

EPPTV Episode 4 Transcript

Jazmine (Host)

Hey guys, and welcome back to another episode of EPPP TV. I'm Jazmine, and today we're in Hoxton Park High School. In the last episode, we learned all about SBATs, and new growth areas. And today we'll be taking an even deeper dive into these topics. Today we'll be chatting to four different, really interesting people. We've got Zac, who'll be chatting to Nathan about his SBAT. There's Kathy, who's our careers advisor, and Latisha, who's working for a major company, and she finished her SBAT, and we'll be learning all about what she's been up to. Let's get into it.

Student (Guest)

How do I fit in doing a school based apprenticeship, or traineeship in my HSC?

Jazmine (Host)

That's a great question. Let's hear what Zac and Nathan have to say.

Zac (Host)

Hi, my name's Zac. I'm the Transitions Advisor for Hoxton Park High School. My role is basically working with students in well, years 9, 10, 11, and 12 in their school-to-work transition. This is Nathan. I've been working with Nathan. He's taken on a school-based apprenticeship at Reece Plumbing Supplies, and yeah, he's really enjoying it.

So Nathan, do you wanna explain what you do in the school-based apprenticeship? How your week works?

Nathan (Guest)

Monday, school and Tuesday, work where I just deal with customers, pack stock away, receive stuff, and just like, general cleaning around the area.

Zac (Guest)

And you work on Saturdays as well, is that right?

Nathan (Guest)

Yeah.

Zac (Guest)

How does that work?

Nathan (Guest)

They give me half-day, so I work eight to 12, where it's just same stuff as I do on a Tuesday.

Zac (Guest)

So how do you juggle the school work you have to catch up on, and working as an SBAT?

Nathan (Guest)

For my school, year 11s have Tuesdays off, so I don't really need to catch up on much.

Zac (Guest)

That's really lucky, because a lot of students at other schools actually have to catch up on all of their classwork, so they might have five periods where they have to do at home, while they also do their work, so I guess you're lucky in that respect. So what do your mates think about you doing the SBAT?

Nathan (Guest)

They think it's all right, but I already knew what I wanted to do, and they're not quite sure about what they wanted to do.

Zac (Guest)

So do you reckon it was easier for you 'cause you knew you wanted to get into plumbing?

Nathan (Guest)

Yeah, I would say it's easier for me.

Zac (Guest)

And because you're not exactly in plumbing, you're in warehousing and logistics, do you think the SBAT's gonna benefit you in going into plumbing, or you're happy where you are?

Nathan (Guest)

I'm happy where I am but I'm sure it's gonna benefit me 'cause obviously when I get into the plumbing trade, I'll obviously know a lot more about the trade than what usually first time, first year plumbers.

Zac (Guest)

And why's that?

Nathan (Guest)

Because I usually work around the tools that plumbers use, and all the equipment that they have, I usually provide for them.

Zac (Guest)

So how do your family feel? How do your parents feel about you starting up the SBAT?

Nathan (Guest)

My parents feel good because now I found what I was doing 'cause before I wasn't doing that well in school, but now I found my ground and what I wanna do in my life.

Zac (Guest)

With the SBAT, where do you think it's going to lead you? Where do you think you'll end up?

Nathan (Guest)

It's confirmed my passion for plumbing so after that I might try to get in contact with any plumbers that are interested.

Zac (Guest)

So finally Nathan, what do you think is the most important thing you can take away from the SBAT?

Nathan (Guest)

Improve my confidence, my team skills and my communication skills. I can take that into my next career.

Zac (Guest)

Awesome, thanks for chatting Nathan.

Jazmine (Host)

Hey Zac, thanks so much for joining us today. That was an awesome chat that you just had with Nathan, learnt a lot. I just have a question, so what does your day look like as a transitions advisor? What's an average day for you?

Zac (Guest)

So basically my role is to support students transition to work. Some of the things I do is linked with TAFE and other programs to expose students to different industries. I also teach the Moving Forward class which is a year 10 program based on getting job ready. So we teach employability skills and run projects to sort of get them prepared for different workforce in the industries.

Jazmine (Host)

Yeah.

