GO NEWS 2.11.26

STEM + X: Technology – Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents

Organisation: Careers with STEM
Location: Online
Date: November 4, 2026
Join Careers with STEM for a free STEM + X career webinar, supported by QUT, to explore careers in coding, cybersecurity, design, digital products and more.
In this webinar, we'll lift the lid on where a technology degree can take you, exploring the kinds of careers today's high school students could be heading into, from cybersecurity and software development to digital design, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
Find out more

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: November 5, 2026
A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.
Find out more

Next Week's Events

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Brisbane

Organisation: Basair Aviation College
Location: Archerfield Airport
Date: November 10, 2026
Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?
Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.
Find out more

Future Events

UniSC Careers in Nursing and Midwifery

Organisation: University of the Sunshine Coast
Location: Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI), Birtinya
Date: November 17, 2026
Join us at Sunshine Coast Health Institute to explore the diverse career opportunities in nursing and midwifery and gain the tools you need to take the next step in your healthcare journey. Whether you're an enrolled nurse or contemplating a career in the industry, this is your chance to find out more about our Bachelor of Nursing Science, Bachelor of Midwifery and postgraduate programs. Plus, the entry pathways available to get started.
During our info evening you'll:

- Learn more about our programs and entry pathways
- Hear first-hand insights from UniSC students and healthcare professionals
- Discover the range of support services available to help you succeed and placement payments for selected programs.
- Tour our state-of-the-art clinical teaching facilities

- Get your questions answered with 1-on-1 support available
- Understand the key dates for Trimester 1 2027 study

Find out more

Flight Centre Travel Academy Info Night

Organisation: Flight Centre
Location: Flight Centre HQ, South Brisbane
Date: November 18, 2026
Flight Centre Travel Academy is hosting an info night for students and families to find out more about our Diploma of Travel and Tourism, delivered in partnership with Torrens University Australia.
Come along to meet the team, hear from current students about their study experience, and learn about the career pathways this qualification opens up across the industry. Our programs include real industry experience, paid work placements, and personalised coaching and career support, helping students launch careers in events, hotels, hospitality, aviation, and travel & tourism.
This is also a great gap year option, building transferrable skills through a mix of study and real work experience, including our Work, Study, Play Whitsundays program, where students can live and work in the Whitsundays islands while they study.
Find out more

CQU Open Day Online Chat Session

Organisation: CQUniversity
Location: Online
Date: November 19, 2026
We see you planning your next study move, and we know there's a lot to consider, so we're here to help. Whether you are considering starting a TAFE or university qualification at CQU, our team are here to answer your questions.
Chat with our staff about your course of interest, pathways to university, student support services, or anything else you'd like to know about studying with CQUniversity.
All you need to do is head over to our Facebook page and send us a message during the session and you'll receive real-time answers to all your questions.
Find out more

Steps to STEM – a webinar showcasing career pathways after high school

Organisation: The Innovators' Tea Party
Location: Online
Date: November 19, 2026
Featuring a specially-curated team of women studying STEM after high school
Have you ever wondered what it's really like to study STEM after high school?
Do you want to understand the different fields you could step into — from engineering to data science to health technologies?
Are you looking for real, practical advice to help you navigate your final years of school?
Steps into STEM is your chance to learn directly from women studying STEM at university and TAFE. Join us online for a free, fast-paced webinar where current tertiary students share their study fields, their pathways, and what day-to-day student life actually looks like.
Each speaker will give a short 5-minute presentation covering:

- **Their STEM field and future career direction**
- **Their best advice for Year 12 students**
- **What studying and campus life is really like**

After the presentations, students will have the chance to ask questions in a relaxed, facilitated panel discussion.

This event is designed for **high school students**, their **parents/guardians**, and **teachers**.
Find out more

Bond Medical Program Information Session for 2027 Intake

Organisation: Bond University
Location: Online
Date: November 19, 2026
The Bond University Medical Program offers students opportunities to bring to life their ambitions to become outstanding practitioners, thinkers, and leaders, well-equipped to deliver evidence-based, patient-centred health care that meets the needs of a diverse community.
We invite you to join the Dean of Medicine who will provide an overview of the Medical Program at Bond University. Get the answers to all your questions during this information and interactive chat session. It's your opportunity to ask the important questions, explore your options and discover if Bond University is the right fit for you.
Your information session topics of discussion:

- Entry requirements and tuition fees
- Program structure and subjects
- How to apply and the admissions process
- Upcoming key dates
- Pathways into the program

Find out more

Mater Education Diploma of Nursing Webinar

Organisation: Mater Education
Location: Online
Date: November 24, 2026
Register to join our November Diploma of Nursing webinar to learn more about studying nursing the Mater way. With facilities in Brisbane, Springfield and Townsville, this is your opportunity to explore your study options and take the first step towards a rewarding healthcare career.
Hear directly from our team and participate in a live Q&A session, where you can get answers to all your questions about the course, placements, student support and career pathways.
Study at one of our purpose-built facilities located at Mater Hospital Brisbane, Mater Health Hub Springfield or Mater Private Hospital Townsville, and graduate job-ready in just 18 months.
At Mater Education, you'll gain practical, hands-on experience in Mater's clinical environments with real-world simulation training integrated into classroom learning to prepare you for a rewarding career in healthcare.
We look forward to welcoming you to our webinar and helping you take the next step towards your nursing career.
Find out more

TAFE QLD Bachelor of Nursing Webinar

Organisation: TAFE Queensland
Location: Online
Date: November 25, 2026
TAFE Queensland's Bachelor of Nursing provides a pathway specifically designed for the enrolled nurse aspiring to become a registered nurse. This pathway provides eligible students with one year of credit*, allowing diploma graduates to start in the second year of the degree.

