Weekly Careers News for Victoria

November 23, 2026

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Events

This Week's Events

La Trobe Worner Lecture 2026 – From Atoms to Antidotes

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: The Capital, Bendigo
Date: November 24, 2026
Join three leading Australian biophysicists for a journey into the hidden world of cells, viruses, and parasites. Discover how biophysics reveals the molecular workings of life — and how cutting-edge imaging and other powerful tools are helping scientists develop new ways to prevent and treat some of the world's biggest health challenges. The talks will be followed by a Q&A, giving you the chance to put your questions directly to the scientists.
No science background required — just bring your curiosity!
Find out more

Swinburne Study Expo, Hawthorn

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology
Location: Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn Campus
Date: November 24, 2026
If you're thinking about studying at Swinburne, our Study Expo is your chance to explore courses, get expert advice and find the right path for you.
Browse options across all study levels – undergraduate to postgraduate to TAFE and UniLink – and talk one-on-one with the people who know them best.
What you can do at the expo:

- Compare courses that match your goals, whether you're advancing your career, switching unis, or starting fresh
- Have your questions answered by academics and teaching staff
- Access on-the-spot application support
- Get information on transferring courses or unis
- Learn more about Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and industry placement opportunities
- Find out what your first semester could look like, including course content, subjects, recommended majors, electives and more
- Enjoy free gelato and refreshments while you check out our Hawthorn campus

Find out more

Year 11 & Beyond with ADHD – Starting Strong in the Senior Years

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.
Find out more

CSU Online Law and Criminology Information Night

Organisation: Charles Sturt University
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Join us for our information night and hear from our course directors, current students and graduates about what its like to study law and criminology at Charles Sturt. You'll get details on how to apply, industry professionals sharing their experiences about working in the sector, and info about where a career in the justice system could take you.
Find out more

National Fashion College Styling Workshop for Ages 16+ in Melbourne

Organisation: National Fashion College
Location: National Fashion College, Melbourne Campus
Date: November 28, 2026
You're officially invited to our exclusive Styling Workshop, taking place at our vibrant Melbourne campus - home to creativity, innovation, and the next generation of fashion talent.
In just one day, gain hands-on experience as you learn the foundations of professional styling from an industry-recognised expert. You'll assist on not one, but two photo shoots with a renowned fashion photographer - offering you a rare, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the fast-paced world of fashion. This is your first step towards a career in styling.
Meg Durham is a leading Melbourne-based fashion and television stylist with almost a decade of industry experience spanning celebrity, television, commercial and fashion styling. For the past six years, Meg has worked with Network 10 and Paramount across some of Australia's biggest television productions, including The Project, Have You Been Paying Attention?, MasterChef Australia, Deal or No Deal and I'm a Celebrity… Get Me Out of Here! Australia. Her work has taken her from Australian television studios to sets in South Africa, styling high-profile talent including Robert Irwin. Combining an expert eye for fashion with extensive experience styling for the camera, Meg brings National Fashion College students a rare behind-the-scenes perspective on celebrity styling, television wardrobes and the fast-paced world of fashion and entertainment.
This experience is recommended for guests aged 16 and older.
Find out more

Next Week's Events

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College
Location: Online
Date: December 1, 2026
From software development and cyber security to cloud computing and AI, technology careers are evolving fast. At SAE's Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science, you'll explore our complete range of technology courses, including our new Information Technology qualifications launching in February 2027, alongside our established Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways.
Find out more

VTAC Webinar: Getting Your Results – What Happens Next?

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre
Location: Online

Date: December 1, 2026
You're about to receive your secondary school results, but what do you need to do to prepare for the next stage of your education journey?
Join us to hear more about how the ATAR is calculated, advice on changing your preferences and how to order them, accepting an offer and other ways you can get support in this important time.
Find out more

VTAC Webinar: ATAR and Scaling

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre
Location: Online
Date: December 3, 2026
Join us to hear more about VCAA vs VTAC, how the ATAR is calculated, scaling and the aggregate, results release, and other ways you can get support in this important time.
Find out more

Victoria Corrections Prison Officer Career Information Session

Organisation: Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS)
Location: Metropolitan Remand Centre
Date: December 5, 2026
Discover a secure new career as a prison officer at our in-person information session at the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Ravenhall.
Learn about a secure career in corrections and hear from experienced staff and our recruitment team. Find out what the day-to-day role involves, explore career progression opportunities and benefits, and learn about the recruitment process. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.
The session will be held at MRC, giving you the opportunity to see what your potential new workplace looks like.
Places are limited.All attendees must register for the event and bring their ticket for entry (ticket on mobile phone is accepted). If you have registered and can no longer attend, please cancel your ticket via Eventbrite.
Note that you need to be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have Australian permanent residency to become a prison officer. The Department does not offer sponsorship.
Find out more

VU Western Bulldogs Careers in Sport panel

Organisation: Victoria University
Location: VU Community Sports Stadium
Date: December 5, 2026
Thinking about a career in sport but not sure where to start?
Sport offers more career opportunities than many people realise. Join the Western Bulldogs' Careers in Sport Panel and hear from industry professionals working across a range of roles in the sporting sector.
Discover different career pathways, learn about the skills employers look for, and gain practical insights into finding the area of sport that aligns with your interests and strengths.
Whether you're interested in events, coaching, development, media, administration, performance, or community sport, this session will help you explore where your future in sport could take you.

Guest speakers

- Leigh Southern - Women's Football Operations Manager, Western Bulldogs
- Ruby Harkness - Social Media Manager, Clubby Sports
- Lachie Crnogorac - Player Agent, Phoenix Management

Diploma of Sport (SIS50321) information session

This event is supported by the new Diploma of Sport (SIS50321) launching in 2027. As part of this event, you will hear about:

- **Core study areas and subjects** - These cover key areas like Sports Business, Event Management, Community Sport and High Performance
- **Extra-curricular experiences** - How Western Bulldogs offers over 100 hours of practical experiences inside the footy club to help students build job-ready skills for entry level roles in the sports and event industry
- **Careers, pathways and course outcomes** - Where this course can take you, to employment or with credits towards future study
- **How to apply** - through VTAC or directly to VU

Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Cook Like a Chef Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: December 5, 2026

This hands-on experience teaches you the essential techniques used in professional kitchens, helping you elevate flavour, texture and presentation in every dish you create.

In this immersive full-day workshop, you'll step inside a commercial kitchen and craft restaurant-quality dishes using expert methods. From mastering knife skills to working with luxury ingredients, you'll build confidence, finesse and a deeper understanding of how chefs think, taste, and plate.

Throughout the day, expert instructors guide you step-by-step as you prepare four refined dishes, each designed to teach precision, balance and presentation.

Core skills covered include:

- Knife skills for preparing and garnishing vegetables, fruits and seafood
- How to prepare delicate elements including asparagus broth, emulsions and potato-based doughs
- Preparing stocks and broths to build deep, layered flavours
- Gnocchi shaping and cooking for perfect texture
- Confit, deep frying, pan-searing and steam cooking methods
- Emulsification, foams and other modern finishing techniques
- Macerating, frying and flavour-intensifying methods
- Professional plating techniques and garnishing skills

Find out more

Camp America Melbourne Job Fair

Organisation: American Institute for Foreign Study Australia
Location: TBC Melbourne
Date: December 5, 2026

U.S. camps are coming to town and they're ready to meet, interview and hire. Come face-to-face with Camp Directors, explore the roles available and take a huge step towards locking in your Summer 2027 placement.
Meet the camps hiring you. Connect face-to-face with Camp Directors flying in from the USA specifically to meet and hire Australian applicants. Ask questions about camp life, available roles, what they're looking for and interview directly with the people making the hiring decisions.
Explore a range of camps and roles all in one place, from waterfront and sports to performing arts, creative roles and more. Chat with different Camp Directors, compare your options and find the camp that feels like the best fit for your skills, personality and summer goals.
This isn't just an info session. You'll have the chance to interview for roles on the day and could leave with your Summer 2027 placement sorted. Meet other Camp America applicants, get support from our team and take a huge step closer to camp.
Find out more

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Location: Online
Date: December 5, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.
We will be covering everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- studios and industries that we work with;
- courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- the software, skills and knowledge we teach.