Zac (Guest)

So yeah that's most of it all. So I facilitate work experience and help with job applications, resume writing, those sort of things.

Jazmine (Host)

What are some of the most important skills that you feel like you need to teach some of the students here?

Zac (Guest)

We try and focus on the skills that are transferable between different types of jobs. So communication, working as a part of a team, taking initiative, problem solving. They're all sort of things that we try and link towards our classrooms, sort of projects and learning activities.

Jazmine (Host)

That's really awesome. I heard Nathan mentioning some of that before actually like doing the apprenticeship and things like that. The SBAT is like really helping with his confidence.

Zac (Guest)

Yeah, yeah. He actually, he's improved massively and he You can just tell the way he speaks, he communicates a lot better than he used to and yeah so I think he's really taken to the SBAT and I think, yeah, he's gotten a lot out of it. It's been good.

Jazmine (Host)

So aside from warehousing and logistics, what are some other growth areas that you're seeing locally?

Zac (Guest)

So I guess construction is always sort of coming up as a growth area. And particularly in our area we've been getting the Badgerys Creek Airport, which is bringing up a whole lot of jobs in that kind of industry. Also anything to do with sort of new roads and roads, so that's also linking to construction. Telecommunications is also been a bit of a boost. So electronics, telecommunications, IT and transport and logistics honestly is really a big one So yeah, those are the major growth areas I'd say.

Jazmine (Host)

And finally, do you think that it's important to have a broad range of skills that you can apply to more than just one job to be quite flexible?

Zac (Guest)

Yeah, definitely. I think it's pretty rare that someone stays in one career path for their entire life, so if we go back to those employability skills, teamwork, communication, they can be transferred to, like all pretty much job opportunities. So, yeah, I think it's important to develop those skills, and that way you can apply them to whichever job you would end up in or in a job you would like to become.

Jazmine (Host)

Awesome, thanks for talking to us.

Zac (Guest)

No worries.

Jazmine (Host)

Thanks, Nathan and Zac, that was so interesting. Okay, now let's have a look at our next question.

Student (Guest)

Are there any entry requirements to become a school based apprentice or trainee?

Jazmine (Host)

That was a great question. To learn more I'm gonna go chat to Kathy.

Hey Kathy, thanks for joining me on this episode of EPPP TV. So you are a careers advisor and you're helping kids decide what path they wanna take job wise. I've got so many questions, but first off, I'm wondering, are there any prerequisites that students need when wanting to partake in an SBAT?

Kathy (Guest)

I wouldn't call them prerequisites, probably just some recommendations that I think for them to do an SBAT to be successful in. So firstly is to have the right attitude. I do feel like you gotta have the right attitude in order to complete a part school, part-time work situation. Second thing is that you need to be ready to be in an adult learning environment.

Jazmine (Host)

Yeah.

Kathy (Guest)

So be ready to be independent, take initiative, and make sure you're up-to-date with your schoolwork, but as well as committing to part-time work at the same time. And then lastly, not least, I do think that they need to think about a vocational pathway. They're not ready to leave school, but at least they're thinking about heading in that direction in the future.

Jazmine (Host)

And in what way are you helping these students? What does an average day look like for you?

Kathy (Guest)

It can be pretty crazy sometimes, but I do love my job. Most of the day, it's pretty much helping out the students, or school, or even like the parent community understand what they wanna do in the future, in terms of the students. I do work with a lot of local businesses, in supporting our students in work experience, getting them work, or even getting them to come in and connecting content to what they learn at school into real world situations, which is really exciting. And that's pretty much my typical day, every day is quite different though.

Jazmine (Host)

Cool. And on the topic of local businesses, are you finding that they're keen to work with students given that COVID's happening, and stuff like that? How's that been going?

Kathy (Guest)

You know what, it's actually been pretty positive for us. We're really fortunate that we have a foundation of businesses that, you know, do want to work with our students, and have been really successful in finding employees here.

Jazmine (Host)

That's good.

Kathy (Guest)

And also another thing is that, yeah, COVID was a little bit of a blockage, but it wasn't something permanent. As we call it, it more so postponed. We're having conversations on how to make sure that, we're meeting the, I guess, regulations to ensure that everyone is safe during this time, but no it hasn't really stopped anything.