Join our webinar to:

- Learn about flexible study options and how they can work for you
- Engage with our expert educators and hear about our study options
- Discover how eligible diploma graduates can transition seamlessly into our nursing degree

Find out more

TAFE QLD Diploma of Nursing Information Night, Gold Coast

Organisation: TAFE Queensland
Location: TAFE QLD Southport Campus
Date: November 26, 2026
Discover how TAFE Queensland can help you take the first step towards a rewarding nursing career at our Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121) information sessions.
When you study the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121) on the Gold Coast, you'll learn in advanced clinical labs, gain hands-on experience through vocational placements, and be guided by industry-experienced teachers. In just 18 months, you'll build practical skills in nursing care, patient health analysis, administration and medication monitoring.

Join one of our upcoming information sessions to:

- Discover our cutting-edge technology, including augmented reality holographic patients
- Explore flexible study options designed to suit your lifestyle
- Meet our educators and learn more about Residential Schools at our Southport campus
- Find out how you'll develop job-ready skills, with vocational placements starting early in your training
- If you join us **on campus**, our friendly Customer Service staff will be on hand to help with any questions about enrolment, funding, or fees.

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

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

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

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Brisbane

Organisation: Basair Aviation College
Location: Archerfield Airport
Date: December 8, 2026
Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams? Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.
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

Griffith Uni Explore Your Options

Organisation: Griffith University
Location: Online
Date: December 16 to December 18, 2026
If your ATAR results don't go as planned, or you're reconsidering what you want to study, you have options at Griffith. Griffith study advisers can help you explore alternative entry pathways, identify ways to boost your entry rank, and map out a clear route into your preferred degree. With the right advice, you can make informed decisions and plan your next steps with confidence.
Find out more

UQ ATAR Advice Online Event for School Leavers

Organisation: University of Queensland
Location: Online
Date: December 18, 2026
Wondering what to do after you get your ATAR? Whether you’re seeking advice, information, or simply some reassurance, we can help. We'll answer all your ATAR-related questions at our free ATAR Advice online event.

What to expect:

- Live chat one-on-one with UQ Admissions staff.
- Understand your options if your ATAR is higher or lower than expected.
- Get personalised advice on the best pathway to UQ for you.
- Find out how to change your QTAC preferences, and how to respond to an offer.
- Explore our world-class facilities through virtual campus tours.

Find out more

QUT Year 12 ATAR Advice Webinar

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology
Location: Online
Date: December 18, 2026
If you're planning to study in 2027, we're here to help you finalise your decision. Join us on Friday 18 December for advice about pathways to your preferred course, ordering your QTAC preferences, guaranteed entry, study costs and support.
Find out more

2027 Science & Engineering Challenge

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology
Location: QUT Gardens Point Campus
Date: February 8 to February 12, 2027
Fun and interactive STEM challenges for high school students.
The 2027 Science & Engineering Challenge will be held at QUT Gardens Point Campus from February 8th -12th.
The annual Science and Engineering Challenge aims to inspire students in years 8, 9 and 10 to consider a future career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). We invite schools to bring between 16 and 32 students to the Challenge on one of the following dates:

- Monday, February 8th
- Tuesday, February 9th
- Wednesday, February 10th
- Thursday, February 11th
- Friday, February 12th

Find out more

Scholarships

JCU My Fortress Accounting Scholarship

Organisation: James Cook University, My Fortress Pty Ltd
Location: Queensland
Value: AU$4,000 + paid work experience
Open Date: October 1, 2026
Close Date: January 15, 2027
Find out more

Competitions

Trust for Sustainable Living 2027 Secondary Competition

Organisation: The Trust for Sustainable Living
Location: All

Value: Up to £1000 and £500 for your school
Close Date: March 1, 2027
Find out more

2027 One Teen Story Teen Writing Contest for ages 13-19

Organisation: One Story
Location: All
Value: US$500 + publication
Close Date: December 1, 2026
Find out more

Global Hack Week – Builders Week for ages 13+

Organisation: Major League Hacking (MLH)
Location: All
Value: See details
Close Date: No closing date
Find out more

Flash 500 Short Stories Competition

Organisation: Flash 500
Location: All
Value: Up to £500
Close Date: February 28, 2027
Find out more

Experiences

QIMR Berghofer Holiday Science Program

Organisation: QIMR Berghofer
Location: Queensland
Registrations close: November 13, 2026
Date: December 9, 2026
Find out more

Weekly Posts

Subject Selection, University

Do your Year 9 and 10 results count towards what comes next?

In Australia, each state and territory awards its own senior secondary certificate at the end of Year 12, such as the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in New South Wales. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is calculated separately and is used for university entry. Year 9 and 10 relate to each of these in different ways, starting with the ATAR.

Year 9 and 10 and the ATAR
The ATAR is a rank between 0 and 99.95 that shows how you performed compared with other students in your year. Universities use it, often alongside other criteria, to decide who receives an offer.
In every state and territory, your ATAR is calculated from senior secondary results, so your Year 9 and 10 results aren't part of it. Early offer schemes, which give some students a

university offer before their final results are released, are generally based on Year 11 results and school recommendations instead.
Studying a senior subject early is the one way Year 10 work can reach your ATAR. Some schools allow Year 10 students to take a Year 11 or 12 subject, and depending on your state, that result may count. Your other Year 10 results still stay out of the calculation.

