

Jazmine Huggins:

Hello and welcome to another episode of EPPP TV. I'm your host, Jazmine Huggins, and last episode, we learned all about how a competitive surfer managed to combine her passion for surfing with an exciting school-based traineeship. We also discovered how one student utilized the support of Connect Northern Rivers to successfully earn his apprenticeship placement and turn it into a full time gig. You know, there's lots of great additional services like Connect Northern Rivers working to support your EPPP journey and some great online tools as well.

Today, Michelle from My Future will show you how the My Career portal can help you work out what options are right for you. We'll also hear the inspiring story of a former apprentice who completed two apprenticeships to gain a very specialized skillset. And finally, we'll hear from a student and her SBAT mentor and schools careers advisor, who helped her navigate changing her pathway midway through her traineeship. Here's James to tell you how an apprenticeship in toolmaking set him up for a career in the surgical ward.

James Krishna:

Hi, I'm James Krishna. I went to Liverpool Boys High School. I'm a fitter machinist. I've done a certificate three in toolmaking, certificate three in fitter machinist, and a certificate four in CNC programming. So when I finished high school, I didn't really know what to do. I decided to go out on my own. I was pretty handy. So I had started my own rack making company, and I ended up getting an offer from Mackies to come do some racks for them. After I finished the racks with them, Mackie's offered me my apprenticeship. So I decided to take the apprenticeship, and I was working with Mackie's for two years. From then, I moved on to a medical field. So I decided to make orthopedics after my initial two years at Mackies.

So at Mackies I was a toolmaker, so I made die sets and pans, so that was the whole bread formation. So we went from a sheet of metal all the way to a bread tin. When you start as a CNC machinist, you don't need any computer skills. You do learn them on the job. TAFE will also help. They have computer programs, they have teachers who can teach you that. So you won't be lost at work. With three trade qualifications that I have I am able to work in pretty much any manufacturing job. I can go from orthopedics to bread tins to security doors. I can move around pretty much freely. As long as you have the basic knowledge, you can tailor that to the industry you're in. And if you have any skills, you can hone that in to get a better industry. Currently, I'm working as a security door installer. I make all of the security doors for New South Wales. I am studying bachelor Health and Sports Science.

The reason I'm doing this alongside working in the industry is because when I was working orthopedics, I found something I really enjoyed, and I want to pursue that. So by further specializing, I'll be able to get into the R&D industry, so that's research and development. So I can create cutting edge surgical implants that will go into the theater with the surgical orthopedic surgeons. Out of the three places that I've done my trade, orthopedics was the one I have enjoyed the most. If you have any skills that you are interested in, if you want to learn or anything, my advice to you guys would be go see your careers advisor. There'll be able to point you in the right direction. They have paperwork. They have so much information to give you. That's what they're there for. The worst thing that's going to happen is you'll learn something and you can use that later on in life.

Jazmine Huggins:

We often think of mechanically minded people as being engineers, but James' story shows us that there's so many more possibilities out there. It just goes to show, follow your passions and a really

rewarding career could be waiting for you. But it's not that easy, is it? Sometimes it's hard to understand how our passions can lead to a potential vocation. And that's why myfuture set up the My Career profile and online tools to help you work out all of the opportunities available to you based on your own unique interests. Here's Michelle from myfuture to tell you how it works. Hi Michelle, thanks so much for joining us today. So tell us a little bit about yourself and what's involved in your role.

Michelle Maes:

Well, I'm the careers manager at myfuture and myfuture is part of Education Services Australia.

Jazmine Huggins:

And what exactly is myfuture and who is it for?

Michelle Maes:

myfuture is a national career service. It's funded by state and territory governments, it's designed for secondary school students and also important people in student's lives who may influence their career decisions.

Jazmine Huggins:

What kinds of tools does myfuture provide students with their career pathways?

Michelle Maes:

So myfuture showcases more than 350 occupations and gives young people an opportunity to explore careers. It provides information about university courses, TAFE courses, other types of training, vocational education and training, and helps them to understand how their personal interests and strengths relate to different careers. My Career profile is a really good place to start when you come into My Future. So as you can see here, the quizzes cover interests, skills, education and training, your study, so looking at how far you're willing to study. There's also some activities around work conditions so they ask you to select what types of environments you want to work in. Whether you want to work indoors, outdoors, you might not want to work in noisy environments or dusty environments and so on. And the values activity here is a really useful one for you to help you understand and explore the most important things to you in your life and career.

Once you've done these activities, you've got your activities here, you can go into your results, your suggested occupations, those jobs then link out to if I click on there and it describes that job. So these are the occupational pages in myfuture. So here you'll find information on the learning areas that have been suggested based on your responses to the study activity. In my career profile, the levels give you an idea of how much training or education you'll need to have to enter these occupations. So beginning with those where you probably learn on the job in level one, up through vocational education and training opportunities and level four.