Find out more

Future Events

The Gordon TAFE Info Night, Geelong City

Organisation: The Gordon
Location: The Gordon, Geelong City Campus
Date: December 7 to December 8, 2026
Info Nights are the perfect opportunity to explore life at The Gordon. You'll get to tour our campuses, meet our teachers, and find out more about the courses and career pathways that interest you. With presentations, classroom sessions in your chosen study areas, and the chance to ask questions, Info Nights help you make informed decisions about your future. Plus, if you're ready to take the next step, our friendly team can help you apply on the spot!
Find out more

VTAC Webinar: Preferences, Pathways and Offers

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre
Location: Online
Date: December 8, 2026
You've just received your results, congratulations! This time can be exciting but also a bit stressful, so we are here to help guide you towards your dream course.

Join us to hear more about changing your preferences, pathways options, accepting an offer and other ways you can get support in this important time.
Find out more

The Gordon TAFE Info Night, East Geelong

Organisation: The Gordon
Location: The Gordon, East Geelong Campus
Date: December 9, 2026
Info Nights are the perfect opportunity to explore life at The Gordon. You'll get to tour our campuses, meet our teachers, and find out more about the courses and career pathways that interest you. With presentations, classroom sessions in your chosen study areas, and the chance to ask questions, Info Nights help you make informed decisions about your future. Plus, if you're ready to take the next step, our friendly team can help you apply on the spot!
Find out more

The Gordon TAFE Info Night, Werribee

Organisation: The Gordon
Location: The Gordon, Werribee Campus
Date: December 10, 2026
Info Nights are the perfect opportunity to explore life at The Gordon. You'll get to tour our campuses, meet our teachers, and find out more about the courses and career pathways that interest you. With presentations, classroom sessions in your chosen study areas, and the chance to ask questions, Info Nights help you make informed decisions about your future. Plus, if you're ready to take the next step, our friendly team can help you apply on the spot!
Find out more

La Trobe Change of Preference Consultations

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: On campus or online
Date: December 10 to December 11, 2026
Dedicated support for Career Practitioners and Secondary School staff that are supporting students during the Change of Preference period, La Trobe's Student Recruitment team will be available via phone and email. Please send email enquiries to undergrad@latrobe.edu.au or please contact your local campus Domestic Student Recruitment representative.
THURSDAY 10 AND FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER: Face to face, online or phone
Bundoora: 8 am - 6 pm
Albury-Wodonga: 9am - 1 pm
Bendigo: 9 am - 4.30 pm
Mildura: 9 am - 4.30 pm
Shepparton: 9 am - 4.30 pm
Bookings open 7 am, 10 December

Drop-In Consults
Bundoora: 9 am - 4 pm
Albury-Wodonga: 9am - 4 pm
(Myer Centre Point Shopping Centre)
Bendigo: 9 am - 5 pm
Mildura: 9 am - 5 pm

The Future Students Centre is open extended hours over Change of Preference to support students.
10-11 December: 7am - 6pm
12 December: 9am - 12pm
Phone: Call us on 1300 135 045
Live Chat: www.latrobe.edu.au/contact/chat
Find out more

Deakin Change of Preference Event for School Leavers, Geelong Waterfront

Organisation: Deakin University
Location: Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Feeling unsure about your preferences? You don't have to do it alone. Visit Deakin on campus Friday 11 December to get expert course advice and dedicated pathway support.
Chat one-on-one with staff and students, visit the course information expo, take student-led campus tours and get the information you need to take your next step.
Find out more

Deakin Change of Preference Event for School Leavers, Geelong Waurn Ponds

Organisation: Deakin University
Location: Deakin University, Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Feeling unsure about your preferences? You don't have to do it alone. Visit Deakin on campus Friday 11 December to get expert course advice and dedicated pathway support.
Chat one-on-one with staff and students, visit the course information expo, take student-led campus tours and get the information you need to take your next step.
Find out more

Deakin Change of Preference Event for School Leavers, Warrnambool

Organisation: Deakin University
Location: Deakin University, Warrnambool Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Feeling unsure about your preferences? You don't have to do it alone. Visit Deakin on campus Friday 11 December to get expert course advice and dedicated pathway support.
Chat one-on-one with staff and students, visit the course information expo, take student-led campus tours and get the information you need to take your next step.
Find out more

Monash Change Day for School Leavers

Organisation: Monash University
Location: Monash University, Caulfield Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Once you receive your results, you may have questions about what to do next. Monash Change Day is the place to get all the answers. From finding out how to change your VTAC course preferences to exploring study options based on your ATAR score, our course advisers will be on hand to guide you.

You'll have the chance to explore our ten study areas, attend information sessions, take a facility tour, plus discover our range of pathway options and student support services, so you'll have all the answers you need to plan your future – all under one roof.
Find out more

Swinburne Change of Preference Expo for School Leavers

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology
Location: Swinburne University, Hawthorn Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Change of Preference Expo is your chance to access the support you need to move forward with confidence. Receive personalised advice from academics and VTAC experts, learn how to maximise your chances of an offer, and get help adjusting your preferences on the spot.
What to expect:

- Expert guidance based on your Year 12 results
- Uni-neutral career planning tailored to your goals
- Detailed info on how real industry experience works in our courses
- Guided campus tours that pass by facilities like our Smart Structures Laboratory, ProtoLAB, Biomechanics Lab, LateLab, and new screen production facilities
- Live shows at Swinburne's Virtual Universe
- Free food, coffee and live music
- Swinburne merch packs (numbers are limited – don't miss out!)

Find out more

UniMelb Change of Preference Expo

Organisation: University of Melbourne
Location: University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Locking in your VTAC preferences? Chat in person with staff and students about your ATAR results and how to make Melbourne yours in 2027.
Drop in throughout the expo to:

- Discover undergraduate course options based on your ATAR, as well as graduate pathways available to you
- Get answers to your questions about what happens next, from key dates and enrolment to preparing to start at Melbourne
- Discuss scholarship eligibility and the student support services available to help you succeed during your studies
- Speak to our University Accommodation and residential college teams
- Get a feel for campus and grab a bite to eat.

You can also attend scheduled sessions throughout the day including:

- Understanding your next steps after receiving an offer
- Student panel discussion covering top tricks to navigate the transition and make the most of your Melbourne experience
- Hourly Parkville campus tours
- Global experiences available to you as a Melbourne student

Register to add sessions to your Expo agenda and receive a food voucher to use at the food truck and select campus vendors.

