

**making
our future
work**



where to now?

LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

what now?



So you've finished school, or soon will be, and now the rest of your life is starting. Some of your friends know what they want to do – you might too. That's good, but what if you haven't made up your mind, or you are a bit confused?

Well, let's have a look at how you might go about choosing a job to suit you.

think about what you are good at



You are probably going to spend a long time working, so it will be easier if you start off on the right foot. This means knowing what might suit you.

Sometimes we just let things happen and don't stop to think what we really like or are good at.

It can be hard to think about yourself, so it might help to talk it over with someone in the community you like and trust. They could be your parents, elders, teacher or any community member.

what should I be asking?



Think about what you like and what you do well – the sort of things you have enjoyed doing at school, around the house, in part-time or casual work and in your hobbies.

If something interests you, write it down and think about it. Have a chat about your talents and likes with other people.

If you think a job would suit you where some special skills are needed, e.g: carpenter, musician, or journalist, try to talk to someone who does that sort of work. That way you'll find out what it's really like, and you'll be able to compare your skills with someone who's already in the job.

Remember there is more to a job than the work itself. Think about the conditions you would like to work under, the hours, the job security, the challenge and where the job may take you.

These needs are different for everyone. Think about your needs and write them down.

find out what jobs there are and what the work is really like

Because there are good and bad things about most jobs, you need to find out as much as you can about the jobs that interest you and the work you do in them.

If you are having trouble finding information you could start by looking at a book called the *Job Guide*. This gives an outline of the duties, education and training needs for hundreds of jobs.

You can look at the *Job Guide* and other information at Centrelink offices and your careers teacher should have a copy.

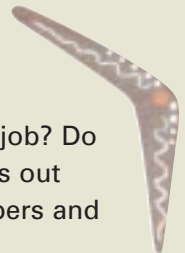
Here are some hints that might help:

- **read anything that might help you**
- **go to career nights and career displays**
- **talk to people in jobs that you might like to do**
- **try to get paid or unpaid work in the job you like – this will give you some experience**



remember to check:

Check on the jobs you like. Are vacancies available for that job? Do you have the right education for the job? Check these things out now. Check which jobs are being advertised in the newspapers and in Centrelink offices on the touchscreens.



do you and the job match?

So you have thought about what you are good at and you have looked at jobs that interest you. The next step is to compare your interests and skills with the jobs.

If you have written these things down all the better. This way you can tick against questions like these:

- **Will I have to do more study and do I want to?**
- **Do the duties of the job include things I am good at or might be good at, and want to do?**
- **Are the working conditions suitable for me? Think about hours of work, the amount of travel, job security, noise, heat, cold, standing, social activities, etc.**
- **Where will the job lead?**
- **Do I really want this job?**



Be honest when you are answering these questions – you are doing this to help yourself, no-one else.

By giving yourself a number of jobs to think about you will have more chance of finding something that will be right for you. Try not to limit yourself to one job or you might miss out altogether.



COVER ART by Canberra-based Aboriginal artist, John (Johnno) Johnson. This picture depicts the time of life when the time comes to make decision about where to go. There are people in your community to help you.