

# BMGS CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, 15 June 2022

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## Open Days & Info Sessions

### eSafety Commissioner | Safer online gaming

Friday 17 June 2022, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Online

Help your kids stay safe by learning about the benefits and risks of online gaming.

This webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 8 to 13 years of age.

It will cover:

- the games young people are using and how they are engaging with them
- the benefits of gaming and how to mitigate the risks
- practical strategies to use at home and where to find help and support if things go wrong.

Find out more: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars#safer-online-gaming>

### University of Sydney | Meet Sydney – Coffs Harbour

Thursday 23 June 2022, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

St. John Paul College

The University of Sydney is coming to Coffs Harbour! Students and their parents/guardians and teachers are invited to come along and hear from current students and alumni about their experience in choosing Sydney and moving away from home. Learn about admission schemes, scholarships, accommodation, student life and the types of careers available to Sydney graduates. We will also have representatives from some of our faculties answering questions on their subject area, degrees and careers.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/meet-sydney-coffs-harbour-tickets-349161680987>

### Charles Sturt | 2022 Open Days

**Port Macquarie:** Sunday 7 August 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Wagga Wagga:** Sunday 14 August 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Albury-Wodonga:** Sunday 21 August 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Bathurst:** Sunday 28 August 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Orange:** Sunday 4 September 2022, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Dubbo:** Sunday 11 September 2022, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Are you ready to check out Charles Sturt? From course information sessions to campus tours – Open Day will showcase what Charles Sturt is all about!

Future students can get a real look at what we offer, while joining in the festivities of Open Day.

Everyone is welcome!

Find out more: <https://study.csu.edu.au/life/events/open-day>

## WSU | Open Day 2022

Sunday 14 August 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Western Sydney University, Parramatta Campus

Our Open Day on Sunday 14 August, 2022 is your chance to discover everything Western has to offer.

Register now to explore presentations and student panels, meet academics and current students and find out all about Western's early offer pathway, HSC True Reward.

Find out more: <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/openday>

## ADFA Open Day 2022

Saturday 20 August 2022, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

ADFA & Online

The 2022 ADFA Open Day is on Saturday 20th August. There will also be an online / virtual version of the Open Day for people who are unable to visit Canberra on this date.

Can't make Open Day? Check out the virtual tour

Be the first to hear by registering at <https://defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/australian-defence-force-academy>

## Workshops and Courses

### Charles Sturt | HSC Study Days

Tuesday 5 July 2022, 9:00 am - Thursday 7 July 2022, 4:00 pm

Charles Sturt University, Bathurst & Wagga Wagga Campuses

Boost your exam marks with the help from expert HSC markers.

Hear from accomplished HSC markers at Charles Sturt University's HSC Study Days! Our guest presenters have years of experience leading HSC marking, sitting on exam committees and writing textbooks, so you'll leave these free sessions exam-ready.

- Learn strategies and tips from HSC experts.
- Practise questions and receive example responses.
- Improve your knowledge and understanding of key syllabus content.
- Receive detailed notes and sample questions for each module/topic.

97 per cent of students who have attended this event in prior years have improved their expected Year 12 exam results!

Find out more: <https://cvent.csu.edu.au/event/41690a59-0751-436f-a89e-ba156924359f/summary>

## Competitions

### Ayn Rand Essay Contest 2022

Have you ever read one of Ayn Rand's thought-provoking novels? Now's the time! Enter an Ayn Rand Institute essay contest and you'll have a chance to win thousands of dollars in scholarship prize money.

ARI has held worldwide essay contests for students on Ayn Rand's fiction for more than thirty years.

This year we will award more than \$40,000 to student winners.

**Entries are open until 26 September.**

Find out more and enter here: <https://aynrand.org/students/essay-contests/>

## National Pitchfest Schools Competition

The Pitchfest Schools Competition is a nation-wide, pitching competition for primary and secondary school students.

From February until December 2022, schools and students from around Australia will have the opportunity to participate in a pitching competition to solve specific challenges set by companies. Students enter the competition by choosing the company category challenge and submitting their idea in the form of a one-minute pitch video.

Students will be mentored through the competition process and any student who enters the competition will have the opportunity to appear on the Pitchfest show!

Open to primary and secondary students, the competition **closes on Wednesday 30 November 2022**.

Find out more: <https://www.spillthebeans.events/pitch-fest/>

## 2022 Respect Stories Competition

Students aged 10-14 years old are encouraged to enter the 2022 Respect Stories competition.

To enter, students are invited to produce a short story, poem or essay of up to 1,000 words, or an illustration, exploring what respect means to them.

This is a great opportunity for students to reflect on and share their understanding of respect – while also encouraging parents and teachers to have open, ongoing and proactive conversations on this important issue.