Find out more

Federation Uni Change of Preference Expo, Melbourne

Organisation: Federation University
Location: Federation University, Berwick Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Choosing the right course and university can feel overwhelming, especially as preferences close.
At Change of Preference Expo, you can speak one on one with experienced advisors to explore your options and make informed decisions about your future.
Whether you're considering changing your preferences, exploring alternative pathways, comparing courses, or looking for a flexible way to study, our team can help you identify the best option for your goals.
You'll also learn more about scholarships, pathway programs, credit transfer opportunities, and flexible online and part-time study options.
Find out more

Federation Uni Change of Preference Expo, Gippsland

Organisation: Federation University
Location: Federation University, Gippsland Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Choosing the right course and university can feel overwhelming, especially as preferences close.
At Change of Preference Expo, you can speak one on one with experienced advisors to explore your options and make informed decisions about your future.
Whether you're considering changing your preferences, exploring alternative pathways, comparing courses, or looking for a flexible way to study, our team can help you identify the best option for your goals.
You'll also learn more about scholarships, pathway programs, credit transfer opportunities, and flexible online and part-time study options.
Find out more

Federation Uni Change of Preference Expo, Ballarat

Organisation: Federation University
Location: Federation University, Mt Helen Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Choosing the right course and university can feel overwhelming, especially as preferences close.
At Change of Preference Expo, you can speak one on one with experienced advisors to explore your options and make informed decisions about your future.
Whether you're considering changing your preferences, exploring alternative pathways, comparing courses, or looking for a flexible way to study, our team can help you identify the best option for your goals.
You'll also learn more about scholarships, pathway programs, credit transfer opportunities, and flexible online and part-time study options.
Find out more

Deakin Change of Preference Event for School Leavers, Melbourne

Organisation: Deakin University
Location: Deakin University, Melbourne Burwood Campus
Date: December 11, 2026
Feeling unsure about your preferences? You don't have to do it alone. Visit Deakin on campus Friday 11 December to get expert course advice and dedicated pathway support.
Chat one-on-one with staff and students, visit the course information expo, take student-led campus tours and get the information you need to take your next step.
Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Mastering Macarons (Christmas Edition) Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: December 12, 2026
Join us for a festive one-day experience dedicated to the art, precision and creativity of macarons. This hands-on workshop is designed for passionate home bakers and aspiring pâtissiers who want to master the techniques behind these delicate and iconic sweets.
Guided by our experienced chef instructors, you will learn the fundamentals of both French and Italian meringue methods, understanding the differences between each technique and how they influence texture, structure and flavour. As the day unfolds, you will create a range of festive macaron flavours and fillings inspired by the Christmas season, learning how to balance flavours and combine textures to create beautiful creations.
From mastering smooth shells to piping, baking and assembling your finished macarons, this workshop will provide valuable skills you can continue to use long after the class concludes .
We encourage you to ask questions and embrace the festive spirit as you develop your skills in a fun and supportive environment.
Find out more

I've Got My Results, What Now? Webinar for Year 12 Students & Parents

Organisation: myfuture
Location: Online
Date: December 15, 2026
As Year 12 results are released, many students and their carers are asking the same question: What's next? Join Tracy Ryan, Career Education Manager at myfuture, for a practical and reassuring webinar designed to help families navigate the next steps with confidence.
You'll gain insights into the range of opportunities available after Year 12, learn how to make informed decisions, and discover resources that can support a successful transition from school to further study, training, or work.
Find out more

Seriously Ready Year 12 Career Workshop, Melbourne

Organisation: Unserious Careers
Location: RMIT University, Melbourne City Campus
Date: January 15, 2027
If you're unsure what to do after school, worried about making enough money or scared AI will ruin everything, this event is for you.

Over three hours, Alana Kilmartin, author and founder of Unserious Careers, will show you a career strategy for the first 12 months after school that's easy to apply and gets you ahead faster, without hating life.
Whether you're 100% locked in or have no idea what's next, this event has your back. Part workshop and part inspirational talk, Seriously Ready will offer you practical tips without being boring. Leave feeling less stressed and more excited about your future.
The content is suitable whether you're planning to go to uni or TAFE, enter the workforce, start a trade, take a gap year or follow another awesome path.
Find out more

Avalon Careers Day 2027

Organisation: AMDA Foundation Limited
Location: Avalon Airport
Date: February 26, 2027
Whether you're a secondary, TAFE or tertiary student, a teacher, a career practitioner, or a parent, Careers Day at Avalon is packed with opportunity.
Our Careers Day is a dedicated event for students interested in aviation and aerospace to connect with industry and find out more about key career pathways and opportunities in both Victoria and across Australia.
Get ready to be engaged, inspired, and empowered through interactive activities, flying and static aircraft displays, key industry connections and interactive speaker programs.
Students can connect with industry representatives on the exhibition floor, investigate graduate opportunities with global companies and discover career trajectories within aviation, aerospace and defence.
Find out more

UQ Medicine Information Evening, Online

Organisation: University of Queensland
Location: Online
Date: March 3, 2027
Attend our information session to learn about studying medicine at The University of Queensland (UQ).
Hear from UQ Medical School staff, UQ alumni and current students on the changing medical climate, how to apply for medicine at UQ, and tips for success.
What's involved:

- Learn about admission requirements and how to apply for the Doctor of Medicine (MD).
- Gain insight into UQ's MD program structure, clinical placements, learning experiences and student support.
- Explore entry pathways, including partnerships with CQUniversity and UniSQ.
- Hear from UQ Medical School academics about UQ's new medical pathway.
- Hear insights from recent graduates and current students.
- Participate in an interactive Q&A with alumni and current students.

Find out more

Scholarships

Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme

Location: Australia
Value: AU$10,000 per
Open Date: November 1, 2026
Close Date: February 1, 2027
Find out more

Charles Allan Seymour Hawker Memorial Scholarship
Organisation: C.A.S Hawker Scholarship
Location: Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria
Value: AU$90,000
Close Date: December 1, 2026
Find out more

Competitions

Learning to Be Heard – Global Public Speaking Challenge for High School Students
Organisation: TED Summer School
Location: All
Value: Full or partial scholarship to attend the TED Summer School
Close Date: January 10, 2027
Find out more

Animayo 2027 Poster Contest for ages 16+
Organisation: Animayo
Location: All
Value: €500
Close Date: December 31, 2026
Find out more

University of Queensland Sunflower Competition for High Schools
Organisation: University of Queensland
Location: Australia
Value: Up to AU$400
Close Date: February 12, 2027
Find out more

Architecture Competition Micro Living
Organisation: Volume Zero Competitions
Location: All
Value: USD $10,000
Close Date: November 26, 2026
Find out more

Experiences

Virtual Work Experience with Bentley Motors

Organisation: U-Explore Ltd
Location: All
Find out more

Weekly Posts

First Jobs, Pay & Conditions

Are You Summer Work Ready?

You've updated your resume and sent off some applications. Well done! Now it's worth getting a few other things ready, so you can say yes quickly when an offer comes in.
Most employers ask for the same details before your first shift. This blog covers four of them: your tax file number, a bank account, a super fund and your workplace rights. The examples are Australian, so if you live somewhere else, look for the same steps under different names.

Get your tax file number
A tax file number (TFN) is your personal reference number for tax and super. It's free, and you can apply at any age.
How you apply depends on how old you are:

- **Aged 15 or over:** the fastest way is online, using a Digital ID such as myID.
- **Under 15, or can't use myID:** use the paper form or apply through Australia Post.
- **Who signs:** if you're 12 or under, a parent or guardian signs for you. At 13 to 15, you or a parent can sign. From 16, you sign yourself.

If you apply through Australia Post, the ATO says you should get your TFN within 28 days of it receiving your completed application. Without a TFN, your employer has to take more tax out of your pay. You can read the full steps on the ATO website or in our guide to tax for high school students.
Once you get started your new employer will also give you a TFN declaration form. This is where you can claim the tax-free threshold, which means the first $18,200 you earn in a year isn't taxed. That's about $350 a week. If you have two jobs, claim it from only one of them, usually the one that pays more. Our PAYG explainer shows how this appears on your payslip.

Set up a bank account for your wages
Employers pay wages straight into a bank account. You'll need to give them your BSB and account number, which you can find in your banking app.
If you're not already set up, you'll need to open a bank account. Look for an account that:

- can receive wage payments
- is easy to get to, comes with an app and a debit card
- has low or no fees, and a savings option for later

Many banks offer accounts made for students and young people. If you're under 18, the bank may ask a parent or carer to help you open one. You'll also need to prove your identity. Our step-by-step bank account article walks you through it all, and our 100-point ID check explainer shows which documents you can use.

Know where your super goes
Super is money your employer pays into a retirement savings account for you, on top of your wages. The current rate is 12%.

