

Jazmine Huggins:

Hey there, and welcome to EPPP TV. I'm your host, Jazmine Huggins. You might remember a little while ago we spoke to Julie at Campbelltown Performing Arts High School who gave us some great insight and advice on how to prepare for a job interview. This episode, we're going to go a step further with Sharna Dawson who runs the EDGE workshops. She'll answer those tricky questions like, "What do I wear?" And, "How do I make them like me?" We're also going to learn how job placement services work creatively to help match you with the right employer. And finally, we'll meet Nathan and Mike from Prince Street Barbers in Grafton. First, we're going to take you to the Reece multi-site in Campbelltown where three students are working as part of their school-based traineeships in warehousing operations. It doesn't sound very glamorous, but when you hear more, you realise it's actually pretty cool.

Sebastian:

So my name's Sebastian. I go to Campbelltown Performing Arts High School. I'm currently working towards a Certificate II in warehousing operations at Reece Plumbing.

Tariq:

I'm Tariq. I'm currently enrolled at Eagle Vale High School, and I am studying warehousing operations.

Nicholas:

My name's Nicholas. I'm studying a Certificate II in warehousing at Actrol. The warehousing environment itself involves working in a neat environment that's very well put together. It involves me putting stock away, and also putting orders together for other businesses and making sure we have everything for our customers at all times.

Sebastian:

Just the general work of warehousing, receipting, dealing with customers, ordering stock for other people.

Tariq:

Honestly, I cannot find one bad thing about this job.

Brodie Maynard:

We employ on attitude, not necessarily on knowledge. You don't have to know anything about plumbing to come and work for us at Reece.

Brett Jackson:

The attitude's the key. It's about wanting to come in and learn and have a good day.

Steven Bourke:

The trade industry is quite intimidating for someone who is in school. As long as you're confident in yourself, and you just want to learn, we give everyone the tools here to sort of go from there.

Nicholas:

I wanted to work somewhere in electrical or air and refrigeration. I was kind of within that area. And so when I heard about the SBAT program, I went to my career adviser and she helped me through it. And they found me a place here at Actrol.

Tariq:

With my SBAT I would love to go to 2IC. Then once I'm here for a few years, hopefully go on to plumbing, own my own business and go from there.

Sebastian:

We deal with a lot of plumbers every day. I'm constantly talking to them and I hope to one day use those relationships to get into a full-time plumbing apprentice job.

Nicholas:

So, working here, I'm actually getting a really good knowledge of components. So, what I'm working with and what I might be working with in the future.

Brodie Maynard:

I guess everyone knows us for plumbing supplies, but we do everything pipe and fittings.

Brett Jackson:

I think it's the varied opportunity. So, Tariq might be doing a traineeship in here, but there's the opportunity to go to plumbing, Actrol, or different divisions. Their skills can be transferred to a lot of places. They could get into a warehousing role, or logistics.

Brodie Maynard:

We're a customer service business. So the skills they learn here can go to any different career.

Sebastian:

The SBAT program is a fantastic program.

Nicholas:

My friends look at me, they go, "So what do you do?" And I said, "I do an SBAT." And they're like, "What does that entail?" And I said, "Essentially, I'm doing something that I feel like I'm putting effort towards and I'm going to get something out of it. And I'm getting paid and earning an income while doing it." So I'm always trying to tell my friends, "Go down to the careers adviser and tell them that you're interested, they can find something for you." I'm always trying to promote this program to as many people as possible.

Jazmine Huggins:

Sebastian, Nick, and Tariq all seem to really enjoy working together for the Reece group. Thanks to their SBAT they now have their foot in the door with a great employer and lots to look forward to. Another way to put your best foot forward is to make a great first impression. But where do you start? It's one of the hardest parts of transitioning into the workforce. So here's Sharna Dawson, the creator of the EDGE program, one of the EPPP initiatives.

Sharna Dawson:

So my name's Sharna Dawson. I'm the owner of the EDGE workshops. I started these seven years ago because all the students were coming to me all the time and go, "What can I wear?" So I called in some friends that worked in industry and thought let's get kids working hands on, not being talked at all day, learning how to get job-ready. I'd make sure that you research the company that you're going for, have an understanding of what they do. If you know something a little bit about them and the person next to you doesn't, you've already got the edge. The D is for deportment. It's about how you present yourself. A confident person walks in the room. They make eye contact straight away. They have their shoulders back and they're happy. Just be really pleasant, be yourself, because, essentially, they're looking at you as a future employee.

Sharna Dawson:

G is for grooming. So make sure that your presentation is on point. Make sure your hair is off your face. Make sure the clothes that you have are appropriate. Make sure you wear deodorant. No one wants to interview someone or work with someone that stinks. So that goes for guys and girls. Every little bit helps. Learning employability skills is something that you'll learn over time. So having employability skills like communication, make sure you talk to your employer and say, "I'm not available these days." Or make sure they know upfront. Also, be understanding that you're in a workplace where people want to get to know you, so it's all about human interaction. At the end of the day, they're human, they're not going to have a go at you. They just want to have that conversation.

