

FACT SHEET 12

Post-School Transitions

Leaving school is a significant time in the life of any young person. It is a time of great change, of leaving behind the familiar environment of school, beginning life as an adult and exploring new challenges and opportunities.

Planning for the transition from school to adult life should focus on your child's goals and aspirations. When a child is preparing to leave school there are a wide range of options to choose from including further education and training, apprenticeships, traineeships, and open employment.

Young people participate in a range of career exposure activities and post-school career planning during their school years; all aimed at assisting them to identify areas of career interest. Opportunities to undertake work experience, work placements, volunteering and visits to further education and training institutions are a great way for young people to explore future career options.

Some young people with a limb difference may require additional assistance when entering into further study or employment. Assistance may be required in the areas of planning, education arrangements, accessibility, assistive technology or other supports designed to ensure your child's transition post-school is a positive and successful one.

This Fact Sheet provides information to assist you and your son or daughter to prepare for a life beyond school and provides information to assist your child to achieve a successful post-school outcome.

Career exploration

When it comes to choosing a career path it is important to remember that it is OK for your child to change their mind and explore a variety of career options. While significant career planning is conducted at school with teachers and career practitioners, research shows that parents play the most significant role in influencing the career and pathways decisions made by young people.

When considering possible career paths it is recommended that young people think about: their interests and favourite subjects; the training and education required for different careers; current growth occupations or industry 'skills shortages'; new or emerging occupations and industries; and, their moral and social values.

Some schools may run sessions to assist parents to become confident in supporting their son or daughter to make post-school education, training and employment decisions. Most secondary schools have dedicated career practitioners (eg. Careers Coordinators, Pathways Planners) to support students and parents during the latter stages of secondary schooling and when post-school plans are being made.

In addition, young people and parents can access a variety of credible websites that provide up-to-date information about post-school education, training and employment including:

Job Guide:

www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

My Future:

www.myfuture.edu.au

Australian Government:

www.youth.gov.au

Tertiary education and training

Progressing from secondary schooling to tertiary education (TAFE, vocational training and University) is a significant transition period for young people and parents. Starting tertiary education and training comes with movement to a new environment, new learning styles, new forms of assessment, and being surrounded by a wide range of different people. This transition can be daunting for some young people and some young people with limb difference may require adjustments to accommodate their specific needs.

All TAFEs and Universities have dedicated 'Disability Liaison Officers / Disability Support Officers' to assist students with disability studying in their institution. These staff can assist with the provision of academic support workers (eg. note takers, readers), access to adaptive technology (eg. voice activated software), alternative arrangements for assessment (eg. additional time, scribes), alternative course materials, enrolment and campus orientation, liaison with lecturers and teachers, physical access to facilities, and referral to other support services (eg. counselling, health, housing, finance).

For more information make an appointment with a Disability Officer at the relevant tertiary institution or visit the tertiary institution's website.

Employment

Some young people maybe considering or seeking employment upon school completion. Employment types may include apprenticeships, traineeships or open employment.

Australian apprenticeships and traineeships are a way of combining training and employment and can lead to a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships and traineeships can be undertaken by anyone of working age and are available to school-leavers, those re-entering the workforce or those wanting to change careers. Detailed information about apprenticeships and traineeships can be found at the Australian Government website - www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Open employment refers to working in the open labour market and, depending on the job requirements, an applicant may need to hold a specific qualification (such as secondary school completion or tertiary studies completion) or no qualification.

Some young people with a limb difference may want assistance finding and sustaining employment. A number of Australian Government programs provide specialist support to persons with disability and their employers, including:

- > JobAccess is a free information and advice service about the employment of people with disability. JobAccess provides information about services, financial assistance and workplace solutions; as well as information about reasonable adjustments, disclosure of disability, disability employment case studies, tools and checklists. www.jobaccess.gov.au
- > Disability Employment Services (DES) assist people with disability, injury or health conditions to look for a job, find a job and sustain a job. www.humanservices.gov.au

Accessing support

Assisting your child during their post-school transition period may lead to some questions or concerns. You may want to speak to a Limbs 4 Kids team member who can assist you. You may also want to speak to another parent who has experienced what you are going through. If so, Limbs 4 Kids can connect you to a trained Peer Support Volunteer who you can speak to you. Visit our website or call us for more information and links to our online support.