What Year 9 and 10 mean for each senior certificate
The bigger differences between states are in their senior certificates.

New South Wales
In New South Wales, you need to meet a minimum standard in reading, writing, and numeracy to receive the HSC. You can sit the HSC minimum standard tests from Year 10, and once you've reached the standard in an area, you don't need to sit that test again.
If you leave school after Year 10 but before finishing the HSC, you may receive a Record of School Achievement (RoSA). It lists each Year 10 course you completed with an A to E grade, giving you a formal record of your Year 10 results.

Victoria
Most of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is completed in Years 11 and 12, but some students start Units 1 and 2 of a subject in Year 10. Those units can count towards the 16 you need for the VCE. Only Units 3 and 4 receive the study scores used for the ATAR, which the VCAA explains in more detail.

Queensland
In Queensland, your school registers a learning account for you in Year 10. It records the credits you earn towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), and credits from completed learning, such as a VET certificate, are added once the provider records the result. If you finish a recognised course in Year 10, its credits may appear in your account before you start Year 11.

South Australia
The first compulsory subject of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) is Exploring Identities and Futures, which is usually studied in Year 10. A C grade or better earns you 10 credits, so your Year 10 work in this subject goes straight towards your SACE.

Western Australia
To achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), you need to meet a literacy and numeracy standard. You can show this through the OLNA (Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment), or through strong Year 9 NAPLAN results. If you reach Band 8 or above, or the score set for the WACE standard, in reading, writing, or numeracy, you don't need to sit that part of the OLNA.

Tasmania
The Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) is based on at least two years of education and training after Year 10. That makes Year 10 mainly a planning year, when you choose the courses you'll take in Years 11 and 12.

Australian Capital Territory
In the ACT, Years 11 and 12 are usually completed at a senior college, and these are the years that make up the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and the ATAR. If you want to start a senior subject early, your school needs to apply to the Board of Senior Secondary Studies for approval.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) uses the same subjects and credit system as the SACE, so Exploring Identities and Futures is also usually studied in Year 10. Most NT students start other Stage 1 subjects that year as well. Stage 1 is the first of the certificate's two stages, and the credits you earn in it add to the 200 credits you need.

Other ways Year 9 and 10 results matter
Even in states where they don't go towards a certificate, your Year 9 and 10 results can affect what's available to you.

Choosing senior subjects
Some schools set minimum Year 10 grades for certain senior subjects, especially demanding ones like advanced maths. Because these requirements vary from school to school, your subject selection handbook or careers adviser is the place to check. Your Year 9 and 10 subjects also give you the skills and knowledge that senior courses build on.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships
A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship lets you work for an employer and train towards a qualification while you're still at school. Some programs ask Year 10 applicants for a recent school report and set minimum grades in subjects such as English and maths.

Job and apprenticeship applications
Employers may ask to see your latest school report when you apply for a part-time job or a full apprenticeship. If you're in Year 10, that report shows your Year 10 results, and it may also include comments about your attendance and effort.

Making the most of Year 9 and 10
These years shape which senior subjects you can choose and what your school reports show employers. A few things can help:

- Building strong skills in English & maths
- Trying a range of electives before choosing senior subjects
- Checking the grade requirements for senior subjects you're considering
- Finding out which Year 10 learning counts towards your certificate
- Keeping copies of your school reports

If you're starting to plan your senior years, our study resources cover more on choosing subjects and pathways.

Jobs & Careers

Turn YouTube scrolling into career goals

Picturing careers is hard. You might think you know or have a vague idea about what a doctor or an engineer does, but it could really pay to get more insight into the jobs you're interested in exploring, or discover new paths you didn't even know about. This is where YouTube could help. Lots of people now share honest, behind-the-scenes looks at their work. Below, we've pulled together a few channels worth exploring, what to look out for while you watch, and how to find career insight even if you can't get online.

Why career videos are worth watching
A job description tells you what a role involves on paper, but a video, interview, or podcast provides real insight and perspective from people actually doing the work. You can hear how they talk about their work, what they love or gets them excited, and what aspects they find tough.

Short videos are also low pressure. You can watch a two-minute clip about marine biology on the bus home and see if it sparks anything. If it doesn't, nothing's lost. If it does, perhaps you've found something to dig into.

YouTube channels worth a look
We recommend looking for channels that focus on real people talking about real work, particularly with educating the public in mind (rather than entertaining them or just getting clicks). If you're ever unsure whether a video is right for you, check with a parent, carer or teacher.

Dr Jeff Yoo
Dr Jeff Yoo is an emergency doctor based in Canada. His Shorts feature doctors from all kinds of specialties talking about what they do. If you're curious about medicine, it's a quick way to see that "doctor" covers far more than one job. Some videos talk about medical emergencies, so they may not suit everyone.

icould
icould is a UK charity with more than 1,000 video stories of people explaining their job and how they got there. You'll find everyone from carpenters to care workers. Many of the stories cover the mistakes and turning points along the way, not just the highlights.

Max Klymenko
Max Klymenko makes videos about careers, business and economics. He has four university degrees and worked in law and corporate consultancy before starting his own business. His Shorts are a quick way to pick up career ideas and see how different paths can unfold.

