

## EPPTV Episode 3 Transcript

### **Jazmine (Host)**

Hey, and welcome to the third episode of EPPP TV. My name's Jazmine Huggins, and the theme for this episode is weighing your options. I remember sitting where you are now and feeling like there was so many study options out there. It was a little overwhelming, to be honest. And there are probably even more options these days. But you know what, the key to making good choices is having the right information. In this episode, we'll meet a bunch of people who know all about the vocational training options that are available to you as part of the EPPP. So let's hear what they have to say.

### **Student (Guest)**

I've heard that you can start TAFE while you're still at school, is this true?

### **Jazmine (Host)**

That's a good question, It turns out you can start TAFE while you're still at school, it's called an SBAT. Earlier, I caught up with two women from the pilot who know all about them.

### **Jazmine (Host)**

Thanks for joining me Olga and Suzanne. For the first episode, we chatted a little bit about SBATs and I think all of us would really love to know what they look like in reality. So do either of you have any stories that you could share about students that have done an SBAT before?

### **Suzanne (Guest)**

Yes, I went out to a signup meeting and that's where a student commences their school-based apprenticeship. And the names were familiar, and I thought, oh, the student that was being signed up was being employed by an ex school-based apprentice as well. So yeah, so it's a fabulous story of paying the ex school-based apprentice paying forward, own their own salon, and now they had the opportunity to employ their own school-based apprenticeship, So

### **Jazmine (Host)**

Oh that's exciting.

### **Suzanne (Guest)**

Yeah.

### **Jazmine (Host)**

And how did these students find juggling school and doing the SBAT?

### **Suzanne (Guest)**

Okay, well, they've got to have good time management skills, and it's gotta be something they're passionate about that they want to do. So for a student, will generally go to school three days a week, work one day a week, and TAFE or another training organization for the other day in general. Students will do a course generally called Industry-Based Learning, and Industry-Based Learning allows them to alleviate their load. So it just, it helps them balance because that's a subject that they're not sitting in a class for. And if you're like doing something, it's not that big a challenge, I feel, yeah.

### **Jazmine (Host)**

It sounds like the schools are really supportive of students that want to take up an SBAT. And so, Olga, can you tell us a little bit about that? How schools support these students?

**Olga (Guest)**

Definitely, so I think it's really important just to highlight that the student actually has a whole team around them. So mum and dads on board, sometimes older siblings, there'll be several teachers that will be supporting the student. And obviously you would have a TAFE teacher and an employer supporting that student all throughout the SBAT. Simple things like getting a student to a train station, making sure they have a packed lunch, or if a student has decided to change their day of work, they've got to let someone know. So it takes a whole team (chuckling)— To really support a student and make sure that they get through. It can be a shock 'cause they're juggling, school, vocational learning and a real life job, and then trying to also remember that they're teenagers and fitting in a social life, it can get pretty hectic, yeah.

**Jazmine (Host)**

You mentioned that a lot of parents do support the kids that are taking up an SBAT, how important do you think that is for parents to be supporting them in this?

**Olga (Guest)**

I think it's really quite important. Although they're transitioning into adulthood, and that's important for, I guess, for teenagers to develop some self-responsibility and independence, but sometimes they do need a mum or dad to make sure that their clothes are ready for work or that they've got, especially for students working on a construction site, that they've got something to eat, (chuckling) often students would turn up and think that there would be a van or a canteen, or just to have money in their pocket and not realizing— That they've got a long day of work ahead of them and they need a water bottle and a packed lunch. So the little things do count.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Absolutely.

**Olga (Guest)**

Yeah.

**Suzanne (Guest)**

And it's more about guidance, so you're not getting mum or dad to do everything for them, but they're supporting them and helping them make sure that they're ready for work that next day and ready to catch up on their schoolwork.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Absolutely, yeah. Well, thanks for the insight. I really appreciate you both joining me.

**Olga (Guest)**

All good

**Suzanne (Guest)**

Thank you.