Who gets it? If you're 18 or over, your employer pays super no matter how many hours you work. If you're under 18, they pay it when you work more than 30 hours in a week. So a few weekend shifts may not earn super, but a full-time summer job would.
There's one recent change. Since 1 July 2026, employers have to pay super on each payday, instead of once every three months. It should reach your fund within seven business days, so check your payslip to see it's there.
When you start, you'll get a form to choose your super fund. If you don't choose one, your employer asks the ATO for your "stapled" fund. That's an existing account that follows you from job to job. If you don't have one, they use their own default fund. Using one account for every job makes your savings easier to track and means you aren't paying fees on lots of small accounts. Our blog on what to look for in your first super fund could help you compare options.
If you're under 18, ask a parent or guardian to help. They may need to sign some forms.

Read up on your rights and responsibilities
The Fair Work Ombudsman is the best place to start. Your employer must give you a Fair Work Information Statement, even if you're a casual worker. Before your first day, find out your pay rate, whether you're casual, part-time or full-time, your hours and your duties.
Most jobs are covered by an award, which sets minimum pay rates. If yours isn't, the National Minimum Wage is $26.44 an hour from 1 July 2026, or $33.05 an hour for casuals (this includes a 25% casual loading). Lower rates may apply to juniors, so check your award. Our minimum wage for students article explains more.
Rules about the youngest age you can work, and the hours you can work, depend on where you live. Check what applies where you live.
You have a right to a safe workplace, and you're also responsible for taking reasonable care and following reasonable safety instructions. Each state and territory has a regulator with advice for young workers:

- New South Wales
- Australian Capital Territory
- Victoria
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory
- Tasmania
- New Zealand
- UK

There's no test on any of this, and your employer will explain your role. But knowing the basics means you can spot a mistake or potential risk, and ask about it.

Check your first payslip
It's a good idea to keep track of how many shifts or hours you've worked. After your first pay, compare your payslip with your own record of the hours you worked. Check the hours, the hourly rate, any weekend or public holiday shifts, and your super. If something looks wrong, talk to your employer first. Our payslip guide shows what each part means.

Ready to start your search?

With these four things sorted, you can say yes as soon as the call comes. For tips on finding and landing casual work, read how to land your Christmas casual job. You can also explore more blogs in our Skills for Work section.

Portfolios, University

Why you should start a portfolio in year 10

A portfolio is a collection of work and records that shows your skills, achievements and experiences. It's often shared with employers, course providers and schools alongside a resume, and it can take different forms depending on what you want to show. Understanding what goes into a portfolio, and starting one early, makes it easier to collect pieces as they come up and put together strong applications when you need them.

What are the two types of portfolios?

Portfolios generally fall into two types: creative portfolios and career portfolios. Creative portfolios focus on what you make, while career portfolios focus on what you've done.

Creative portfolios

Creative portfolios refer to collections of your best creative work. They show your style, your technical ability and the way you approach ideas. Examples include:

- Artwork & sketches
- Design projects
- Photography
- Film or animation
- Creative writing
- Music recordings

Creative portfolios are commonly requested for creative courses and roles, such as design, media or fine arts. In some cases, they're required before an application can be considered.

Career portfolios

Career portfolios refer to collections of documents and records that show your skills, qualifications and experience. They can be useful for almost any job, course or program. Examples include:

- A resume
- Certificates & awards
- References
- Records of work experience or volunteering
- School projects that show specific skills

While a resume lists what you've done, a career portfolio provides evidence of it. For example, your resume might mention that you completed work experience, while your portfolio could include the feedback form your host filled out.

Using them together

Creative and career portfolios can work separately, or be combined into a single portfolio with a section for each. The best approach depends on what you're applying for and which option best represents you.

Why start early?

You won’t usually need a portfolio until an application asks for one, but starting well before then has several advantages.

It gives you more time to collect your work
Most of what goes into a portfolio comes from experiences spread across several years. If you wait until you need one, certificates, projects or feedback from earlier years can be hard to track down.

It shows how you’ve developed
Work from different years shows how your skills have grown over time. This can be particularly useful for creative course applications, where your progress and process can matter as much as your finished pieces.

It’s ready when opportunities come up
Applications for work experience, part-time jobs and courses can have short deadlines. Having a portfolio already in progress means you can put an application together quickly, rather than starting from scratch.

It can help with subject choices
Looking back over your portfolio can help you see which subjects and projects you’ve done well in or enjoyed most. This gives you something concrete to discuss with teachers or careers advisers when choosing your senior subjects.
These advantages apply whether you’re in Grade 8 or Grade 12. The earlier you start, the more you’ll have to work with. Remember, the best time to start your portfolio was a year ago, and the next best time is today.

How Grade 10 can help build your portfolio
Grade 10 is often a year of new experiences, like work experience, a first part-time job or new responsibilities at school. Many of these can add something to your portfolio.

Work experience
Many schools run work experience programs around this time. You may come away with a feedback form from your host, a short reference, or notes on what you worked on. Writing a short reflection soon afterwards, while the details are fresh, gives you another piece to add.

Part-time work
A part-time job helps you build a record of responsibilities you can list on your resume, like serving customers or working as part of a team. Over time, a supervisor may also be able to provide a reference.

Certificates and short courses
Short courses, such as first aid or training programs run through school, usually come with a certificate. These show you’ve met a specific standard, and they’re one of the easiest things to add.

School projects
Assessments like research projects, presentations and major works can show skills that are hard to describe on a resume, like planning or problem solving. Keeping your best pieces, along with any feedback from your teachers, gives you examples to point to later.

Activities outside class
Sport, volunteering, leadership roles, clubs and competitions can all show qualities like teamwork and commitment. Certificates, letters or awards from these activities can be added as well.

How to start your portfolio
Starting a portfolio mostly comes down to choosing a format and gathering what you already have.

Choosing a format
Portfolios can be physical, like a folder or display book, or digital. Most students and workplaces now prefer digital portfolios, as they're easier to update, share and store, and they can include videos, audio and links.
A digital portfolio can be as simple as an organised cloud storage folder, a document or slideshow, or a page built with a free website builder. Pieces can still be printed for interviews or courses that ask to see work in person.

Gathering and organising your work
A good place to start is with work you've already completed. Scanning or photographing physical items gives you a digital copy of each, which makes them easier to store and share. From there, sort your work into clear groups, like creative work, certificates and references, so your portfolio is easy for others to follow. A sentence or two about what each piece shows also helps give it context.

Keeping your portfolio private
Because a portfolio is designed to be shared, some information should be kept in a separate private folder and only provided when it's specifically requested. This includes:

- Identity documents
- Your home address & phone number
- Your date of birth
- School reports

If you need to include contact details, a professional email address is usually enough. You should also ask permission before including photos of other people or listing someone as a referee. If your portfolio is digital, sharing it through a private link instead of a public page gives you more control over who sees it. The eSafety Commissioner has more information on protecting your personal details online.

Two example starting portfolios
The examples below show what a portfolio might look like for a Grade 10 student who has just started building one. Each item is a general stand-in you can match to your own work.

Example 1: A career portfolio
This student has recently finished work experience and started a part-time job. Their portfolio includes:

- A one-page resume
- A recommendation from their supervisor at work
- A feedback form from their work experience host

- A short reflection on what they learned during work experience
- A certificate from a short course
- A certificate from a school leadership program
- A school project that shows research & presentation skills

Together, these pieces show reliability, workplace experience and skills built at school. This portfolio could support an application for a new part-time job or a volunteering role.

Example 2: A combined creative and career portfolio
This student is interested in studying design after school. Their portfolio includes:

- Their best work samples from art class
- Sketchbook pages showing how one idea developed
- A short film made for a school assessment
- A photo of their work displayed at a school exhibition
- A certificate from an art competition
- A one-page resume
- A reference from a teacher

The creative pieces show the student's style and process, while the career pieces show their achievements and that others can vouch for their work. If a course asks for a creative portfolio on its own, they can simply share that section.