Jazmine Huggins:

That's incredible that there's so many options like that. And I'm just wondering for any students listening, what advice would you give to them if they're not sure about what they want to do for a career?

Michelle Maes:

If you're not sure what you want to do, I guess what I would describe as a process is learning about yourself. The more you know about yourself, the easier it is for you to understand the jobs that might be suitable for you.

Jazmine Huggins:

Wow, thanks, Michelle. That sounds really interesting. It sounds like a great resource.

Michelle Maes:

Thank you so much for the opportunity. It's been great. Thanks, Jasmine.

Jazmine Huggins:

EPPP has a whole network of people working together to support you on your journey. Cynthia drew on the support when she realized her traineeship would have to be put on hold. Let's see how her careers advisor, Susanna, and SBAT mentor, Fiona, worked together to keep Cynthia on track.

Susanna Tieu:

Hi, I'm Ms Tieu, I'm one of the careers advisors here at Bonnyrigg High School.

Fiona McKinnon:

My name is Fiona, I'm one of the SBAT mentors in Southwest Sydney and Bonnyrigg is one of eight high schools that I'm working with.

Susanna Tieu:

My role within the EPPP is to obviously help students find their passion and find a career that they would pursue and love. And essentially I meet with Fiona once a fortnight and give her a list of students that need help finding an employer so that we can get them started in pursuing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

Fiona McKinnon:

So my role then is to come in and meet with those students that Susie's already identified. And then we meet one-on-one and have conversations about how we can reach their goals.

Cynthia:

I'm Cynthia from Bonnyrigg High School and I'm looking into doing certificate three in Early Childhood Education and Care. My top priority has always been to help those who need it.

Fiona McKinnon:

So I first met Cynthia in term three of last year when I started in my role as SBAT mentor, I came out to the school and spoke to students about the SBAT program and those that had expressed interest in an SBAT and Cynthia is one of those students. So then I moved into meeting with her one-on-one every fortnight and we were looking at the kids pursuing their goals and taking a proactive approach to looking into an SBAT.

Cynthia:

So when I first started the school based traineeship, I was looking at childcare and I came back to school with a whole sheet of childcares, but due to COVID, many of them weren't accepting.

Susanna Tieu:

So this year's a new year. We're looking at going back to childcare only because that's actually where her passion lies. And I know that she's going into wanting to come possibly a primary school teacher as well. So if she is able to land in a SBAT in childcare, then that's a really good kickstart for her career.

We try to encourage them to look at what they're good at and then do some research on businesses around the local area that they're interested in working for, approach them, see if they could do some work experience and we can start the conversation there. If they happen to have them on work experience, then I give them paperwork and liaise with Fiona in regards to connecting with the apprenticeship networks and the student and the employer.

Fiona McKinnon:

For me, when I'm out in community, one of my roles is to promote the SBAT program amongst all stakeholders. The students, your parents, and community and business. So one of my roles is to go out and look for employers willing to look at an SBAT and send them information about it. There's still a lot of people that don't know about the program. So we're trying to engage them and just let more people know about it.

Susanna Tieu:

If you don't know what you want to do, I would suggest go out on work experience. Go out on multiple work experiences until you find something you are good at and you love and that is when you know, you're not going to work a day in your life.

Jazmine Huggins:

Doesn't that just go to show that you don't need to be afraid to change your mind? The sooner you choose what's right for you, the happier you'll be. And that leads us into our final myth-busting segment. Today's stories really bring this point home, but let's hear from our myth buster Sunil to debunk the idea that VET is only useful if you want to do a trade or VET limits you to a single career path. Over to you, Sunil.

Dr Sunil Badami:

A lot of people think that you just do VET to get a trade, but actually VET is a lot more than that. The way education is going is moving to what's known as lifelong learning, which means that you never stop learning. Technical skills are the easiest skills to update, and they're the first skills to kind of become obsolete. So you're always going to have to keep acquiring new skills and getting new qualifications, whether it's to understand new technology or new techniques, or simply remain competitive in a very changing and fast changing jobs environment or market. So the thing about the way that skills are going to be delivered in the future is going to be like microcredentials. Whether it's a certificate or a diploma or a skillset, what it means is that you're constantly going to be creating your own unique selling point or qualification. Almost in the way that you make a Lego model or a Minecraft world. And by doing that, you're going to be able to find new skills, acquire new knowledge, not only to use in a trade, but any career that you may choose.

Jazmine Huggins:

Well, that's it for this episode of EPPP TV and what an exciting one it was. Remember, it's okay not to know what you want to do yet and there's certainly no rush. By just starting the conversation, you might discover an SBAT opportunity that could open the door to many exciting possibilities for your future. So go ahead, chat to your careers advisor or your school's SBAT mentor, and set yourself up on a journey to success.