**Francesca (Guest)**

Hi my name is Francesca and I am a second year apprentice in substations, electrical. I was attracted to this apprenticeship program at Sydney trains as I was looking for a job that wasn't so much in the office. I wanted to be out and about. And I was really interested in gaining a skill. I'm currently in maintenance in substation. My day activities generally start around seven, and we all meet as a team, and go through the tasks that we're gonna do that day, and then we would go out on the trucks to the substations and perform those daily maintenance kind of things. Overhauling a transformer or inspecting breakers or rectifiers, wide variety of things. We

change every six months to a new team. So every six months it's been tough at the beginning, but you gained skills from rotating and meeting people, it's really nice. What attracted me to work at Sydney Trains was that I believed they would be pro women in the workplace and helping them along with trades, and I've definitely found that. And it's really good to see that the managers and the people running the apprenticeship unit are keen to push, taking more women on. And so I think currently we have seven women across the different trades you can do, and I think we've got a few more coming, so it's really exciting.

**Student (Guest)**

What are employers looking for? How can I make my CV stand out?

**Skye (Co Host)**

So today on here with Shadi Faraj, Gina Bahri, and we've got Brodie Maynard, and we're gonna talk about what employers want. So I guess the first question is how can students prepare themselves now for their future of work?

**Gina (Guest)**

I think it's really important for students to think about what career path they wanna choose. And in saying that, it'd be really good for them to go out and get some voluntary employment. They're the first steps into going into the career path that they've chosen.

**Skye (Co Host)**

And for someone applying for a job for the first time, it might be pretty daunting putting together a CV or a resume, what are you looking for on a resume for someone that's never had worked before.

**Brodie (Guest)**

Transferable skills. So to put that into plain context, do you love maths? Are you really good at math? Put that on there.

**Gina (Guest)**

And it is really hard for a student who hasn't had any work experience, but anything that you can put on the CV in terms of your interests, your hobbies would be helpful.

**Shadi (Guest)**

There was some leadership in sport, is very highly transferable in some workplaces, coming into workplace and being able to communicate with a co-worker is gonna be a lot easier because you're used to working with players on the same team.

**Skye (Co Host)**

Is there anything that I can put on the resume to make me stand out from the hundreds of applicants? If I really want that job, how do I make sure my resume is the one that you guys pick up and you're interested in?

**Brodie (Guest)**

Yeah, a cover letter is really important. We're not expecting to find anything amazing on the resume. We understand that you're not gonna have any previous work experience, but a cover letter shows that you are generally interested in the job and that you have applied for that job specifically. You can actually sort of be more specific about why you want the job and what you think how you would contribute to that job.

**Skye (Co Host)**

What would your advice be to any students that are listening today that are just really not sure what they wanna do?

**Gina (Guest)**

Don't pigeonhole yourself and think that this is what I'm gonna be doing forever. People change careers all the time. Just really find something that you love to do and you get up in the morning and you want to go to work, 'cause there's nothing worse than feeling like, Oh, I don't wanna go to work today and you're don't enjoying it. So, really picked something you're gonna enjoy.

**Skye (Co Host)**

Yeah, I think one thing that students are particularly curious about is does social media have an influence on their job interview? Is that something that employers are looking at these days and should they be careful about what they put on social media?

**Brodie (Guest)**

I think they should be careful just in general. As far as job interviews go it's not something that I do personally. But it is something that they have to be aware of. It is, you are on show to the world, so--

**Shadi (Guest)**

Most employers now have something around social media and the do's and don'ts on your accounts once you're employed by them.

**Skye (Co Host)**

So I think the last question I have for the panel is what do you wish someone told you while you were in high school that could have helped you with your career?

**Brodie (Guest)**

I wish 30 year old Brodie could tell a 16 year old Brodie that your priorities will change. In school, you might think that you only need a job that gives you enough money to do something. For example, when I was 16, the only money that I thought I needed was \$50 a week to finance my motorbike. Here we are 10, 15 years later, and I wanna buy a house, I wanna start a family, all those sorts of things. So you definitely need to think ahead.