Keeping it up to date
A portfolio is easiest to manage when it's added to regularly. Setting a reminder at the end of each term gives you a set time to add new pieces, and to remove older ones that no longer reflect your best work.
It can also help to keep a main version with everything in it. That way, when you apply for something, you can create a shorter copy with only the pieces most relevant to that application.

It's a long-term project
The most important thing to remember is that your portfolio doesn't need to be complete from the start. It's something you can keep building throughout school and beyond.
Whether it's a certificate from a short course, a new piece of artwork or a reference from your first job, each addition helps build a clearer picture of what you can do.

Job Spotlights

How to become a Biochemist

Biochemists study the chemical and biological processes in food to improve safety, nutrition, and product quality. They might develop new ingredients, test preservation methods, or investigate how food changes over time, applying laboratory science to solve real problems for food manufacturers and researchers.
If you're naturally curious, enjoy laboratory work, and love figuring out how things work at a molecular level, this career could be right for you.

What skills do I need as a Biochemist?

- Curious & analytical
- Scientific mindset
- Patient & precise

- Strong problem-solver
- Detail-oriented mindset
- Confident communicator
- Comfortable with technology
- Persistent & methodical

What do Biochemists do?
Before running any experiments, you're designing your approach, reviewing previous research or results, and preparing the equipment and samples you'll need. You'll plan testing protocols carefully, since good results depend on a well-designed experiment from the outset, and check that everything meets the safety standards required in a laboratory setting, including any handling requirements for the materials involved.
Through the day, you're running lab experiments and analysing chemical and biological data, such as nutritional composition, microbial content, or how a product changes over its shelf life. You'll test food safety and quality against required standards, recording your results with precision. When results are unexpected, you're troubleshooting the process, checking variables, and running further tests to understand what's actually happening.
Beyond the lab bench, you're writing up findings into clear reports and sometimes presenting results to colleagues, product developers, or clients. You'll often collaborate with food technologists or product teams to apply your research to real products. Many Biochemists specialise in an area like food safety, nutrition science, or ingredient development over the course of their career.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?
Biochemists work across food manufacturers, research institutions, universities, biotechnology companies, and sometimes government food safety agencies. Some focus on applied research that directly supports new products, while others work on more fundamental research into food science and nutrition. Most of the work happens in a laboratory setting, using specialist equipment and following strict procedures throughout every stage of an experiment, from setup to cleanup.
Hours generally follow a standard working week, since laboratory work tends to run on consistent schedules. That said, some experiments require monitoring at specific intervals, which can occasionally mean checking on results outside typical hours or over a weekend. Because lab work usually needs to happen on-site with access to equipment and samples, this role tends to offer less flexibility than many office-based careers in the same industry.
The work is precise and methodical rather than physically demanding, though you'll spend long periods standing at a bench and need to follow safety protocols carefully at all times. Travel isn't usually a big part of the role, aside from occasional conferences or site visits. Salaries in this field tend to be above average, reflecting the specialised scientific expertise involved, and the industry outlook is steady as food safety, nutrition, and product innovation remain ongoing priorities for the industry.

How to become a Biochemist
- **Study science subjects in school**: Focus on subjects like chemistry, biology, and maths, which build the scientific foundation you'll need for further study in this field and any related science degree you go on to pursue.

- **Complete a science degree**: Study a bachelor's degree majoring in biochemistry, food science, chemistry, or a related field, which gives you the theoretical knowledge and practical laboratory skills employers look for in this role.
- **Gain laboratory experience**: Look for research placements, internships, or graduate programs with food manufacturers, biotechnology companies, or research institutions to build hands-on experience in a real laboratory environment early on in your career.
- **Develop specialist knowledge**: Consider postgraduate study, such as honours or a master's degree, if you're interested in research-focused roles, or build deeper expertise in an area like food safety, nutrition science, or ingredient development instead.

From here, you could move into senior research roles, take on food science management responsibilities, or lead product development projects within a food or biotechnology company.

What can I do right now?
If you're in high school and interested in working as a Biochemist, here are some practical steps:

- Study science subjects like chemistry and biology to build the foundation needed for a science degree.
- Look for lab-based work experience, science camps, or open days at universities or research institutions to see real lab work in action.
- Join a science club or enter science competitions at school to build your practical experimental skills and curiosity.

Find out more about alternative careers on our Job Spotlights page.

Jobs & Careers, Subject Selection

Agriculture careers explained

Think agriculture and imagine farmers ploughing fields and harvesting crops, or rounding up livestock and milking cows? You're not wrong, but that's only one of the many agricultural careers you could be doing.
The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that around 1.23 billion people worked in the world's agrifood systems in 2019. About 857 million of them worked directly in producing food, and the rest worked off the farm. That's a lot of people doing a lot of different jobs. People are always going to need food and materials, so it's safe to assume they'll be around for a long time. National Agriculture Day seems like a good time to explore a few more of the roles in the ag industry, you never know what might spark your interest.

On the farm
Farmers and farm managers decide what to grow or raise, plan the year ahead, manage the budget and look after staff. Farm workers do much of the hands-on work, such as planting, harvesting, feeding animals, checking fences and driving machinery.
Many farms also rely on specialists. Think of livestock handlers, orchard and vineyard workers, greenhouse growers, and irrigation technicians.

Soil, plants, and yields
Healthy soil grows healthy crops, so lots of people spend their days studying it.

- **Soil scientists** test soil to see what nutrients it holds and how well it can support plants.
- **Agronomists** advise farmers on which crops to plant and how to get the best results.

- **Crop scientists and plant breeders** develop new varieties that give higher yields or resist disease.
- **Environmental consultants** help farms protect water, land and wildlife.

And of course that's just the start. Then if they're raising livestock, there are even more roles to consider; from biosecurity experts and stock agents, to nutritionists and feed advisors, as well as feed manufacturers and developers, genetic consultants and bioinformaticians.

Machinery, technology, and supplies

Modern farms use plenty of equipment, and someone has to design it, build it, and keep it running.

- **Agricultural engineers** design machinery, irrigation systems and farm buildings.
- **Machinery technicians** repair and service tractors, harvesters and other vehicles.
- **Precision agriculture technicians** use tools like GPS and sensors to help farmers work more accurately.
- **Chemists and plant operators** help make the fertilisers that put nutrients back into the soil.
- **Software developers and data analysts** build the apps and systems that farmers use to track crops and animals.

Food, business, and support roles

Once crops are grown, they still need to get to your plate. Food scientists develop and test products, food safety inspectors check that everything meets the rules, and drivers and logistics teams move produce around. Buyers, marketers, and sales reps are the middle men connecting farms with shops and customers.

Vets look after animal health. Accountants and bankers help farms manage money. Extension officers pass on new research to farmers so it can be used in the real world. Hopefully by now you're starting to see that there are lots of different roles in agriculture (for every Cluster) and a surprising number of pathways that could get you there.

Which school subjects help?

If the Ag Industry interests you but you're still in high school, it's OK if you don't need to know exactly what you want to do yet. Taking these subjects could keep lots of doors open:

- **Biology** helps you understand how plants and animals grow, as well as protecting the land and environment.
- **Chemistry** is useful for soil testing, fertilisers, and food science.
- **Maths** helps with measuring, budgeting, and working with all kinds of data.
- **Geography** covers climate, land use, soils, and other environmental factors.
- **Physics, engineering, or design and technology** help if you like machines and building things, or innovating solutions.
- **Business, economics, or accounting** are great for advising or running farms or working in agricultural companies.
- **Computing** is increasingly useful as farms use and rely on more technology.

If your school offers agriculture, horticulture, or animal care, they're definitely study areas you could try too. Some jobs mean you'll need a degree, others offer apprenticeships and traineeships, while there are some pathways where experience and hard work counts for more than anything else.

