school years.

While at school, the school based apprentice must complete a specified number of days of paid employment. For many trades the minimum requirement is 100 days but for some trades (e.g. electrical and electronics trades) it may be up to 180 days.

School based apprentices are enrolled in the relevant trade course, generally at Certificate III level, from the beginning of their apprenticeship. The formal training component to be completed while at school is generally equivalent to the program of study a full-time apprentice would complete in their first year.

A school based trainee will be enrolled in the relevant qualification at a Certificate II or Certificate III level. They must complete a minimum of 100 days of paid employment (or as otherwise specified for the traineeships qualification).

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- Next
  - Tomorrow
  - Later
  - NOW

# INDUSTRY TRENDS & REQUIRED SKILLS

Covid-19 has caused disruption among many industries and is changing the way we work. Data is still emerging as to long term impacts on in-demand skills and sectors, however early indications from the Australian Government's Job Outlook data (prepared by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment) note that there will be continued demand in industries where employment has grown strongly in recent years.

These areas include the following sectors;

- **Health Care, Aged Care, Child Care and Social Assistance**
- **Construction and Traditional Trades**
- **Education and Training**
- **Professional, Scientific and Technical Services**

Other significant growth areas include;

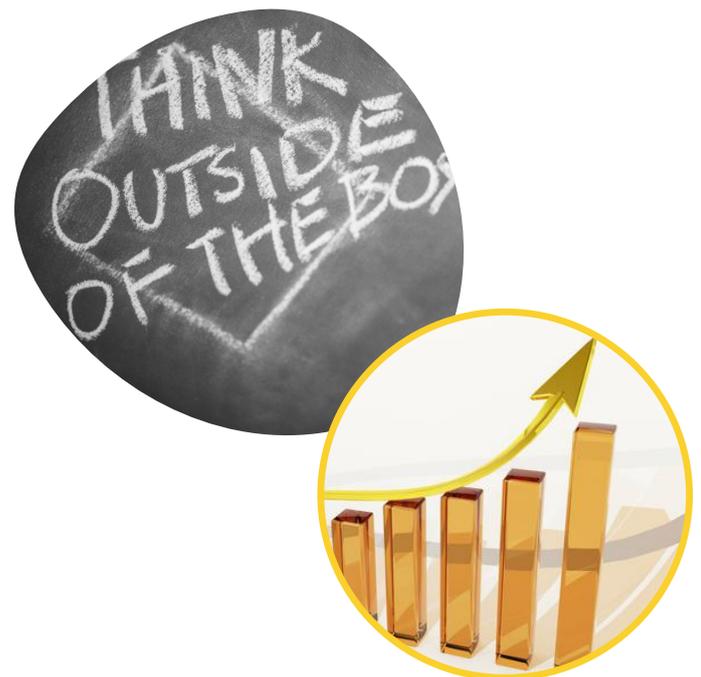
- **Information Technology**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Agriculture**
- **Service sectors**
- **Defence**

Reasons for jobs growth in these industries include;

- An ageing population, the NDIS (Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme), and growing demand for childcare and home-care based services is driving jobs growth. Healthcare is continuing to see a **12.6** per cent growth increase.
- Investment in infrastructure such as roads, railways and airports (i.e Westconnex and Badgerys Creek). Workers will also be needed to build homes for our growing population.
- The number of school-aged children is growing and there is strong demand for adult and community education.
- Demand for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers are increasing with technology leaps.
- Many business are transitioning online with staff working from home. They now require online trading, software and IT support, with this sector experiencing the biggest recruitment surge post Covid-19, growing by **17.3** per cent.

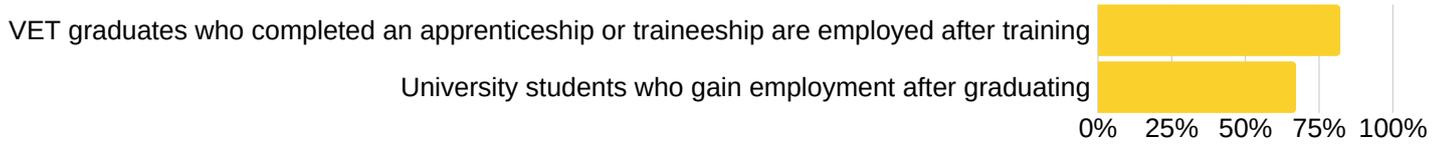
A strong and varied skill set will be always be beneficial in the workforce, and is never more important than in a time of change and uncertainty. The following skills will be highly valued in a post Covid-19 economy.