Jazmine (Host)

That's good to know. Can you share any success stories of students with us?

Kathy (Guest)

Yeah, so not necessarily an SBAT but we've had students who have graduated from our "Job Ready" class. So, we actually had a student during COVID, funny enough, when we all go into lockdown, and he just realized that online learning wasn't for him.

Jazmine (Host)

Mm-hmm

Kathy (Guest)

And he actually put an ad on Facebook about himself saying that I'm an apprentice, I've done my White Card, I've done my first aid, I've done all these extracurricular things at school, and I'm looking for a job, and funny enough his neighbor saw it and then gave him a job trial and now he's working as an air conditioning and refrigerating apprentice.

Jazmine (Host)

Wow!

Kathy (Guest)

And he's killing it out there, which is so great. And I think it's just one of those things that makes you think that you just need a bit of a spark at school and if you give them the platform then anything's possible.

Jazmine (Host)

And what are the growth areas?

Kathy (Guest)

I do feel like anything is a growth area at this point. No student should ever rule out what's an option, because if you look at the Smart and Skilled website that the government's provided they have subsidized a lot of the courses, so if any student that wants to pursue a vocational pathway leaving school, has so many options to try things at TAFE that the opportunities are endless. Like, there's agriculture, agrifoods, to hair and beauty, to being a dental assistant, animal studies, mechanics, construction, it's endless. It's funny when you look at an industry, there's so many little industries within it, and you don't know, unless you go search it up.

Jazmine (Host)

It feels like there's a lot of doom and gloom and people are really stressing about COVID at the moment. What is something that we can be optimistic about?

Kathy (Guest)

I think anyone should be optimistic about their future. We shouldn't be penciled in that we're gonna do one thing for the rest of our lives. I think in my lessons when I teach the students, you would do at least 10 jobs in your lifetime, and you're gonna keep changing, and you're gonna get bored, and you're gonna wanna do something new, and it's okay not to know. So I think to see that people are scared is a good thing. It's a little bit of fear that's gonna be a positive challenge, and anything's possible if you let fate kind of take its path where you also gotta take the initiative. So I think the opportunities are gonna be endless, and you've gotta take them when they come.

Jazmine (Host)

I love that. Thank you so much for the chat.

Kathy (Guest)

That's all right. Thank you.

Jazmine (Host)

Our next guest is Lateisha. She graduated in 2018 and now she's working at Westfield. We'll be talking to her about her experience.

Hey, Lateisha, thanks for joining us. Before we get into it, could you tell me a little bit about your background? Like, what are you into, what school did you go to? Tell me who is Lateisha?

Lateisha (Guest)

So my name is Lateisha Clayton. My cultural background is Aboriginal and Maori. I went to Bonnyrigg High School. I studied my SBAT training from year 10 till year 12, and I did my Cert in Business Services, and I currently work at Westfield still to this day.

Jazmine (Host)

Nice. And so you did an SBAT, tell me a little bit about how you chose what you wanted to study.

Lateisha (Guest)

Lateisha: So SBAT was a traineeship that I was told by my careers advisor, and it was an opportunity to really get into the work environment quite early. And I learned my Cert II in Business Services and customer engagement and everything like that. So it really boosted me into getting a job. And yeah, that was my experience at the beginning.

Jazmine (Host)

And what made you decide to study business?

Lateisha (Guest)

Business services, because I was interested in helping people, and customer service is probably like the best way to start that off for me personally. So I thought what way to better learn than to get into training outside customer service and that's what I loved about it the most.

Jazmine (Host)

What was involved in Cert II Business? What were some of the subjects that you studied?

Lateisha (Guest)

We learned how to work effectively in a work environment, safety and health skills also, and making sure that we learn how to communicate with people in everyday life. So it was pretty great.

Jazmine (Host)

So did doing the SBAT confirm your interests in the field?

Lateisha (Guest)

SBAT helped me because part-time I had to go to work, like work in an office environment. So when I did that over the time that I was in high school, and going there maybe I think it was, I believe it was once a week, it really helped me boost my confidence, and then eventually they offered me a job as soon as I graduated.