Eight written and two illustrative winning entries will be published in a national Respect Stories book.

The winners will also take home a \$500 VISA gift card for themselves and one for their school.

Entries are now open and close on **Friday 22 July 2022**.

Find out more: <https://www.respect.gov.au/respectstories/>

## Careers & Jobs

### Australian Border Force Officer Recruit Training Program

Working for the Australian Border Force (ABF) can give you the opportunity to work across the country or the world. You will be on the front line protecting Australia's border, whether it be:

- processing passengers at an air or seaport
- clearing cargo at an air or sea port
- clearing mail at a clearance centre
- patrolling the Australian coastline in an ABF vessel
- working at a district office
- investigating illegal border activity
- working at a detention centre
- locating and detaining unlawful non-citizens.

The Border Force Officer Recruit Training (BFORT) program is an entry level program. It prepares you for a career in the ABF.

To apply for a Border Force Officer Recruit position you must:

- be an Australian citizen – you must show evidence of this during the recruitment process
- be 18 years of age or older
- have a minimum Year 10 Certificate with a Cert IV/Diploma level qualification or Trade Certificate and/or relevant work experience
- be able to obtain an [Australian Government security clearance](#) and an [Employee Suitability Clearance](#).

BFORT positions are typically advertised twice a year, generally in May and November. However this can change due to operational priorities.

You can read all about the role and the entry requirements, as well as keeping an eye out for applications, here: <https://www.abf.gov.au/about-us/careers/a-career-with-us/entry-level>

### **Indigenous Careers Programs at CommBank**

Commonwealth Bank offers lots of great opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through their various Careers Programs.

CommBank offer School Based Traineeships, Full-Time and Part-Time Traineeships, and University Internships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, helping you fast-track your career.

Find out more here: <https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/careers/working-here/indigenoucareers.html>

### **Career Stories from myfuture**

Looking for career inspiration? Check out these career stories from myfuture – there are over 100 and you'll find stories about real careers from all industries.

Read them all here – [myfuture.edu.au/career-stories](https://myfuture.edu.au/career-stories)

## **Further Learning**

### **All about School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships**

Are you interested in knowing what a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) is really like? We get first-hand insight from two current SBAT students in south-west Sydney, a past SBAT student who now runs his own mechanic business, and one of the Educational Pathway Program's SBAT Engagement Officers.

Watch the full video here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/career-and-study-pathways/educational-pathways-program/resources/all-about-sbats>

### **How to be recruited as a student-athlete in the USA**

Australia has a strong sporting culture, and playing college sport at US institutions can be a great fit for Aussies.

But how do you communicate with US college coaches? Can you be recruited by US colleges from Australia? What are the three sporting associations?

In this episode, hear from Aussie Heather Marini, a Division 1 quarterback coach for Brown University's NCAA football team and former sports coach in Melbourne.

Join Marini as she unpacks the recruitment process, talks about how you can find your best fit sports program and US institution, and demystifies how college coaches recruit students.

Listen here: <https://podfollow.com/graduate-in-the-usa/episode/e491bd967d0d715eaf2b9f03429fd8aa0c0cd43a/view>

## ATAR Calculators

If you're in Year 12, there's usually one big thing on your mind: what will my ATAR be? Most universities and other institutions take applications well before exams are over and you receive your official ATAR. So how can you know whether you're on the right track?

This is what ATAR calculators are for. They take the results of any assessment you've done so far and use this information to estimate what your final ATAR might be. It's an easy way of seeing whether you're on track to get the ATAR you need for your course or future pathway.

### Are the results accurate?

Most of the ATAR calculators out there use data gathered from previous years to give you an idea of where you might fall on the scale.

Because assessment results and scaling change from year to year, it's important to remember that the predicted ATAR you're given from a calculator **most likely won't be the same as your actual final ATAR**. However, they're still good to get a general idea of what to expect.

It also depends on the calculator you use. We put the same subjects and same scores into four different calculators, and they all came out with slightly different results:

Calculator	95 Score	90 Score	80 Score	70 Score	65 Score
<a href="#">ATAR Notes HSC</a>	99.35	95.35	80.15	63.45	57.2
<a href="#">HSC Ninja</a>	99.65	96.05	80.55	62.75	55.25
<a href="#">Matrix</a>	99.55	95.4	80.85	64.1	57
<a href="#">Chalkwall</a>	99.35	95.35	79.55	61.45	53.4

Subjects used: English Advanced, Mathematics Advanced, Biology, Physics, Drama, Ancient History. They might not seem like huge differences, but particularly if your results are lower, there is a larger gap between estimates using different calculators.

