

Career education: What are the outcomes?

Quality career education for young people in schools has never been more important.

Young people today look towards a complex and shifting future. Technology and social changes are transforming the labour market. Careers are becoming more dynamic, more international and are increasingly demanding higher levels of skill.

The skills required to understand and navigate the world of work have never been so important.

Schools have an integral role to play in helping their students learn about roles and responsibilities, and how these relate to the world of work.

As students move through the year levels at school, age-appropriate career education information and experiences can help to build their:

- awareness of their strengths and interests
- knowledge about a range of careers and courses
- ability to make plans and put them into effect.

Assessment and exam results are not the only indicators of how well a school is catering for its students.

Education has a social purpose too. What we learn in our early education contributes to how we conduct ourselves as adults and the career pathways we choose throughout our working lives.

The outcomes of quality career education in schools today are no longer just about helping students make a single career choice, but equipping them with skills that will enable them to respond flexibly to changing opportunities and circumstances throughout their lifetime.

Schools, students and their stakeholders can benefit from an approach to career education that is based on the latest thinking about the nature of careers, and about how to deliver services in a way that more effectively meets school and student needs.

The outcomes of quality career education for schools may mean that:

- students are more motivated because they will have a clearer goal in mind in terms of their subject choices, further education and training and career path
- the school community, especially parents, are better informed and more involved in student career development, and are influencing students' career development in positive ways
- career development practitioners support more students, and support them better, by having a clear continuum of services on offer - providing less costly and less intensive services to those students who might just need information or referral, supporting parents, teaching staff and industry partners to play a greater role in the school career education plan, and targeting their specialist skills for those students that need more intensive guidance
- school leaders have confidence that their career education plan offers quality outcomes for students.