Jazmine (Host)

And what was it like juggling school time and work?

Lateisha (Guest)

So at first it was really challenging, I found it was pretty difficult to get into the, 'cause I had to study online, and obviously I wasn't used to that because in school you just study face to face with the teacher and you have that ongoing support. But I had a lot of support from my careers advisor, from my friends that also did my traineeship with me, and also my business services teacher. So yeah, it was good at the end, by the end of it.

Jazmine (Host)

How did the opportunity at Westfield come about? And was it your first job and what was it like? Were you nervous?

Lateisha (Guest)

It was my first job actually. I started at 16, so I was really, really nervous. And at the time I wasn't really comfortable in getting into new environments. So when they put me in that, I was definitely really, really shy but by the end of it, I boosted my confidence and I reckon, I think I'm really good at my job now.

(laughs)

Jazmine (Host)

That's awesome, I love the confidence. And can you tell me a little bit about what's involved in your role there?

Lateisha (Guest)

So I work at the concierge desk, so I'm the service attendance there. And basically I help with customers directions taking phone calls, if anybody needs help in finding lost items, anything like that. I also work in the car park too. So I do face to face contact with customers and then letting them know, if I can help them with parking and stuff like that. So yeah, that's my job.

Jazmine (Host)

Are you doing any further study now?

Lateisha (Guest)

I was studying community services temporarily before obviously the pandemic started. So I'm looking into that because I wanna do something with youth work as I said before, I do enjoy helping people and I think community work is what I wanna do eventually.

Jazmine (Host)

That's awesome, thanks so much for the chat Lateisha.

Lateisha (Guest)

Thank you so much, I really enjoyed it.

Jazmine (Host)

It's been a great day, I really love chatting to all of these people, and now we're gonna see the other side of SBATs and head off to TAFE New South Wales Ultimo Campus, let's go. So we're here at TAFE New South Wales Ultimo Campus, and we'll be talking to the SBAT coordinator, Fiona. Hey Fiona, thanks so much for joining me.

Fiona (Guest)

Hi

Jazmine (Host)

We've heard from a couple of students today, one was doing logistics and another was in retail. And I wanted to get a sense of what other options were available to SBAT students. So can you give us a little overview of some of the options that students might not think are open to them in an SBAT?

Fiona (Guest)

Goodness gracious. So, first thing probably to distinguish is there is a school based apprenticeship program, and a school based traineeship program. Now, some courses appear in both of those types of enrolments and others are just specific to one or the other. So literally from A right through to Z, from automotive to zoology, because TAFE New South Wales is the leading RTO for the state, we offer as many or as broad a selection of the courses as is provided to mainstream apprentices. So it really depends on the campus location and the infrastructure that's in place as to what they can actually study, but goodness, I could just prattle off lots and lots and lots of them.

Jazmine (Host)

It sounds like there's definitely some amazing options to choose from, and I wanted to ask you about campus life. So what can you tell students about what it's like to learn on a TAFE New South Wales Campus?

Fiona (Guest)

Sure, okay so for school based apprentices and trainees, it's an interesting transition for them to move from school, where it's a very nurtured environment to adult education, which is of course what TAFE New South Wales is. Students by and large respond really, really positively to that change. There's a lot of support in place for these students, but I think they really enjoy being in an more adult learning environment where they're certainly treated as adults, the relationship issues for the staff and teachers are probably slightly different to what they have at school, and the opportunities and the exposure that they have to campus life.

Jazmine (Host)

And how does students find it when they have to be independent for the first time?

Fiona (Guest)

We usually find that from the time they join us through the time they leave and they exit the end of year 12, we see a definite change in their self confidence, their level of maturity, self-direction, self-discipline, these are all types of things that they learn quite quickly when they move into TAFE.

Jazmine (Host)

It seems like there's a lot that's changing at the moment, but what are some of the things that won't change in terms of what students need to be job ready?