**Shadi (Guest)**

So you're at school, start talking to people in year 11 and 12 where they might pass on the message of how good you are in an event they've seen you perform that or the communication skills that you had when talking to him. So build good relationships with people--

**Gina (Guest)**

And always remember to be kind to everybody. Be kind to each other, your colleague today might in 10 years be your manager. So just make sure you're kind to everybody.

**Skye (Co Host)**

Okay, I think we've heard from the panel today exactly what employers want, and it's very diverse, but no matter what, just be passionate about what you wanna do and follow that career pathway. Be prepared for your interviews, putting great applications and be really organized with them. But go and see the employers and see exactly what they want before you show up on the day for the job.

**Student (Guest)**

Who can I talk to if I'm stressed about subject selection?

**Jazmine (Host)**

Our next guest was pretty stressed out about choosing her subjects for year 11 and 12, but it all worked out for her in the end. Let's see what led Rose Cox an EPPP ambassador to pursue VET training before heading to uni.

Hi Rose, thanks for joining us today.

**Rose (Guest)**

Thanks for having me.

**Jazmine (Host)**

And I'm just curious, what did you wanna be when you grew up?

**Rose (Guest)**

I mean, there's a lot of things that I wanted to be, I think, an actor or a teacher always goes through a kid's mind. But I think towards the end, I realized that I kinda just wanted to do something where I was engaging with people.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Yeah, and I heard that you found it a little bit stressful choosing electives in school. What did you need to do to kind of alleviate that stress?

**Rose (Guest)**

I mean, for me, it was a time when you're in year 10 to pick year 11 and 12 subjects. It was very like very daunting. And for me, I think having someone to speak to like my careers advisor and other teachers that were from those faculties was really helpful because they had experience, and I talked to other students that were older that had picked those subjects, which helped because when you're making those decisions, it's really, it's important because you're gonna have to stick with that for two years.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Yeah.

**Rose (Guest)**

So I really wanted to know what I was picking before I picked them.

**Jazmine (Host)**

And how did you get into a VET pathway?

**Rose (Guest)**

Originally, I didn't really know too much about it, I knew that I loved cooking, and when I saw that you could do hospitality for school take it through to the end, I was like, this is great. I think it was a seminar that I went to one of those Careers Expo days, and in combination with just reading what you can do, I was like, oh, I wanna learn more, and then spoke to my careers advisor about it.

**Jazmine (Host)**

How did you find it pursuing the VET subjects as well, did you start in school?

**Rose (Guest)**

Yeah, so I started in year 11, so I picked it in year 10 for year 11 and 12. I thought it's great 'cause it's hands-on, it's classroom-based, but also practical learning. And I felt combination of both when you are doing year 11 and 12 is great, it's an outlet for me, I love cooking, it's more an art form. So I was able to express myself, but also learn so many different skills.

**Jazmine (Host)**

And what's been the outcome of that because I understand you're at uni now.

**Rose (Guest)**

Yeah.

**Jazmine (Host)**

So you probably do with a lot of different.

**Rose (Guest)**

Well I've done for me it's kind of like, you can go straight to work, you can go and continue your TAFE and VET subjects, or you can go to uni, you can do it all like me. So I'm kind of, I'm at uni, I'm at Macquarie Uni studying now. Although I am at uni, the skills have been so transferable over to what I learned from the VET classroom to the uni space. I'm doing a little TAFE course at the moment. It's kind of just building skills upon skills for me. I'm studying a Bachelor of Arts at Macquarie, it's really good 'cause I get to kind of pick what I wanna do with that.

**Jazmine (Host)**

And kind of last question.

**Rose (Guest)**

Yeah.

**Jazmine (Host)**

I heard that your sister is in year 10 is that right?

**Rose (Guest)**

Yeah, so we actually like we're in the process now of picking what she is, (chuckling) I'm not but I'm watching over her shoulder, picking the subjects for year 11 and 12. I've been waiting for so long to hear her say it. And she said, "Yes, I'm picking a VET subject," so I'm so excited to see her take a different pathway. I know she wants to go into the medical side of things, sort of paramedicine. But picking a VET subject meaning that she's telling her friends and that conversation is still going that you can do it all. And VET is such an awesome opportunity and an awesome pathway.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Beautiful, and what advice are you giving her?