### What else are they useful for?

ATAR calculators can also be handy to see how different subjects scale. We used the same results and subjects as above, but this time with only Standard English and Mathematics, to see how the estimated ATAR would change:

Calculator	95 Score	90 Score	80 Score	70 Score	65 Score
<a href="#">ATAR Notes HSC</a>	99.2	95.15	79.4	59.7	50.95
<a href="#">HSC Ninja</a>	99.6	95.65	79.5	59.3	49
<a href="#">Matrix</a>	99.5	95.3	80.15	59.65	50.3
<a href="#">Chalkwall</a>	99.35	95.45	79.65	60	49.75

By using the calculator, you get a good visualisation of how taking subjects that scale higher can raise your ATAR.

### Where can I find one?

Here are some ATAR calculators we've found that you might want to take a look at:

- [ATAR Notes ATAR Calculator](#) (for HSC, VCE, QCE and WACE)
- [Deakin University ATAR Calculator](#) (VCE)
- There are a heap more you can check out [here](#).

*Important:* Study Work Grow doesn't endorse any particular calculator, and keep in mind that the result you get **might not be accurate and shouldn't be exclusively relied on.**

### A final note

Remember that your ATAR isn't everything! If your ATAR isn't quite enough to get into your dream course, this doesn't mean you have to give up. There are lots of [Alternative Pathways](#) you can take to reach your goals.

You might even like to consider a pathway that doesn't require an ATAR, like studying a [VET course](#), doing an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#), or even jumping into a [job](#).

### Ai Group Apprenticeships and Traineeships

With over 35,000 apprentices and trainees across Australia, Ai Group place people with host organisations in every state and territory.

They have a great range of openings – check them out here – [aigroupapprentices.com.au/all-jobs/](https://aigroupapprentices.com.au/all-jobs/)

## Resources

### Overseas Experience with GVI

Thinking of taking a gap year once you finish school? Maybe you'd like to travel and see the world, while making a difference at the same time.

You can with GVI – they offer tons of volunteering abroad programs, where you can do anything from working with endangered animals to teaching English to kids.

If you still need some more convincing, have a listen to Brooklyn's story about her experience with GVI:  
*Hi there! Brooklyn here from GVI.*

*I've just returned from visits to GVI's bases in Thailand and the team asked me to share some of my story with you.*

*I'm going to be honest – when I finished school, I had absolutely NO idea what I wanted to do with my life.*

*I grew up in the UK and always loved animals, but somehow ended up working as a personal shopper. I was unhappy. I craved real connections, and longed to be closer to nature.*

*And that's literally how it felt when I joined my first GVI program in Curieuse, Seychelles.*

*Suddenly, I was contributing to conservation projects with a group of GVI change-makers on a tropical island with no roads or shops. There were more giant tortoises around me than humans!*

*I've joined seven more programs at GVI hubs all over the world since then. I even convinced my dad to go on a GVI program to teach English to novice Buddhist monks.*

*Over the years, I've been a participant, an ambassador, a country expert, a field staff member and an outreach manager with GVI. I've been stretched, liberated, transformed, inspired, supported and guided.*

*And, like thousands of other global citizens, I call GVI my fam now.*

Learn more about the programs on offer through GVI Australia here: <https://www.gviaustralia.com.au/>

## Resources to help with Year 10 subject selection

We've put together some useful resources to help with your Year 10 subject selection option, first of all we recommend you read [Alan Finkel's \(Australian Chief Scientist\) advice to Julie in Year 10](#). It could put you in the right mind set and help you prioritise better.

### The basics about subject selection

Confused about subject selection? Then read this short blog with [5 tips for Year 10 subject selection](#), it could help. We have also put together a handy workbook which can walk you through the process and take away the pressure – [get it here](#).

### Need some extra help?

There are lots of experts (aside from your qualified and experience teachers and parents) out publishing information and tools that could help you make decisions; so you'll end up studying the subjects that are *right for you*.

First of all see what information your school provides, if you think you need more guidance – check these out:

### Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs)

- [QTAC's My Path – Year 10 Guides](#) (you'll need to scroll down to find the link to download the entire document – or you can read it online).
- [UAC's Steps to Uni Guide](#) includes [Subject Compass](#), their subject selection tool, as well as their [Steps to Study For Year 10 Students Guide](#) and [top tips for choosing HSC courses](#).
- [VTAC's Year 10](#) Guide and prerequisites for 2024 study are available.
- SATAC's page for [Students in Years 10 and 11](#).
- [TISC's University Admission Guide for 2024](#).
- UTAS have a page for [Years 7 to 10](#) to access relevant information.

### Universities

Lots of universities provide information about Year 10 subject selection and pathways to uni; here's a few that we've found.