How to get experience while you're still at school

Getting hands-on is often the best way to find out what you enjoy. Here are some ideas:

- **Ask about work experience.** You could try a farm, a plant nursery, a vet clinic, a machinery workshop, or a food business. Remember, not every agriculture job is outdoors.
- **Join a youth group.** In Australia Future Farmers Network supports young people interested in agriculture and AgCAREERSTART offer paid gap year opportunities for youth ages 18-25. Similarly in New Zealand the NZ Young Farmers are a network worth exploring, alongside Growing Future Farmers who offer farm-led training programs. You could also ask your school or local farming community what is on offer near you.
- **Volunteering** is a great way to get involved and gain some skills. Community gardens and conservation groups always need helpers.
- **Grow something**, even a few pots of herbs or vegetables in your garden on a windowsill could teach you about soil, nutrition, water, and patience.
- **Visit agricultural shows or head to a open farm day.** These are easy ways to meet people and ask questions, and just get a feel for the industry as a whole and where you might fit.
- **Look for seasonal work.** Some farms hire for the harvest, so if you're looking for part-time or holiday work, this could be a great way to earn money and learn at the same time. You'll need to check the age rules where you live first.

When you speak to someone in the industry, ask what a normal day looks like and how they got started, most people are happy to share.

Ready to explore?
Agriculture offers jobs for people who love science, machines, plants, animals, numbers, the environment, people or the outdoors, and often a mash up of these. The next step is to try something. Head over to our work experience page to start searching for placements, or head to the Job Spotlights page to read up on some careers and see which ones sound interesting to you.

Family Support

Checking in on your teen's mental health

It's the end of the school year, everyone's tired and maybe a bit stressed about exams, assessments, changing year levels, schools, or what comes after school. Teenagers aren't always great at saying how they feel. A shrug, a closed bedroom door or a one-word answer at dinner can leave you wondering if something is wrong, or if it's just part of growing up.
This article might provide you some support on how to check in with your teen, when to talk to their school, and where to find trusted advice and professional help if you need it.

How to check in with your teen
Mood swings are a normal part of the teenage years. But as a parent, if something feels different and its occurring over a prolonged period of weeks rather than days, it's worth paying attention.
Some things to look out for include:

- Sleeping a lot more or a lot less than usual
- Changes in eating habits
- Pulling away from friends, family, or activities they used to enjoy
- Being more irritable, angry, teary, or flat than normal

- Not wanting to go to school
- Talking about feeling hopeless or like a burden

One of these things on its own doesn't necessarily mean something is wrong, but you could still check in. If you start noticing a pattern over time, rather than a single bad day at a time, you might want to track things a bit more closely and have more regular check-ins.

Starting the conversation

Full on talks, face-to-face can feel like an interview to a teenager. Side-by-side moments often work better, like when you're in the car, walking the dog, or cooking dinner together.

Keep your questions open. "How are things with your friends lately?" will usually get more than "Are you okay?" Then listen more than you talk. Try not to jump straight in with solutions or judgement.

If they don't want to talk, that's okay. Let them know you've noticed, you care, and you're there when they're ready. Then try again in a few days with a different tactic and a different open-ended question. Just letting them know the door is open and you're concerned, could be enough.

When to talk to the school

Your your people spend a huge chunk of their week at school, so teachers might pick up on things you don't. A sudden drop in grades, missed homework, skipped classes, or trouble with friends could either be the cause of a mood shift, or a signs that something is going on.

If you notice any changes related to school, it's always OK to contact the school early. You could start with their homeroom or form teacher, year coordinator, or school counsellor. Ask questions like:

- Have you noticed any changes in how they're going?
- Are they getting along with their classmates?
- Is anything happening at school that we should know about, like bullying?

Most schools have a wellbeing team or counsellor who can support students directly. They could also help with practical changes, such as extra time on assignments, while your teen gets back on track.

Working together means your teen gets the same message of support at home and at school. And sometimes your teen might be more inclined to open up to someone who's not a parent or carer, don't take it personally.

Trusted places to find advice

If you're not sure how worried to be, there are online tools to help you sort through what you're seeing. The Teen Signal Check from The Mentor Well is a three-minute check-in that sorts what you've noticed into green, yellow or red, with ideas on how to manage each level and next steps for each. It's more of an awareness tool rather than a diagnosis, but could be a useful way to get your thoughts in order.

Other helpful sites for parents include:

- **Australia:**headspace, ReachOut Parents and Raising Children Network
- **New Zealand:**Mental Health Foundation, The Lowdown and KidsHealth
- **United Kingdom:**YoungMinds, which also runs a free Parents Helpline

Chat with your GP

If you're feeling concerned , your family doctor (GP) is a great first stop, wherever you live. Book an appointment for your teen, let them know in advance. The GP can check for any physical

health causes, talk through what's going on, and refer your teen to a counsellor, psychologist or youth mental health service if necessary.
In Australia, your GP can prepare a mental health treatment plan, which could lower the cost of seeing a mental health professional through Medicare. In New Zealand, your GP can advise on where to get more help and may arrange an appointment with a youth counsellor or local mental health service.
It might help to book a longer appointment (ask the receptionist if you're unsure), and jot down what you've noticed before your appointment. Older teens may also want some time alone with the doctor, again that's normal, and it could help them open up.

Who to call for professional help
If a particular incident or day has caused you a lot of concern and either you or your teen needs to talk to someone straight away. There are free services with trained counsellors who can support your teen, and you too.
If your teen is in immediate danger, call emergency services: 000 in Australia, 111 in New Zealand, or 999 in the UK.

Australia
- **Kids Helpline:** 1800 55 1800 is free, provides 24/7 counselling for young people up to age 25
- **Lifeline:** 13 11 14 – 24/7 provides crisis support and is usually free from most Australian landlines and mobiles. You can also contact them via text at **0477 13 11 14** or via Lifeline Online Chat.
- **Beyond Blue:** 1300 22 4636 – support for anxiety and depression
- **headspace:** free online and phone support through eheadspace, plus local centres for 12 to 25-year-olds

New Zealand
- **Need to Talk?:**free call or text 1737 any time to talk to a trained counsellor
- **Youthline:**free text 234, call 0800 376 633, webchat at youthline.co.nz, message on Whats App 09 886 56 96 offering 24/7 support for young people and their whānau
- Mental Health Crisis - *for emergencies only*, the numbers and open times vary depending on your region

United Kingdom
- **Childline:** 0800 1111 offer free, confidential support for young people
- **Samaritans:** 116 123 provide 24/7 support for anyone who is struggling

Everywhere else
Most countries have free youth and crisis helplines. Find a Helpline lists services around the world, sorted by country and topic. Your GP or your teen's school counsellor can also help point you to local options and services.

Keep the door open
Checking in on your teen's mental health isn't a one-off chat. It's lots of small moments that show them you're paying attention, a reminder that you care and that they can come to you. You won't always get it right, and it might earn you some eye rolls, but that's okay. What matters is that you notice, you ask, and you know where to turn if you need extra support.

Want more ideas for supporting your teen through high school and beyond? Explore our resources for families for practical guides on everything from study stress to career choices.

Jobs & Careers

7 Cool Careers in Conservation

Conservation careers cover a wide variety of work, and each role draws on a different mix of skills, interests and qualifications.
Knowing the range of roles available makes it easier to find one that matches your interests, and to work out which school subjects and study pathways could help you get there.

What is conservation work?
Conservation refers to the work of protecting plants, animals and the places they live, so they can survive into the future. A lot of this work focuses on ecosystems, which are communities of living things and the environments they depend on, like a wetland or a coral reef.
Conservation roles generally fall into four broad areas:

- Science & research
- Animal care & handling
- Technology & data
- Communication & advocacy

Employers include government environment agencies, not-for-profit organisations, zoos, wildlife hospitals, universities and environmental consulting businesses, which help other organisations meet environmental rules.

