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Kolbe Catholic College – Get the Life you Love!

Parents Talking Career Choices Post Year 12 and Beyond

As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child to make educational choices and career decisions. This role begins when your child is young—as they watch you and others around them take part in working life.

As they grow older, you can play an even greater part in guiding their career development and fostering their optimism, enthusiasm, energy and curiosity. A lot of this relies on good communication.

In this publication, we cover practical and beneficial ways for you to be involved your child's career planning. It outlines current information on the many options your child will have when they leave school. It also identifies useful resources and websites.

What's happened at school

Careers' Planning is an ongoing and often daunting process for all of us. Often more questions are raised than answered. When students are exploring their career options, many do not know what they want to do or how to find information/support to help them. At Kolbe Catholic College, we aim to provide all students with career management skills, so students will be able to utilise these whenever they choose to re-evaluate their career pathway.

Careers' Planning has three stages:

Self-Development: young people understand themselves and the influences on them, build their experiences and achievements and develop their capabilities.

Career Exploration: young people locate, investigate and consider opportunities in learning and future work options.

Career Management: young people make and adjust Career Action Plans and manage their life choices, changes and transitions.

During your child's time at school, they have been developing career management skills and it is best explained by the following table:



What to do now - Start talking

Take advantage of all opportunities to talk to your child about possibilities for their future. Most young people respond well to casual conversations about careers, so be ready when they ask questions about life after school.

Your child probably wants to know how you made decisions about your career. Be ready to tell them about your own work and life experiences and the paths you took to get where you are. They'll gain from knowing about your different jobs, how you found them and whether you liked them. They may also like hearing about experiences of other family members and friends. It's quite possible you know someone who works in a job or industry that interests your child. See if they are willing to tell your child more about their work, and its positives and negatives.

Be ready with questions too. Ask your child if they have thought about different types of further learning. Find out what their friends are planning to do. Ask if they have talked to their school career adviser. Ask if they know other ways to find out more about careers or if they would like to attend career expos. Expos are a great way to find the education and training providers in your area, and meet potential employers.

Think about your child's experiences. Have they helped in with your business? Do they have a creative hobby or a special skill or talent that could lead to an occupation? Have they worked as volunteers, held casual jobs or done work experience? How did they feel about these experiences? Learning what they don't want to do can be as important as learning what they do want to do. So even if they didn't enjoy an experience, it is good to talk about why they didn't enjoy it.

You can take this further by helping them to fully understand their interests, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, skills and what is important to them. Be sure to discuss the importance of gaining employability skills (listed below)

And above all, be encouraging and supportive. Be positive about their ideas and chances of finding a satisfying career path. Let them know you believe they are a capable and resourceful person. This kind of parental influence can help to boost your child's confidence, maturity and desire to succeed.

The great thing is that a career or study choice made today does not limit a person's range of choices in the future. It's no longer common or necessary for people to stay in the same job or even the same field of work for their entire life.

This flexibility is wonderful and can be a source of great personal satisfaction. To get the most from this freedom of choice, everyone should make it a priority to learn and to keep learning. In fact, in order to expand their options many adults return to formal study to upgrade their qualifications.

Research shows that people are more likely to get a job if they have a Year 12 or equivalent education. They are also more likely to be able to take advantage of new career choices if they continue to learn. Today many people are working in jobs that didn't exist when they first entered the workforce.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools lets students combine vocational studies with their other subjects. It's a great way for young people to learn about possible careers and gain useful skills while keeping open their options to pursue future training and/or study. Find out what your child's school is doing.



The options

There are plenty of pathways to a rewarding career. The most common options are:

- complete an Australian Apprenticeship or Traineeship
See www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
& www.grouptraining.com.au for more information
- take up a cadetship
See The Facts section of www.myfuture.edu.au for information on specific cadetships. Click on Awards and Scholarships, and then search for Cadetships.
or www.ics.deewr.gov.au information for Indigenous Australians
- study at TAFE
Across Australia, TAFEs and other training organisations offer a vast range of practical, hands-on and job-related courses. Students can gain nationally recognised qualifications in subjects as varied as aviation, aged care, cardio-technology, children’s services, car mechanics, earth science, hairdressing, plumbing, nursing and many more.
See www.training.gov.au for a comprehensive register of Australian courses, qualifications, competencies, training packages and Registered Training Organisations.
- study at university
About 40 per cent of students go directly from school to university. This is a big step, often meaning a move away from home. To ensure that potential students have access to clear and meaningful information about higher education providers, the Australian Government has developed the *MyUniversity* website.
See www.myuniversity.gov.au or www.goingtouni.gov.au
- take a gap year to earn money, volunteer and/or travel
Some young people opt to take a year off before returning to further study or training. This gap year gives them a chance to travel, learn a language, pursue a sport or hobby, earn money, gain a new skill, volunteer or simply figure out what they want to do in the future.
Many community organisations rely on volunteers and a gap year spent in this way can provide useful new skills and solid work experience.
Visit www.govolunteer.com.au for volunteering opportunities in your area.

The Australian Defence Force also runs a gap year program for those wanting to know more about how the Army and Navy operate.
See www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/gapYear for more information.
- start a business
Enterprising young people sometimes begin a career by starting a business. There are programs and training available that can help them to develop innovative ideas and increase their business skills.
Go to www.business.gov.au and www.enya.com.au for information to help your child start their own business.
- find employment
Some young people choose to head straight to employment after completing school. Finding that first job can be made easier if the job seeker knows more about the labour market, skills needed, various industries, occupations, incomes and job prospects. Remember many jobs are not advertised, so word-of-mouth and local knowledge can play a big part in finding a job.



The law about schooling

Australian law says that all young people must stay in schooling (or an accredited equivalent) until they complete Year 10. After that, they must continue in full-time (at least 25 hours a week) education, training and/or employment until they reach the age of 17.

This requirement stems from the nationally agreed Compact with Young Australians. Read more about the compact at www.deewr.gov.au/compactwithyoungaustralians.

Useful Websites/Resources

Centrelink

The Australian Government, through Centrelink, offers financial support and career assistance to young people who are studying, or in training or an Australian Apprenticeship, or who are looking for work. Financial support for living assistance is available in the forms of Youth Allowance, Austudy, ABSTUDY and Assistance for Isolated Children.

See www.centrelink.gov.au for more information.

- www.deewr.gov.au/bullseye
- www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au
- www.year12whatnext.gov.au
- www.myfuture.edu.au
- www.joboutlook.gov.au

Useful skills

Employers always look for a ‘little bit more’ in their employees. This ‘look’ usually goes beyond the technical skills needed to do the job and encompasses aspects known as ‘employability skills’.

Employers have told us their top eight employability skills.

They are – communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and enterprise, planning and organisation, self-management, learning and technology.

The High Five Principles of Career Development

1. Change is **constant**

Recognise that the world around you is constantly changing. Be open to change and remain alert to new opportunities.

2. Learning is **ongoing**

Strive for continuous personal improvement. Stay motivated by learning new skills and developing new talents.

3. Focus on the **journey**

Don't focus on one destination only. Recognise that your career journey will be throughout your lifetime. Appreciate and value each experience along the way.

4. Know yourself, believe in yourself and follow your **heart**

Pursue your passion to find fulfilment. Discover ways to combine your interests with career opportunities.

5. Access your **allies**

Rely on the support of your family, friends, mentors, colleagues and peers. Career success can be a team effort.