**Rose (Guest)**

I guess like what I tell everyone, if you do what you love, it really isn't a job, it really isn't work, I mean, obviously (chuckling) it is, but if you do what you want, you'll do better at it, you'll love it and then you can go anywhere. It opens doors of opportunities.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Thanks so much for the chat Rose.

**Rose (Guest)**

Thanks so much for having me.

**Jazmine (Host)**

For our next segment, we're going to be chatting with Joyce Choucair, the Careers Headteacher in the Liverpool Cluster. One of the hallmarks of the EPPP is its emphasis on creating real links between schools, training providers and employers. For the past few months, Joyce has been doing just that in and around Liverpool. Let's find out how it's been going. Thanks for your time today Joyce, let's just jump straight into it. I'm pretty sure that when I was at school, the careers advisor, wasn't out in the community, drumming up opportunities with students. Why is it so important for schools to foster direct links with local employers, and how are students benefiting from the work you're doing in the Liverpool Cluster?

**Joyce (Guest)**

Yeah, no a good question, Jazmine. So it's so important for the community and industry and schools to be connected. I think it's such an important aspect of students to be involved with the world of work. So students who actually can do work experience in those local industries can gain employability skills. They even can also gain the confidence as well. So having that opportunity for students is a really big thing. And we're trying as the EPPP to actually obtain that opportunity to bring all those industries together and collaborate, and hopefully the careers advisors can learn about what the industry's needs are and educate the students accordingly as well.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Are you seeing any signs of emerging industries or new roles that students might want to start thinking about?

**Joyce (Guest)**

Yeah, so before I started the position, I always look at the job labor market. So where the projections and where the job projections are, is where I try to educate the students, and within the cluster of Liverpool especially now. Pre-COVID, there's quite a few industries that are at growth, and with anything that's now becoming automated you know the ICT industry is growing, construction's growing, but this is all pre-COVID. So let's just hope that once COVID's over, there's gonna be a lot of opportunities through the health, through medical, through ICT nursing, construction, so many opportunities.

**Jazmine (Host)**

And I've been hearing a lot about our SBATs.

**Joyce (Guest)**

Yes.

**Jazmine (Host)**

How can students in your schools get involved with the school-based apprenticeship or traineeship?

**Joyce (Guest)**

We'd like them to attend all the TAFE YES programs. We'd like them to attend any work experience opportunities. And if they really find themselves that they're interested in that particular career, it's gonna be an amazing opportunity for employers to see that. And we can establish a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. And at the end of the day, it's a win-win. Students not only finish the HSC, but they're actually have a dual qualification, and that

qualification, they can take it further. They can continue with that or use that as a stepping stone into the next career path that they wanna do.

**Jazmine (Host)**

That sounds awesome, thank you so much--

**Joyce (Guest)**

Yeah.

**Jazmine (Host)**

For joining us Joyce.

**Joyce (Guest)**

You're very welcome thanks for your time.

**Jazmine (Host)**

Thank you.

**Savannah (Guest)**

TAFE has given me the opportunity for a headstart. I'm 18 years old, I'm almost done my apprenticeship.

**Richard (Guest)**

It's so different to like your high school environment, heaps hands-on, and it's just so much better than school, I reckon.

**Winyinnar (Guest)**

It was at SBAT, so I did it through at school, I completed my HSC and gained a cert three all in the same year. I gained a cert three in education sport. Going straight out of high school, I had a job in the profession that I wanted to study further on.

**Christopher (Guest)**

At school, I was studying construction, and I really enjoyed construction, so then I figured why not go down that sort of path. Looks good on the resume, a bit more experience and more learning, so it's good.

**Bruce (Guest)**

When you have a good student who really cares about what they're doing, they care about their work they wanna achieve and seeing them reach that goal, there's no other feeling like that.

**Jazmine (Host)**

So, as you can see, there's a lot of options out there to choose from, but that's a good thing. I hope you have a better sense of what's available to you. But if in doubt, make sure you ask your teacher or careers advisor. Anyway, thanks for watching EPPP TV, and see you next time.