Conservation Geneticist
A Conservation Geneticist studies the DNA of plants and animals to help protect them. A big part of the role is measuring genetic diversity, which is the range of genetic differences within a population. Populations with low genetic diversity can struggle to cope with disease or changing conditions, so this information helps guide breeding programs and decisions about moving animals between groups.
Some Conservation Geneticists also work with environmental DNA, or eDNA. Animals and plants leave tiny traces of DNA in water and soil, and testing a sample can show which species live in an area without anyone needing to see or catch them. Most of the work happens in labs and offices, with occasional field trips to collect samples.
The usual starting point is a university science degree in genetics, biology or a related area, and research roles often require further study after that. At school, biology, chemistry and maths can help you build a strong foundation.

Conservation Dog Handler
A Conservation Detection Dog Handler works with a dog that's been trained to find specific scents. Depending on the project, they might search for the droppings of pest animals so they can be removed from an island, locate rare species that are hard to spot, or help find illegal wildlife products and track poachers.
Days are often spent outdoors searching, followed by training sessions to keep the dog's skills sharp. Handlers are also responsible for their dog's health and care, and the dog often lives with them.
There isn't one set pathway into this role. Many handlers start by building experience in dog training or animal care, and some combine dog handling with ranger or field ecology work. A

vocational qualification in animal care or conservation and land management could be a good starting point, and biology and agricultural studies are useful subjects at school.

Wildlife Vet
A Wildlife Vet diagnoses and treats sick and injured wild animals. They could work in a wildlife hospital, a zoo or a conservation program, where they might check an animal's health before it's released or moved, or monitor diseases that threaten wild populations.
To become a vet, you'll need to complete an accredited veterinary science degree, which usually takes five to six years, and then register to practise. Many vets spend time in general practice first, building wildlife experience through volunteering, extra training or work at wildlife hospitals.
Vet courses usually have high entry requirements and often list chemistry and maths as prerequisites. If this role interests you, check the requirements for courses you're considering before choosing your senior subjects.

Drone Mapper
A Drone Mapper flies drones fitted with cameras or sensors to capture images of land and water. Software then combines hundreds of these photos into one detailed map, which conservation teams can use to count animals, check the health of reefs and forests, or see whether replanting projects are working.
The role is a mix of time in the field flying drones and time at a computer processing and analysing the images. Flying a drone for work often requires a remote pilot licence, which you can gain through an approved training course. Many Drone Mappers also study spatial science, environmental science or geography through vocational courses or university. Digital technologies, geography and maths are useful school subjects.

Bat Surveyor
A Bat Surveyor works out which bat species live in an area and how they're using it. Many work for environmental consulting businesses, carrying out surveys before land is cleared or developed so any protected species can be identified and managed.
Because bats are active at night, much of the work happens after dark. Surveyors use ultrasonic detectors to record echolocation calls, which are the high-pitched sounds bats use to navigate, and software then helps identify each species from its call. Some surveys also involve catching bats in special traps or nets to examine them up close. This requires permits, and anyone who handles bats is advised to have a course of rabies vaccinations first.
Most Bat Surveyors have a degree in environmental science, ecology or zoology, or a vocational qualification in conservation and land management, along with field experience. Biology and geography are helpful subjects to take at school.

Wildlife Documentary Maker
A Wildlife Documentary Maker tells stories about animals and the environment through film. Their work helps audiences learn about threatened species and the challenges they face. Documentary roles include researching stories, filming, directing, recording sound and editing. Filming wildlife can involve long periods of waiting in a hide, but much of the work happens before and after filming.
Common pathways include vocational or university courses in screen and media production, often paired with a science background or a strong understanding of animal behaviour. The best part is you can start building a portfolio now by making your own short films, even on a phone. Media, visual arts, English and biology can all be useful at school.

Environmental Lobbyist
An Environmental Lobbyist works to influence the decisions governments make about the environment. They meet with politicians and government staff, write submissions about proposed laws, and present evidence for why certain species or places should be protected. Some lobbyists work directly for environmental organisations, while others represent clients through consulting businesses and may need to be listed on an official register of lobbyists. The role relies heavily on research, persuasive writing and building relationships.
Common study pathways include law, politics, communications or environmental science. At school, English and legal studies are useful, and joining a debating team is a practical way to build the skills the role uses.

Getting started while you're at school
You don't need to choose a specific role yet to start building experience in conservation. Volunteering with a landcare group, a wildlife rescue organisation or a citizen science project, where members of the public help scientists collect data, can give you hands-on experience across several of these areas. It can also help you work out which type of work suits you best, whether that's lab work, fieldwork, technology or communication.
If you'd like to learn about other roles and pathways, we have plenty of jobs and careers resources for you to check out.

Jobs & Careers

10 high-paying jobs that don't need a degree
Lots of people grow up hearing that university is the only path to a well-paid job. It's one path, but it's definitely not the only one. Plenty of jobs care more about what you can do than what qualifications you hold. You might learn through an apprenticeship, a paid training program, a licence course, or time on the job; and often with these pathways you'll be earning while you learn.
Below are ten jobs worth a closer look, we've linked them with the top Cadi Career Clusters, and provided an example for a first step you could take. Keep in mind that pay, working conditions, and qualification or licensing requirements changes depending on where you live, who you work for and how much experience you have.

1. Air traffic controller
Career Cluster: Maker and Informer
Every plane in the sky is guided by someone on the ground. Air traffic controllers tell pilots when to take off, when to land, and which route to follow, so aircraft stay a safe distance apart. It's a high-pressure job, and the pay reflects that.
How to get started: Most countries train controllers through their national air navigation service, such as Airservices Australia, Airways International in New Zealand, the FAA in the United States or Eurocontrol in Europe. Airservices Australia doesn't ask for an aviation background or study in any set field. Rules vary, though. For example, in the US, you must be a US citizen who's under 31, with three years of work experience, a degree, or a mix of both. Expect aptitude tests, a medical check, and a long selection process.

2. Ethical hacker
Career Cluster: Guardian and Innovator

Ethical hackers are paid to break into computer systems, with full permission, so they can find and fix weak spots before criminals do. Demand is strong and penetration testers remain on of the IT jobs in shortage on the 2026 Jobs and Skills Occupations in Shortage List.
How to get started: Many people begin in IT support, then move into security. Online courses on sites like Cybrary or Udemy cover the basics, and certifications such as CompTIA Security+ or Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) show employers what you know. One firm rule to remember - only ever practise on systems you own or have written permission to test or you could end up with more than just a black mark against your name.

3. Commercial pilot
Career Cluster: Maker and Coordinator
Flying for a living is less about university and more about flight training and hours of experience in the cockpit. You build skills and logged hours in stages until you can earn a commercial pilot licence.
How to get started: Book a trial flight lesson to test the waters, and check the medical requirements before you commit. Training can be expensive, so look into airline cadet programs, which may help with costs.

4. Mining or offshore driller
Career Cluster: Maker
Drillers run the heavy equipment used to reach minerals, oil, or gas deep underground. The work is physical and often remote, but the salary can be rewarding. Many people work on rosters, such as two weeks on site followed by time off at home.
How to get started: Short courses in drilling or machine operation could get you started. Many companies also hire entry-level helpers and train them on the job.

5. Real estate agent
Career Cluster: Linker, Coordinator, Informer
Agents help people buy, sell, and rent property. You could work in residential, rural, or commercial real estate. Pay is often based on commission, which is a share of each sale. Which means income could be high in a successful or busy month and low in a quiet one, but there is the opportunity to earn some big bucks.
How to get started: In most places you need to complete a short course then apply for a licence to sell property. Look up the course and licence rules where you live.

6. Entrepreneur
Career Cluster: Innovator and Linker
Entrepreneurs spot a problem, find a solution, and sell it, whether that's a lawn-mowing service, an online shop, or an app. Running your own business means there's no ceiling on what you could earn, but no guaranteed pay either.
How to get started: Start small and test your idea before spending much money. Research more tips for young entrepreneurs if you'd like to dig deeper.