- Critical thinking
- Creativity, innovation and initiative
- Growth mindset
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Digital communication and skills
- Emotional intelligence (the ability to understand, empathise and negotiate with others)
- 21st century leadership (ability to lead and guide in an online environment)



# VET AS A FIRST CHOICE

- **82%** of VET graduates who completed an apprenticeship or traineeship are employed after training, as opposed to **67%** of University students (*McCrindle Research & Skilling Australia Foundation*).
- Nil entry requirements and in some instances study can commence whilst at school.
- Students commence earning while gaining an apprenticeship or traineeship.
- National skills shortage in hundreds of different trade areas. Essentially, this means industries and employers are actively looking for carpenters, electricians, mechanics, cooks and hairdressers amongst other roles.
- Broad range of industry sectors covered.
- Median starting salary for a VET graduate is **\$56,000** as opposed to the median starting salary for a University graduate of **\$54,000**. The difference comes into play when you consider debt left by studying (i.e while a carpenter's apprentice will earn an average of **\$129,888** over the course of their four-year apprenticeship, a university graduate will be left with an average \$20,250 debt. When it's all over, the apprentice is about \$100,000 ahead of the uni grad).
- On-the-job experience is valued highly by employers.
- VET teaches workforce etiquette, skills relevant to the industry and provides a Nationally Recognised qualification, all within a manageable 12– 48 month period.



## It's not one or the other...

VET and university can be pathways to each other.

It can be common for someone who finishes their apprenticeship to decide to go to university and upskill their theoretical knowledge. This is also commonly done in reverse where uni graduates go to TAFE to upskill their practical knowledge by completing a VET qualification.

## Fee Information

There's never been a better time to start an apprenticeship in NSW. The NSW Government is paying the course cost for 100,000 new apprenticeships and with more than 1550 courses available in NSW, in a range of industries- there will be something to suit everyone.

*Smart and Skilled* provides eligible students with:

- an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III
- government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas.

Be sure to check out [www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au), for further information



# USEFUL RESOURCES

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## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

The Labour Market Information Portal brings together data from a range of official sources to help understand the local labour market (national and state based).

[www.lmip.gov.au](http://www.lmip.gov.au)

## MY FUTURE

Myfuture assists young Australians with career planning, career pathways and work transitions. Myfuture is the result of a collaborative project, supported by industry and government at both federal and state levels. The service is used by nearly a million teachers and students in all states and territories of Australia with more than 500,000 registered users. It also offers professional development to hundreds of careers practitioners and teachers every year.

[www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)

## NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

National Skills Week is the focal point for the promotion of Australia's Vocational Education and Training sector (VET). Each year the week continues to celebrate and inform students and the wider public of the diversity of career pathways available through VET. The week communicates the emerging trends and new growth drivers connecting skills training with job outcomes. The National Skills Week website provides event ideas and inspiration useful for schools.

[www.nationalskillsweek.com.au](http://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au)

## SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

Further Information on School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in NSW.

[www.sbatinnsw.info](http://www.sbatinnsw.info)

Contact details of regional SBAT coordinators.

[www.sbatinnsw.info/contact/contact-regionalbat](http://www.sbatinnsw.info/contact/contact-regionalbat)

# USEFUL RESOURCES

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## SKILLSONE

SkillsOne works with industry, educators, government and TAFE to engage and promote the extensive career opportunities and pathways in traditional trades and emerging skills areas in the vocational sector. SkillsOne.com.au provides a rich tapestry of information about trades and skills 24/7. The website features all stories appearing on SkillsOne TV and is continually updated with new video stories and industry snapshots.

[www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au)

## SMART AND SKILLED

Smart and Skilled is a reform of the NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. It's helping people in NSW get the skills they need to find a job and advance their careers. Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with: an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III and government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas.

[www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)

## TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW is the leading government provider of vocational education training in Australia. TAFE NSW has over 130 locations in New South Wales and a wide variety of classroom and online delivery study options to suit lifestyle, aspirations and individual circumstances.

[www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au)

**Useful Contacts:**

**Don't forget your school careers adviser is a knowledgeable resource available to both parents and students**

# NOTES