Salary Transparent Street
On Salary Transparent Street, on this channel regular people are stopped in the street and asked: what do you do, and how much do you make? It's a quick way to discover jobs you've never heard of and get an understanding of what people in those roles earn. Most interviews are filmed in the USA, so pay will differ where you live and we never recommend salary is the sole basis for making career decisions - watch with an open mind.

CharliMarieTV
CharliMarieTV is run by Charli, a web and graphic designer who is half Kiwi, half British and based in Valencia. She shares videos about the tools and projects she works on, plus vlogs of her life as a designer. It's a great pick if you're curious about creative work.

Remember, it's one person's story
A video is a snapshot. It shows one person, in one workplace, at one point in time out of their whole working life. Think of it like reading a single review of a restaurant. It's useful, but you shouldn't judge the whole menu on it.
A nurse in a busy city hospital will have a very different week from a nurse in a small rural clinic. Training routes and qualifications also vary from country to country, and some videos may be a few years old. So treat what you see as a starting point, not the full picture.
Videos are great, but wherever you can, it's always best to talk to people in person. A real conversation lets you ask follow-up questions and hear the things people might not say on camera. Family friends, neighbours, teachers, and local business owners are often happy to chat about their work. In fact if you're polite and chat with anyone about their day, an open-ended question about what they do and how they got there could provide a wealth of knowledge.

What to look out for when you watch

It's easy to scroll through video after video without really taking anything in. Try watching with a few questions in mind instead:

- **What does a normal day look like?** Look past the exciting moments. Most jobs involve plenty of everyday tasks, like emails, meetings or paperwork.
- **How did they get there?** Notice whether they went to university, did an apprenticeship, changed careers or took a less direct route.
- **Which school subjects helped?** This can show you how the things you're learning now link to real work.
- **What do they find hard?** Every job has tricky parts. Ask yourself whether those are challenges you'd be happy to take on.
- **What skills do they use?** Teamwork, problem-solving and communication come up again and again, across very different jobs.
- **How do you feel watching it?** If you find yourself wanting to know more, that's worth paying attention to.

If you're really keen to explore something further it's worth making a note on your phone or in a notebook. Over time, you might spot patterns in what interests you, and if not you'll still be learning about just some of the options out there.

No internet? You still have options
You don't need Wi-Fi to explore careers. Some of the best insight comes from offline sources.

- **Your school careers adviser** can point you towards useful resources and people to speak with.
- **Libraries** often have career guides, biographies, and books about different industries.
- **Careers expos and open days** let you meet people from lots of different fields in one place.
- **Work experience** gives you a first-hand feel for what a workplace is really like.
- **The adults around you** are a great place to start. Make a list of people you know and what they do, have a chat or ask if they'd be happy for you to send them some questions, you might be surprised what you find out.

Ready to start exploring?
When your YouTube scrolling becomes future focused, your parents might even get on board! Watch with curiosity, learn about jobs and pathways you'd never heard of, note down what grabs your attention, and then take the next step by talking to someone who does that work. Every conversation adds another piece to the picture.
Want a closer look at what different jobs involve? Check out our Job Spotlights to keep exploring.

Job Spotlights

How to become a Quality Inspector

Quality Inspectors check food products against safety, quality, and regulatory standards, testing samples and inspecting production lines to catch problems before they reach consumers. They work at the points where contamination, spoilage, or labelling errors are most likely to occur, recording their findings and helping businesses fix issues quickly.
If you're detail-oriented, methodical, and take pride in getting things exactly right, this career could be a strong fit for you.

What skills do I need as a Quality Inspector?

- Highly detail-oriented
- Methodical & thorough

- Strong ethical standards
- Confident communicator
- Analytical thinking
- Follows procedures closely
- Calm under pressure
- Careful record-keeper

What do Quality Inspectors do?
Before inspections begin, you're reviewing the day's schedule, checking previous batch results, and gathering the testing equipment you'll need. You'll also familiarise yourself with the standards and specifications for whatever product line you're inspecting that day, since requirements can vary between different foods, suppliers, and production stages, and even between different batches of the same product.
Through the day, you're inspecting products and production lines, taking samples, and running tests to check they meet safety and quality standards. You'll record your results carefully, flag anything that doesn't meet specifications, and let production staff know straight away so issues can be fixed before more product is affected. Clear, accurate documentation is essential, since your records are relied on by managers, auditors, and regulators alike, sometimes long after the batch has left the facility.
When something goes wrong, such as a contamination issue or a customer complaint, you might be involved in investigating what happened and why. Periodically, you could also take part in audits of processes or suppliers, or help update documentation to keep pace with changing regulations. Some Quality Inspectors move into more specialist auditing roles over time.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?
Quality Inspectors work across food processing plants, packing facilities, and manufacturing sites, checking products at various points as they move through production. Some work for regulatory bodies or independent auditing companies, inspecting multiple businesses rather than being based at one site. Most roles are based within a single facility, giving you a consistent environment and routine to work within day to day, rather than moving between different locations and employers.
Hours generally follow standard business patterns, though they can be shaped by production schedules, particularly in facilities that run early shifts or extended hours to process perishable goods. Once you're familiar with a facility's processes and standards, the role tends to offer a fairly predictable routine, without the unpredictable peaks and troughs that some other food roles experience across the year.
The work involves a mix of desk-based tasks, like recording results and writing reports, and time spent on the production floor, which might mean wearing protective clothing and working in cold storage or busy processing areas. Travel isn't usually a big part of the role, unless you're inspecting multiple sites for a regulator or auditing company. Salaries tend to be around average, and the industry outlook is steady, since food safety and quality standards are consistently required across the whole food sector, regardless of economic conditions.

