

Giving school the flick?

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Deciding to leave school at the end of Year 10 or 11 can be massively nerve-racking. And current rules mean that you must tick some boxes before you can step into the outside world. Did you know that to leave school (in Victoria):

- you must be **17**, and have
- completed Year 10?



Seems like a stupid rule, yes?

Why do they have this rule?

Because history (and statistics) tells us that your future 'earning power' is attached (like a piece of string) to your **highest** level of education. Which means that this **stupid** rule (*being 17 and completing Year 10*) will help to **protect** the **future-you**, keeping you **above** the poverty line.

Hmmm, maybe it's not such a **stupid** rule then!

Leaving is not just about '**deciding**', there are important things to **think** about and **do** first.

Questions

When **#i-wanna-leave** students come to my office, I ask them the following:

Plan?	Do you have one? What is it?	
Told?	Have you discussed your plan with your parents/guardians, Careers Advisor, and relevant teachers or coordinators?	
Back-up?	Do you have a backup plan? (Just in-case your first plan disintegrates!) What is it?	
Documents?	Resume:	Is your resume current? Does it glow or stink ? See definitions below.
	Letter:	Do you have a letter of application that can be adapted for future jobs?
	Tax File Number:	Do you have one? Or are you going to pay half your wages to Mr. Tax Man?
	Exit Document:	You and/or your parents may need to sign an exit document, that way your name is archived from our databases
Value Add:	Can you add value to your resume by completing more work experience ? Once you leave, you can't use this great program anymore!	

Documents...

Resumes

Not-all-first-time-jobs-work-out, so I encourage students to take a decent resume with them, just in case. Resume's are a 'living' document, they grow and change as you do.

Stinky Resume

- A **STINKY** resume not only **smells** (probably of toast and coffee), it is hard to read, has loads of spelling mistakes, and does **NOTHING** for your image.
- You may as well send toilet paper to the employer – at least it would be more useful!



Glowing Resume

- A **GLOWING** resume is one that **ticks-all-the-right-boxes** and is easy for an employer to find the stuff they want to know about you.
- A quick read shows that you have what it takes to work for them.
- You too can have a **GLOWING** resume if you watch and follow the rules in the toons at [my Job Blog](#).

Work Experience

- Employers LOVE reading about **work experience** on your resume, they can **see** what skills you have and what motivates you in the workplace.
- Once you leave school, you also say goodbye to the **work experience** program – which is a shame, because it is the BEST-EVEREST way of trying careers to see if they FIT!
- Therefore, be a **USER** - **USE** the **work experience** program while you can!

Leaving Check-List

If you can check off the following list of things, you should be primed and ready to leave school:

Tick	List
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am 100% sure I want to leave school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a plan and a back-up plan for what I am doing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have completed enough work experience to make my resume stand out from the crowd
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a GLOWING resume!
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have spoken to my parents/guardians about my plans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have spoken to my Careers Advisor at school
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have spoken to my Year Level Coordinator at school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a Tax File Number.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a letter of application (for my back-up plan).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that I will have to complete an exit form to archive my details from the school database.