

## FACT SHEET

# Life after school

**Leaving school is a significant time in the life of any young person. It's a time of great change, leaving behind the familiar environment of school, beginning life as an adult, and exploring new opportunities. Planning for the transition from school to adult life should focus on your child's goals and aspirations.**

When a young person 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 interest and future pathways.

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, 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 (e.g. Careers Coordinators, Pathways Planners) to support students and parents during the latter stages of secondary schooling and when post-school plans are being made.

Several websites provide up-to-date information about post-school education, training and employment:

### Job Outlook

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

### My Future

<https://myfuture.edu.au>

### Australian Government

[www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.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, exciting or a mix of emotions for young people. And some young people with limb difference may require additional supports to accommodate their 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 (e.g. note takers, readers)
- access to adaptive technology (e.g. voice activated software)
- alternative arrangements for assessment (e.g. 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 (e.g. counselling, health, housing, finance).

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

## Employment

Some young people might be considering or seeking employment after leaving 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](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)**

Open employment refers to working in the open labour market. Depending on the job requirements an applicant may need to have a specific qualification (such as school completion or a tertiary diploma/degree).

Some young people with a limb difference may benefit from gaining assistance to find and sustain employment.

Job Access is the national hub for workplace and employment information for people with disability, employers and service providers -

**[www.jobaccess.gov.au](http://www.jobaccess.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 Life 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 Life can connect you to a trained Peer Support Volunteer who you can speak to. Visit our website or call us for more information and links to our online support.

**[www.limbs4kids.org.au](http://www.limbs4kids.org.au) | T: 1300 782 231 | E: [kids@limbs4life.org.au](mailto:kids@limbs4life.org.au)**

The Limbs 4 Kids program is an initiative of Limbs 4 Life, Australia's peak organisation for amputees and those living with limb difference. Limbs 4 Kids ensures that all Australian children and young people with limb difference, as well as all of those who care for them, receive access to information and support.