How to become a Quality Inspector
- **Study relevant subjects in school**: Focus on science subjects like biology and chemistry, along with maths, which help build the analytical and record-keeping skills used in testing products and reporting on results accurately.
- **Start in a production or processing role**: Many Quality Inspectors begin working in food production or processing, which builds a practical understanding of how products are made, handled, and stored, and where issues are most likely to occur along the line.

- **Gain a vocational qualification**: Study a certificate or diploma in food processing, laboratory skills, or quality assurance, often while working, to build the technical knowledge and formal qualifications the role requires.
- **Build specialist knowledge**: Develop expertise in food safety systems and auditing standards, which are highly valued by employers and can open the door to more senior or specialised inspection roles over time.

From here, you could move into senior quality assurance or compliance roles within a business, take on formal auditing responsibilities, or move into food safety consulting or regulatory work across the wider industry.

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

- Study science subjects like biology and chemistry to build the analytical foundation the role relies on.
- Look for work experience or part-time work with a local food manufacturer or processing business to see quality checks happening firsthand.
- Research basic food safety concepts, such as how contamination is prevented and tracked, to build early familiarity with the field.

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

Time Management

Parkinson's law and the deadlines you set yourself

Teachers set the final due dates, but the smaller deadlines in between, like when to finish your research or how long to spend on a revision topic, are usually up to you. Parkinson's law is a helpful way to think about setting them, and the idea itself started somewhere quite different.

Where it came from
Parkinson's law is named after C. Northcote Parkinson, a naval historian. In 1955, he wrote an essay for The Economist magazine poking fun at how government departments grow. It opened with the line "work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion".
His main example was the government department that ran a navy. Between 1914 and 1928, its number of officials grew from around 2,000 to more than 3,500, even though the amount of work hadn't grown with it. Parkinson's point was that the staff kept themselves busy anyway, creating work for each other to fill the time.
Over time, people started applying his opening line to individuals rather than whole organisations, and that's the version most people mean today. It's also unrelated to Parkinson's disease, which is named after a different person.

Why it happens
When you have more time than a task needs, it's easy to fill that time without noticing. You might spend longer on research than you need to, rewrite sections that were already fine, or add extra steps that don't change the result.
Researchers have tested this idea and found that when people are given more time for a task, they tend to set themselves easier goals and work at a slower pace. Some studies also showed that extra time on one task can carry over, with people taking longer on the next similar task too. The research is fairly limited, so Parkinson's law is best treated as a common tendency rather than something that happens every time.

How it plays out with a school assignment
Imagine you're given three weeks to write a 1,000-word report. The same report could be handled in two different ways.

With an open timeframe
With three weeks available, there's no pressure to finish any stage. You might keep finding new sources long after you have enough, rewrite your introduction several times, or spend an evening adjusting headings and formatting. None of it feels like wasted time, but the report ends up taking three weeks because three weeks was there.

With a shorter, direct timeframe
Now imagine you set your own deadline for each stage, starting with having your plan and research done by Friday of the first week. When Friday arrives, you stop collecting sources and start working with what you have, because your deadline has told you when that stage is finished. If the research isn't quite done, you give it a couple more days and move on to writing.

Ways to use it and avoid it using you
The aim is to give each task a short, specific timeframe that matches the work it needs, instead of the time that happens to be available.

Decide what "done" looks like
Before you start, write down what finishing the task means. "Work on my history assignment" could go on all afternoon, while "write the introduction and first body paragraph" has a clear end point. The more specific the goal, the harder it is for the work to spread.

Set your own earlier checkpoints
Break long tasks into stages and give each one its own deadline, well before the final due date or exam. For two weeks of exam revision, that could look like:

- Topics 1 to 3 summarised by the end of week 1
- 1 full practice paper done by the middle of week 2
- Weak areas reviewed by 2 days before the exam

Treat draft dates as real deadlines
If your teacher offers a draft submission date, treat it as the due date for a complete draft. It's a checkpoint that's already been set for you, and the feedback you get back could show you what to focus on in the time that's left.

Give study sessions a fixed length
Open-ended study sessions are easy to stretch out. Instead, decide how long the session will run and what you'll cover, such as 45 minutes on one chemistry topic. When the time's up, stop and check how far you got.

Base timeframes on past tasks
Look back at similar tasks to estimate how long the next one could take. If your last essay plan took two afternoons, giving the next one a single afternoon is likely too tight, while giving it a week leaves too much room. Past tasks give you a realistic starting point, so your timeframes can stay short without being impossible.

Extend when you reach the end
A short timeframe won't always be enough, and that's fine. If you reach the end of one and the task isn't finished, set a new, specific deadline for what's left. Starting short and extending when you need to keeps each stage contained, while starting with a long, open timeframe gives the work room to expand from day one. It also helps to note why the task ran over, since that makes your next estimate more accurate.

