

# How to get some action at school

## Getting a little taste of the action

When *Smart Start* writes, 'VET' we're not talking about people who heal animals. We're referring to Vocational Education and Training. And when we write 'vocation' we're not talking about holidays.

'Vocational' means the education and training is related specifically to a job or career (or a 'vocation'). It either trains people for a particular job, or improves their skills in a job.

These vocations, traditionally, are in practical,

TVET stands from TAFE-delivered vocational education and training. It's the same as VET in Schools. Whatever it's called, it's great.

hands-on trades. And also new trades. In fact, the list is enormous, and includes:

- agriculture and forestry
- art, design and printing
- automotive
- beauty
- business and administration
- community services and health
- construction – domestic and industrial
- cultural and recreational services
- electrical
- engineering
- finance services
- fishing and seafood
- food
- furnishing
- government and defence
- hairdressing
- hospitality
- information technology
- jewellery
- light manufacturing
- local government
- manufacturing – materials, process, light metals
- metals
- personal services
- plumbing, gas-fitting and water
- printing
- property services
- public services
- retail and wholesale trade
- sport and recreation
- telecommunications
- tourism
- transport, distribution and storage.

### These guys are particularly involved with VET in schools

- Housing industry: [www.bigplans.com.au](http://www.bigplans.com.au) ; 1300 650 620
- Printing industry: [www.printingcareers.com.au](http://www.printingcareers.com.au) ; 1800 227 425
- Retail: [www.retail.org.au](http://www.retail.org.au) ; 1300 368 041
- Master Builders: [www.masterbuilders.com.au](http://www.masterbuilders.com.au) (also see Housing above) ; 02 6202 8888
- Restaurant and catering: [www.restaurantcater.asn.au](http://www.restaurantcater.asn.au) ; 1300 722 878
- Australian Hotels: [www.aha.org.au](http://www.aha.org.au) ; 02 6273 4007
- National Electrical and Communications: [www.neca.asn.au](http://www.neca.asn.au) ; 02 9439 8523

But remember that your education should be designed for you. That means, if there is an industry area or career you are really keen on, just talk to a teacher or careers advisor and you never know what can be organised for you! Make it happen.

### But why at school?

Getting some VET action while you are still at school can only be a good thing. It doesn't really matter what plans you have.

Let's say you really want to be a doctor and are planning to go to uni, you should still check out VET. Even if your plans don't change, you are probably going to have to work while you study. Plus, VET qualifications look great on your CV, and you might just pick up relevant skills: time-management, communication, computer skills etc.

Seriously, whatever they are called –TVET, VET in schools – you can't lose.

### What happens?

You might study your VET course at school or at a TAFE or another training provider. Usually, your teacher will be different from the normal teachers at your school. They'll also probably be different from the abnormal teachers at your school. LOL.

Programs range from just a couple of hours a week that also count as part of your Year 12 or other marks, right up to school-based apprenticeships.

Where you study depends on your school and the course you choose. For instance, if you want to do fisheries studies then you won't be doing all of that in your school's art classrooms. At some stage you'll be taken out to the 'real world' to get hands-on. At a local TAFE they might have a 'dry' boat with nets and everything and you'll probably go out on the water too.

You see – it's interesting and exciting! VET courses make real sense.

### VET in schools courses rock

- You can include them on your CV.
- They might count towards your school results, even your university admission score.
- They will contribute to further VET qualifications at TAFE or somewhere else later on.
- The qualifications you get through vocational training at school are nationally recognised.
- You can get a taste of an industry and decide if it's a taste you like; this is handy if you are going to sign up for an apprenticeship or you are thinking of turning down other options.

### Work placement

Many courses will require you to spend some time doing either paid or unpaid work in the industry area related to your studies. For instance, if you're doing equine studies, you might have a work placement at the local stables.

- It gives you the chance to put your skills into practice.
- You will understand the industry better.
- You can make informed decisions about your future.
- Become more employable.
- Be better equipped for business opportunities later in life.

Work placement is usually fun. And the cool catch is, if the work placement isn't fun then it might be a good indication that the industry area isn't the one for you!