7. Electrical lineworker
Career Cluster: Maker
Lineworkers install and repair the power lines that keep homes, schools and hospitals running. They work outdoors, often at height, using specialised equipment. When a storm or accident knocks out the power, they're the people who get it back on.

How to get started: Look for apprenticeships with energy companies, which pay you a wage while you train. They can be competitive so work on your problem-solving skills and have great examples to use in applications or interviews. Safety is very important in this role so any short courses or workshops you can attend will demonstrate that you take this aspect seriously too.

8. Freelance photographer or videographer
Career Cluster: Innovator and Maker
With content in high demand, skilled photographers and videographers can charge top dollar for their services. Weddings, corporate shoots, and events are particularly lucrative. Just bear in mind work could be busy one month and quiet the next.
How to get started: You don't need the most expensive camera to begin. Learn the basics through tutorials or workshops, then build a portfolio by shooting for friends, sports clubs, or community groups. Entering competitions is also a good way to get noticed, add to your credentials, and maybe start earning.

9. Firefighter
Career Cluster: Guardian
Firefighters do far more than put out fires. They respond to car crashes, floods, and medical emergencies. The job is physically demanding and competitive, but it offers steady work and a strong sense of purpose.
How to get started: Apply through your local fire service, expect intensive fitness tests, aptitude tests, and background checks. Volunteering with an emergency service can give you useful experience. Generally entry is quite competitive, so being well prepared could definitely help.

10. Crane operator
Career Cluster: Maker and Coordinator
Crane operators lift heavy loads on building sites, at ports, and in factories. One small mistake could be dangerous, so in addition to specialised skills the job calls for focus and a steady hand.
How to get started: You'll usually need a licence. In Australia, for example, it's called a high risk work licence. Many people start as labourers on construction sites and train up from there.

Skills still take time
None of these jobs need a degree, that doesn't mean they shortcuts or easy to get into. Each one asks you to build skills, pass tests, or put in years of practice, and some are very competitive. Some careers, like becoming a pilot, are highly competitive and take years of preparation, even without university.
You can start exploring now, though. Try work experience, talking to someone who does the job, or looking up training options near you.

Find your way in
Every job comes with challenges, but when you choose a career that matches your strengths and interests, the rewards can be worth it. If one of these jobs caught your eye, a good next step is finding out how earn-while-you-learn training works. Explore apprenticeships and traineeships on our website to see where hands-on training could take you.
You might be closer to a high-paying career than you think.

Entrepreneurship, Other

The pros and cons of being an entrepreneur

Lots of young people dream of running their own business and that's fantastic. Maybe you've spotted a problem nobody is fixing, or you have a hobby that people keep offering to pay you for. Being an entrepreneur can be one of the most exciting paths you can take. But like any path, you might experience a few bumps along the way. The good news is that most of those hurdles are much easier to handle if you're prepared for them happening.

Let's look at the upsides, the challenges, and the practical steps you could take to give your idea its best chance.

What's great about being an entrepreneur

You'll get to make the decisions. As your own boss, you'll choose what you sell, who you work with, and to a certain degree how you'll spend your days (tasks still need to get done).

You could also turn something you really care about into your work. Whether you love baking, coding, fashion, or fixing bikes, a business lets you build your work days around the things you enjoy.

Then there are the skills. Running even a small business teaches you about money, sales, marketing, customer service, and problem-solving. Employers value these skills in almost every industry, so they're never wasted, even if you later decide running your own business isn't for you.

Finally, there's no fixed limit on what you can earn. A regular job usually comes with a set wage, but a business can grow as far as you're able to take it.

The tricky parts (and how to handle them)

Every career has downsides. Here are the common ones for entrepreneurs, along with a tip to bear in mind about what you can do about each.

Your income might go up and down

Some months, sales might be brilliant. Other months, they might be slow. That can make it hard to plan ahead.

Start small and keep your costs low. Lots of people keep a part-time job while their business finds its feet, so they still have money coming in. Although it's tempting to splurge on good days, it's always worth remembering to put a little aside for quieter months.

It can take up a lot of time

When it's your business, there's always one more job to do and not necessarily anyone else to do it.

Setting clear limits, especially around schoolwork, sleep, and time with friends is a great habit to have from the start. Try blocking out two or three set times each week for your business and sticking to them. A business that fits around your life instead of consuming is far easier to keep going and avoid burning out.

Not every idea will work

This is the part that worries most people and with statistics like "half of new businesses don't reach year five" it can be easy to feel disheartened.

It's always a good idea to test your idea cheaply before you spend much money. Sell a small batch, run a quick survey, or ask people whether they'd actually pay for it. An idea that doesn't work shouldn't be the end of your plans, it's useful information for your next attempt.

It can feel lonely
Without a team or a manager, and everything resting on you, it's easy to feel weighed down. Find people to share ideas with. A teacher, a family friend who runs a business, or a school enterprise club can all offer support and honest feedback. You could even ask your local chamber of commerce if you can join their meetings or find other local business catch ups (or start your own) - you won't be the only one looking for connections.

Some entrepreneurs get it right first time…
Every now and then, someone's first big idea takes off. Sara Blakely had never taken a business class or worked in fashion, and she had just $5,000 to put into her idea for Spanx, a brand of shapewear. Interestingly, she kept working her nine-to-five job while she spent two years creating her product.
Melanie Perkins is another example. She started selling handmade scarves at 14, then launched Fusion Books at 19, an online tool for designing school yearbooks. It began in her mother's living room, and over five years it became Australia's largest yearbook company, expanding into France and New Zealand. That success led her to co-found Canva, the design platform you may have used at school.

…and some had to keep trying
For many entrepreneurs, success comes after plenty of attempts. James Dyson, the inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner, built thousands of prototypes over four years, and then his successful cyclonic vacuum designs were rejected by all the major manufacturers, meaning he had to go into production alone.
The company behind Angry Birds Rovio had made 51 games and was close to bankruptcy when it developed its 52nd game, Angry Birds, which went on to become one of the most famous mobile games ever made. Bill Gates first startup Traf-O-Data failed at it's first demo when the machine didn't work. The founder of PayPal Max Levchin hd miltiple failed startups before he hit success.
In fact, if you read the biographies of lots of entrepreneurs, the majority experienced some setbacks and hiccups along the way. Luck plays a part in their stories, but sticking at it plays a bigger one.

Why a backup plan is a smart move
Having a backup plan doesn't mean you don't believe in your idea or yourself. It means you can take risks without everything depending on one outcome. Notice that Sara Blakely kept her job while she built her product. Aytekin Tank creator of JotForm worked as a senior web developer for a large internet media company while coding and launching his platform. Sal Khan kept working as a financial analyst, while tutoring his cousin in math using online notes and YouTube videos, that later grew into Khan Academy.
For you, a backup plan might mean finishing school, keeping your study or training options open, or holding on to a part-time job. It could also mean building skills, like writing, design or bookkeeping, that will be useful whatever you end up doing.

Do your research before you start
Good research is the key to turning a hopeful idea into a realistic plan. Before you launch, try answering these questions:

- **Who are your customers?** Be specific. "Everyone" isn't a customer group, but "busy parents at my school" is.

- **Who else is doing this?** Look at your competitors and work out what you could do differently or better.
- **What will it cost?** Add up materials, equipment, and any fees, then work out a fair price that still allows you to make a profit.
- **What are the rules?** Check what applies where you live. If you're under 18, some things, like signing contracts or opening certain accounts, may need help from a parent or guardian. Working in some industries like food prep might require licensing. It's important to find all that out before you even start on anything else.

Ready to explore your business idea?
Being an entrepreneur isn't always easy, but with research, a backup plan, and the willingness to keep learning, it could be an incredibly rewarding path. Start small, stay curious and remember that every attempt teaches you something.
Want more inspiration? Head over to our Entrepreneurship page for business ideas, tips and real stories to help you take your first step.

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