When tighter deadlines don't help

Shorter timeframes work best on tasks where extra time tends to get filled with over-researching or over-polishing. They don't suit every situation.
Learning something new. Understanding a difficult concept often takes practice spread over several sessions, so squeezing it into one tight window can leave gaps.
Creative or open-ended work. Ideas can need time to develop, and some of that time won't look productive while it's happening.
Several deadlines at once. If every task has a tight timeframe in the same week, something is likely to get rushed.
Group work. When a task depends on other people's parts, a tight personal timeframe can't speed up the sections you don't control, so leave room in the plan for them.
If a timeframe is causing mistakes or leaving out important steps, it's too tight. The point is to cut out empty time while keeping the time a task needs for thinking and checking.

Outside of school
The same pattern can show up anywhere a task comes with flexible timing, including part-time jobs and, later on, full-time work. Habits like defining what "done" looks like and setting your own checkpoints could carry over to both.
If you're looking for more ways to plan your study, our study resources cover more on staying organised at school.

Future of Work

Does high demand always mean a career is easy to get into?

A career can have plenty of vacancies and still be hard for a new applicant to enter. Whether you could get in depends on why the demand exists, which matters most when demand is part of your reason for choosing a senior subject, picking a course or applying for a job.

What "high demand" can mean
The phrase usually refers to one of two things, and careers material and job ads don't always say which.
A current shortage means employers can't fill vacancies for an occupation right now, or are finding it very difficult, even when the pay, conditions and location are reasonable. This is how Jobs and Skills Australia, the government body that tracks the job market, defines a shortage.
Projected growth means an occupation is expected to employ more people over the next five or 10 years. Projections estimate how many jobs there may be, without showing how many people may compete for them.

Why demand doesn't always mean easy entry
The same body sorts shortages into four Occupation Shortage Drivers based on their most likely cause: the Long Training Gap, Short Training Gap, Suitability Gap and Retention Gap. Three of them can make a role hard to enter even when employers need staff, while the fourth tends to work in a new applicant's favour. Where a shortage is located matters as well.

Qualifying takes years
Some shortages exist because too few people hold the qualification, and gaining it takes a long time. A role that needs a five-year degree followed by supervised practice may be short of workers today, but a student starting that pathway won't be ready to apply for years. If a career like this interests you, plan around the length of the pathway first.

Employers want experience
In other cases, enough people hold the right qualification, but employers find many of them unsuitable because they don't have the skills or experience the role needs. The vacancies

that stay open are often for experienced workers, so a new graduate could still face strong competition for entry-level roles. The official shortage data recognises this, noting that competition can remain high when an occupation requires a lot of experience or specialisation.

People don't stay in the role
Sometimes there are enough trained workers, but people leave the role soon after starting because of the working conditions. Vacancies keep reopening, so the occupation shows up as in demand. Work experience, or a conversation with someone already in the job, can show you what the day-to-day conditions are like before you commit to a pathway.

The shortage is limited to one area
A shortage may apply only in regional areas, meaning outside major cities, or only in metropolitan areas, meaning in and around major cities. An occupation can also be short of workers overall while some specialisations within it aren't. If the demand is mostly regional, getting a role could depend on being willing to move.

When demand does work in your favour
Demand is most useful to a new applicant when the shortage comes from too few people completing a qualification that's relatively quick to finish. In that situation, the main barrier is the number of people trained, so completing the qualification could improve your chances. The same applies when the jobs are in a location you'd be happy to live in.

How to check demand yourself
The Occupation Shortage List is free to search and is updated every year, so check that you're viewing the latest version. Each occupation receives one of four ratings:

- Shortage
- Metropolitan shortage
- Regional shortage
- No shortage

You can also view ratings for each state and territory. For growth, the employment projections show how employment in an occupation is expected to change over the coming decade.
Job ads fill in the rest. Search for a role you're interested in and note how many ads ask for years of experience, a particular specialisation or a specific location. Comparing those ads with the shortage rating could show you whether the openings suit someone starting out.

Weighing demand alongside other factors
Demand is one piece of information. When planning your next step, weigh it alongside what interests you, what you're good at and how long the pathway takes. If a career already appeals to you, demand can strengthen the case for it. If demand is the main appeal, look closely at which of the causes above sits behind it.
If you're comparing career options, our Jobs & Careers page covers more on how different roles work and how people get into them.

Communication Skills

How to write a professional email to your teacher

Teachers can't always be caught between classes, so email is often the easiest way to ask for help, request and extension or catch up after a missed lesson. You might also need to email other school staff, such as a Year Coordinator, Careers Advisor, Sports Coach or the front office.

A professional email is clear, polite and well organised, and it's more formal than a message to a friend. Writing this way shows you've taken care with your request, which can make the reader more willing to help.

Writing your email
Before you start, check whether the answer is already in your class notes or task sheet.

Subject line
The subject line tells your teacher what the email is about before they open it. Keep it short and specific, and include your class or subject. For example:

- 10B English: question about persuasive essay
- Year 10 Science: missed practical on Tuesday

Vague subject lines like "Help" or "Question" are easy to overlook.

Greeting
Start with "Dear" or "Hello", followed by the title and surname your teacher uses in class, such as "Dear Ms Nguyen". "Hi Ms Nguyen" is fine for a teacher you know well, but "Hey" or "Hi Miss" is too casual for an email.

Addressing a teacher you haven't met
If you're emailing someone you don't know yet, check the school website, newsletter or your class materials for their name, and make sure you spell it correctly. Use "Dear" rather than "Hi" for a first email. If you're not sure which title they use, their full name works, such as "Dear Alex Nguyen". If you can't find a name at all, address them by their role, such as "Dear Careers Adviser".