Fiona (Guest)

Okay, so that's really good question. So, there's a lot of information and a lot of support available to students both from their school, their careers advisors, school sector coordinators, TAFE New South Wales. We run quite a few information sessions, you know, Q&A from parents and students that are interested in embarking on these programs. But what we always say is that you need to have a genuine interest in this particular course area for which you wish to enroll. We find that if you are interested and passionate about anything, you're going to be more inclined to do very well. We certainly say that you need to develop a little bit of self-discipline and being very organized as a student because a school-based apprentice, you are going to have a timetable that involves TAFE, work, and school and we want these learners to achieve positive outcomes in all of those areas. So they need to have a really good plan and they need to be organized so that they achieve the outcomes that they're looking for. Yeah, schools are great. They offer a lot of support to students to make sure that they keep on track of school and obviously we take care of them on the TAFE end.

Jazmine (Host)

Thanks for joining me, Fiona. And now let's check out another person's experience with an SBAT.

Alana (Guest)

Hi, my name's Alana and I work at PPC Moulding Services as a receptionist and admin. Once I graduated high school, I started Certificate II in Hairdressing and then I worked my way up to completing my apprenticeship in hairdressing. I did that for five or so years and then I decided that wasn't for me. And then while I was still hairdressing, I did Certificate III in Business Studies at night so I could find a job to do receptionist and admin work and I haven't left since. Office work is Monday to Friday and nine to five and it just suits me better. I never enjoyed school that much. Being out in the workforce is more, you know, you're communicating with more people, socializing with more people. Finding a job that you love is really good for you. A role in receptionist and admin is good for people that have communication skills, computer skills, likes to help people, communicating with customers and suppliers. The thing that I enjoy most about my job is working in a friendly environment and meeting new people and communicating with all different kinds of people. The advice I would give to a high school student is to go out there and do something that you love, otherwise you won't enjoy being in the workforce.

Jazmine (Host)

Lastly, we'll be chatting to Rob, who's the branch manager of Reece Prestons. He'll be telling us all about what employers are looking for. Hey, Rob. Thanks for joining me. First up, can you tell us when Reece first started getting involved in taking on school-based apprentices and trainees?

Rob (Guest)

Sure. I believe it's been 14 years Reece has been involved in the ASBA Program. And the first Reece ASBA was appointed at our Reece Swan Hill branch in 2006.

Jazmine (Host)

And what made you decide to get involved?

Rob (Guest)

I've been with Reece for a little over eight and a half years now and since I've been working for Reece, I've worked with ASBAs. So it's something I've grown with the company and it's great to see young people develop their skills to get themselves ready for the workplace environment.

Jazmine (Host)

We spoke to a student a little earlier today, have you known Nathan for a long time? And how's he going?

Rob (Guest)

He's a really good kid. Very shy at first but as he's gained confidence working here with the team at Prestons his confidence has grown and he takes on tasks quite efficiently.

Jazmine (Host)

And what do you think could be some of the biggest challenges for a young person who might be considering doing a school based apprenticeship and traineeship but has never had a job before?

Rob (Guest)

Good question. I feel the biggest challenge is the balance between school and the ASBA Program. I think once they get a grasp on their school work as well as their ASBA assignments and things like that, it becomes a good opportunity for them and they grow their skill set again.

Jazmine (Host)

Yeah great. And how does Reece work with students to make the program successful?

Rob (Guest)

Well they're immediately involved in working with the rest of the branch staff at Reece. And we try to give them as much hands on training as possible. Whether it be answering the phones in the branch, serving customers, putting stock away, resetting, stocking and things like that. So we just don't try to tie them into one role and one role only, we try to diversify their working day or days in the branch.

Jazmine (Host)

That's great. And what do you enjoy most about working with the school based apprentices and trainees?

Rob (Guest)

To be honest it's... Over the years, particularly at my old branch at Wetherill Park, we had three ASBAs that finished the program and then moved on to be plumbers, and two of those plumbers and have their own accounts with Reece. And one is a journeyman through another plumber. And also, ASBAs that have started, or did the program through Reece, have moved on to management, as well. Whether they're assistant managers or branch managers, I've worked with a couple of those ASBAs who are branch managers pretty closely over the years, as well. So it's, yeah, it's a very rewarding program.

Jazmine (Host)

Yeah, that does sound really interesting. Thanks for the chat today, Rob. And that brings us to the end of this episode of EPPP TV. Join us next time, when we hit the road in Northern New South Wales.