Jazmine Huggins:

Thanks Sharna. That's great advice. Have you had an EDGE workshop at your school yet? Sharna has so much more practical advice on how to get yourself feeling confident and ready for work. Perhaps give one a go. Now we're going to take you to the Northern Rivers to meet Nathan and Mike from Prince Street Barbers in Grafton. Both came into barbering from different perspectives, and now it looks like they've got a great thing going. Did you know the barbering is a completely different skillset to hairdressing? I didn't. Let's check it out.

Nathan Thompson:

So I'm Nathan Thompson. I'm 34 years old, and I'm the owner of Prince Street Barbers. Up here at Prince Street Barbers we like to look after our local gents here in Grafton. We offer a traditional barber service, hot towel shaves and all that. We just invite all the guys to come through and take it easy and chill out and have a bit of a laugh. When I left high school, I entered into the construction industry. I decided to make the transition from carpentry into barbering. I was 28 years old. It was just something that I was always really keen to do straight out of school. There was never any avenue for barbers or barbering at that stage. In 2016, we decided to open up a barbershop and I've just recently taken over in the last 12 months.

Michael Rigg:

I'm Michael Rigg and I'm the manager at Prince Street Barbers. A day in the shop here is mainly flat out, which is great, love the clients we get in here.

Michael Rigg:

A lot of our clients are really funny, so it's good to talk to them. Cutting hair has always been a passion of mine. I used to cut my mates' hair in the bathroom and stuff like that at home, and then had the chance to start in year 11 at TAFE and just took that chance. I actually came and did a weeks trial here. And from that first week I knew what I wanted to do, so I got offered the school-based apprenticeship. Finishing school was always something I wanted to do as well, so it was good that I had that opportunity to do both. So, it took me about three years and three months to become fully qualified.

Nathan Thompson:

It's important to hire apprentices because we need to give them the skills to learn different jobs. If we stop giving out apprenticeships, then the trades will die.

Michael Rigg:

He's probably the best boss I've ever had. Always helpful that you see them so much throughout the week, so you're going to have to be kind of close with everyone you work with.

Nathan Thompson:

Having Mike is great. Yeah, he's a really funny fella. He's always getting a laugh out of everybody. It's been a really good asset to my business. I'd say to students that, "If there is an industry that you want to get involved in, then you should give it a go. So if you do try something out and you feel like it's not for you, there's no shame in giving that away. And then trying something new."

Jazmine Huggins:

That barbershop looks so cool. And both Nathan and Mike seem to really enjoy their trade and meeting different people all day. It's lucky when these opportunities come up naturally, but it's not always so easy. Don't feel like this is something you need to do alone though. As well as your school, there are services in place that can help you find a job like MWLP. Michael is super passionate about helping people find the right work for them. Let's see how he does it.

Kayli Mitchell:

Hi, my name's Kayli Mitchell. I'm the trainee at MWLP and I'm doing the business administration Cert II.

Michael Everett:

My name's Michael Everett, I'm the work placement manager at MWLP. I look after whole process of work placements. That's our core business. We find work placements for HSC students studying vocational subjects. So automotive, business services, construction, hospitality, the list just goes on. There's so many different opportunities, and so many people out there screaming for tradespeople. And there's so many options for young people. We've taken on a few trainees over the years. Quade is doing an SBAT with us. So she's a school-based trainee and she's doing one day a week here with us.

Kayli Mitchell:

It's actually quite nice having her here on the Friday, because we do make a lot of phone calls and stuff to hosts. So it's nice having her to be able to help. I have trained her up with that.

Michael Everett:

The work that we've done with EPPP we've put on a breakfast with them to introduce business into vocational students. We've got another couple of events coming up very soon. We've got the jobs for youth night for young people to come and find out about careers while they're there. And there's another one for parents, which is around information about vocational education and training for parents.

Kayli Mitchell:

If you are interested in a VET pathway, I would recommend doing it. It's really helpful. You get the knowledge from people that are in the business, and then you can build on that. You can go into what you want, whether it is with the VET course that you're doing or continuing on with something else. It's awesome.

Jazmine Huggins:

If you don't know how to match your goals with a job placement, then talk to your careers adviser about what services are available to help you find the right fit. Overall, SBAT pathways are a really great way to get you out of the classroom. Learning practical skills that you can use right into the future. Talk to your parents, your careers advisers, and family friends about what you want to do. You never know the connections that they might have. There's plenty of opportunities out there and it's yours for the taking. That's it for this episode. See you next time on EPPP TV.