Body
Open by saying who you are, for example "My name is Sam Taylor and I'm in 10B English." Then explain why you're writing, give any details your teacher needs, and finish with a clear question or request. A few short sentences or paragraphs are usually enough. Phrases like "could you" and "would it be possible" come across as polite, while "I need you to" can sound demanding.
Some examples:

- Asking for help: "I'm not sure how to structure the counterargument in my persuasive essay. Could you suggest an example I could look at?"
- Requesting an extension: "I've been unwell this week and won't be able to finish my Science research task by Friday. Would it be possible to have until Wednesday?"
- Catching up after a missed class: "I was away on Tuesday and missed the practical. Could you let me know what I need to catch up on?"
- Asking about a grade: "I'd like to understand how I could improve on my last assessment. Would you be able to go through the feedback with me?"

Some schools have a formal process for extensions, such as a form or a note from a parent or carer, so check how your school handles them before you email.
Leave out emojis, slang, text abbreviations and all caps.

Sign-off
End by thanking your teacher, then sign off with "Kind regards" or "Thank you", followed by your full name and class. For example:
Thank you for your help.
Kind regards,
Sam Taylor
10B English

Before you send

A quick checklist before you hit send
Read your email through once more and check that:

- It's going to the right person
- It sticks to one topic
- Anything you mention, such as a draft, is attached
- Your spelling & grammar are correct
- It sounds polite when you read it aloud

If you're upset about something, such as a mark, wait until you've calmed down before you send anything.

Following up politely when a teacher hasn't replied
Teachers spend most of their day in class, and may be in meetings or marking outside of it, so a reply can take time. It's reasonable to allow two to three school days before following up.
Reply to your original email so your teacher can see what you asked, and keep it short:
"I'm following up on my email from Monday asking for feedback on my last assessment. I'd appreciate a reply when you have a chance."
If something is urgent, such as a deadline the next day, speak to your teacher in person or ask another staff member for help.
The same habits carry over to emailing a manager if you get a part-time job later on. If you'd like to build more communication skills, our human skills articles cover more.

Study Tips

Why you should use TEEL to write better paragraphs

A strong essay is built one paragraph at a time, and each paragraph works best when it focuses on a single idea. TEEL is a structure that helps you do this, and it can be used in most subjects that ask for extended writing, from English and history to science and business.

What TEEL stands for
TEEL stands for topic sentence, explanation, evidence and link. Each part has a specific job, and together they make sure a paragraph makes one clear point and backs it up. You may also come across variations such as PEEL (point, explanation, evidence, link). They use different labels, but they all do the same job.

The four parts of a TEEL paragraph
The examples below come from an essay on Shakespeare's Macbeth, but the same structure works in any subject.

Topic sentence
The first sentence states the main idea of the paragraph. Someone reading only this sentence should know what the paragraph is about.
In Macbeth, Shakespeare shows that guilt cannot be escaped.

Explanation
Next, expand on your topic sentence. Explain what you mean or define key terms, so the reader understands your point before you support it.
As the play progresses, Lady Macbeth's confidence gives way to a guilt she is unable to control.

Evidence

Back up your point with evidence. In English, this is often a quote. In science, it might be data, and in history, a primary source. Follow it with a sentence showing how it supports your point, and make sure you reference it properly.
Her cry of “Out, damned spot!” while sleepwalking shows her guilt surfacing even when she is unaware of it.

Link
Finish by linking back to your topic sentence or forward to the next paragraph.
Guilt in the play follows the characters wherever they go, an idea Shakespeare develops further through Macbeth himself.

Using TEEL to plan paragraphs before writing them
Before you start writing, jot down a few words for each part of TEEL for every paragraph you plan to write. A plan for the paragraph above might simply read: guilt cannot be escaped, Lady Macbeth’s change, “Out, damned spot!”, leads into Macbeth.
Planning this way shows gaps early. If you can’t find evidence for a point, you may need to adjust the point or do more research. It’s also an easy way to check that each paragraph has only one idea. If a plan has two, split it into two paragraphs.

How TEEL paragraphs fit into a full essay
Most essays have three parts: an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion. TEEL is used for the body paragraphs, where you build your argument one point at a time.
Arrange your body paragraphs in an order that makes sense for your argument, such as grouping related ideas together or moving from broader points to more specific ones.
The link sentence is what holds the essay together. When it leads into the next paragraph, and the next topic sentence picks up from there, your reader can move through the essay without losing track of your argument. A few other habits help with this:

- Transition words such as “however”, “similarly” & “as a result” show how each point relates to the last
- Key terms from the question, used throughout, keep every paragraph tied to what’s being asked
- Topic sentences, read in order, should work as a summary of your whole argument

If they don’t read as a summary, your paragraphs may be in the wrong order or drifting from the question.

When to adapt TEEL
TEEL is flexible, and strong writing often adjusts it to suit the point being made.
Each part can take more than one sentence. A complex point might need two sentences of explanation, or several pieces of evidence, each followed by its own explanation.
Not every paragraph needs to link forward. Your final body paragraph may link back to the question instead, leading into your conclusion.
Introductions and conclusions follow their own structures, so TEEL doesn’t apply to them.
Some tasks, such as reports or practical write-ups, use headings and set sections, and TEEL may only suit the paragraphs where you discuss or analyse results. If you’re unsure what structure a task expects, check the task sheet or ask your teacher.
If you’re working on essays and assignments, our study tips cover more ways to plan and manage your assessments.