- The University of Queensland's [Year 10 Subject Selection Guide](#)
- The University of Sydney's [Year 10 Guide](#)
- Deakin's [Guide to University for Year 10 Students](#)
- ACU's [Year 10 Study Guide](#)
- Charles Sturt Uni's [Year 10 Guide](#)

Bear in mind most of this information may be geared towards getting you into a course at that particular uni, so it's probably worth checking prerequisites and advice available for specific courses and institutions you have in mind.

Calling the Future Students office at individual unis with any questions could also be a great way to help you decide on subjects to take.

## Education Departments

All education departments provide resources for Year 10 subject selection, but you're best speaking directly with your school for more detailed information.

It could be worth taking a peek at the information provided by other states too, they sometimes have resources you might find more appealing or informative.

- [QCAA's planning your pathway](#) page has loads of information about the Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan, including their [myQCE guide](#).
- [SACE Personal Learning Plan \(PLP\)](#) and [Subject Planner](#).
- NESA's [advice for students choosing HSC courses](#) and the [Student Pathways Plan](#).
- ACT's [Pathways Planning R Unit](#) is for Year 11 & 12 students but might provide some information.
- Speak with an [NTCET co-ordinator](#) for subject selection information.
- Get a copy of WA's SCSA [Year 10 Information Handbook](#).
- [Tasmania's Department of Education](#) have produced a [Year 11 & 12 Student Guide](#) which might answer some of your questions.

## Job Spotlight

### [How to become a Solar Technician](#)

Renewable energy is a booming industry and set to continue growing.

As a Solar Technician, you'd be assembling, installing and maintaining solar panels for residential or commercial projects, in accordance with predetermined plans, building codes, and safety restrictions.

If you'd like a hands-on job that also comes with some responsibility, you enjoy technical puzzles and working outside (also at heights or in small, confined spaces), then this could be a career for you.

#### About you:

- Strong technical skills
- Electrical knowledge and certification
- Great customer service
- Attention to detail
- Good work ethic & ability to work alone

#### The job:

- Assess the job site, identify and resolve any potential hazards
- Create or interpret installation plans
- Determine parts and steps required for installation
- Install, inspect, maintain and repair solar panel systems (including all of their parts)
- Carry out electrical works required
- Carry out electrical testing necessary to install the system, ensure it works
- Fault finding, preparing quotes and fixing systems
- Weatherproofing of solar installation



### **Lifestyle Impact: Moderate**

- Part Time opportunities: Very low – only around 10% of Solar Technicians work part-time (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- Average hours for full-time workers: 45 hours a week, which is just above average (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- Solar Technicians' salary (average) \$105,000\* per year (source: seek.com.au). \*Salaries greatly vary depending on your skills and experience.
- Future career growth: Strong (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- You will be doing a lot of work outdoors, in all kinds of weather.
- This job has high physical demands, so being fit and strong is a huge advantage.

### **Solar Technicians are most in demand in these locations:**

There is no current estimate of people working as Solar Technicians in Australia. Demand for Solar Technicians is highest in Western Australia and Queensland. Most Solar Technicians work in the Construction industry.

### **How to become a Solar Technician in Australia**

To become a Solar Technician, you will first need to train as an Electrician, then obtain further accreditation.

Step 1 – Complete Year 12 with a focus on English and Maths.

Step 2 – Find an employer willing to take you on as an electrical apprentice, and complete a [Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician](#).

Step 3 – Apply for an Electrical License in your state or territory, as well as completing a [Working Safely at Heights](#) qualification.

Step 4 – Complete [additional relevant qualifications](#) and apply for accreditation with the [Clean Energy Council](#).

Step 5 – Start working as a fully qualified Solar Technician.

Find out more here –

<https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/>

### **Similar Careers to Solar Technician**

Electrician

Conservationist

Renewable Energy Engineer

Agronomist

Builder

Plumber

Electrical Engineer

Find out more about alternative [careers](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What options are there for career progression?

The Clean Energy Council offers lots of [different types of accreditation](#) – you might even like to look at moving into other renewable energy sources, such as wind, hydro and battery.

### Do I need to go to university to become a Solar Technician?

No, you do not need to go to university to become a Solar Technician. However, you will need to complete VET training, as well as other accredited qualifications.

### Where do Solar Technicians work?

Solar Technicians can work in a huge variety of environments. You might work for a private company or a government body, installing different systems such as for homes and businesses, to large-scale solar farms.

### What are 3 things I can do right now to help me become a Solar Technician?

If you're in high school and you'd like to find out if a career as a Solar Technician is right for you, here's a few things you could do right now:

1. Start getting hands-on with a variety of different technologies, and learn about how solar energy works. See if you can work on some small (and safe) electrical projects at home.
2. See if you can find work experience in construction or environment. This will help you see if you might enjoy the work, and can help you start building important contacts for the future.
3. Talk to a Solar Technician to see what a day in their life is like. If you don't know anyone, see if you can watch videos or documentaries about a career in renewable energy.

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