Work

The Jobs and Skills Report 2026 explained

Every year, Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) publishes a big report on the state of work in Australia. The 2026 edition is called Pathways to Success. It’s written mainly for the benefit of governments, employers, and education providers, but a lot of what it says is relevant for

you too. After all, you're the people who will be stepping into these jobs over the next few years.
The report is 98 pages long and packed with data, which is overwhelming to most people except data analysts. So we've picked out some of the key findings and explain below what each one could mean for your future plans.

Australia's job market is in good shape
There's good news, Australia's job market is reportedly going strong. The number people who are working (and looking for work) is close to record highs. Unemployment also stayed at or below 4.5% from December 2021 to July 2026, for context that's the longest stretch since the 1970s.
So what does this mean for you? A strong job market means there are plenty of employers are hiring, which means more opportunities for you to get a foot in the door, whether that's in a casual job, an apprenticeship, or your first full-time role.
Of course, the job market shifts over time and we can't predict with 100% accuracy what the next 5 or 10 years will look like, but a strong starting point is great. It's the skills you build from now on that will prepare you for whatever comes next. It's worth staying up to date with the latest labour market news and data so there are no surprises and you have time to pivot if there are skills you need to focus on more.

Fewer skills shortages, but plenty of gaps to fill
A skills shortage happens when employers can't find enough people with the right skills for a job. The report found that the share of jobs in shortage fell from 36% in 2023 to 29% in 2025. That's a big improvement. Even so, 71% - almost 3 in 10 occupations are still short of workers with the necessary skills.
For you, every one of those gaps could represent an opportunity. If you upskill and train for jobs that employers are struggling to fill, your skills are likely to be in demand when you finish school. Jobs and Skills Australia publishes a list of occupations in shortage, so it's worth having a look at that too. Then compare and of the jobs that sound interesting to you with the subjects and activities you enjoy. If you discover some overlap, then they could be pathways worth exploring further or talking to your careers advisor about.

Making the most of your skills
In 2025, Jobs and Skills Australia's Gender Economic Equality Study found that around 1 in 3 women (33%) and 1 in 4 men (27%) work in jobs that don't fully utilise their existing qualifications, capabilities, and experience. Qualifications build skills, what's missing is the right match between the person and their job, and that's something you can be aware of and start thinking about now.
A few habits could help you find the right jobs to suit your skill levels:

- **Research before you enrol.** Look at the jobs and expected outcomes a course leads to before enrolling and check they're the kind of work you want. You might want to research a few job adverts for similar roles or look on the website and career pages of organisations working in the field.
- **Keep a skills record.** Note what you've learnt at school, in sport, through volunteering, or in casual work, so you can explain your strengths clearly and provide real life examples.
- **Get experience.** Work experience and part-time jobs show employers what you're capable of and that you can put what you've learned to good use.
- **Keep reaching higher.** Once you're working, ask about training or new tasks that use more of your skills.
- **Don't rule yourself out.** Job adverts can be full of jargon and technical sounding descriptions, and you could be tempted to not apply if you feel like you can't meet all of the criteria. If you meet 70% of what they're asking for you should definitely still

apply, just remember to tailor your application, resume, and cover letter to the job and show them how you'd be a great addition to the team.

The biggest takeaway from the report is simple, get to know your own skills and strengths, practise talking about them, and keep up to date notes and examples of when you've demonstrated them. When you can clearly explain what you're capable of, you're in a much better position to find a job that's a good match and makes the most of everything you have to offer.

Employers want thinkers as well as doers

Over the past ten years, construction trade job ads that mention critical thinking and problem-solving have more than tripled. Hands-on skills still matter, of course. An electrician needs to know how to wire a building safely. But employers now also want people who can work out why something isn't working, come up with a fix and make good decisions on the job.

The report also looks at the big forces changing the skills Australia needs. These include the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), the shift to a cleaner economy, and global uncertainty. As these changes play out, human skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability will be useful and transferable in almost any career.

The good news is that you can build these skills right now. From group assignments, debating clubs, coding projects, part-time work, and even fixing your bike all give you practice at solving problems as well as solid examples to refer back to.

Learning after school opens doors

Another Jobs and Skills Australia report from this year, Australian Jobs 2026, adds an important piece to the puzzle. It found that more than 90% of expected job growth over the ten years to May 2035 will be in jobs that need some extra education or training after secondary school.

That doesn't mean everyone needs a university degree. Post-school learning includes TAFE courses, apprenticeships, traineeships, and short courses as well as university. Some people also start working first and build their qualifications along the way.

There's no single right route. It depends on your situation and personal preferences. Many people move between study and work several times during their careers, picking up new skills as they go.

Your next step

The Jobs and Skills Report 2026 shows that Australia's job market is strong, skills shortages are easing and employers want people who can think, adapt and keep learning. Most of all, it shows that your skills are valuable. But knowing how to use them, demonstrate them, and look for jobs that will utilise them is just as important as having them in the first place.

You don't need to have everything worked out yet. A great place to start is exploring the different jobs out there and the skills each one needs. Head to our Jobs & Careers page for more ideas, tips and real-world insights to help you plan your next move. Or check out the Human Skills page to find out more about what they are and how to give them a boost.