

Jazmine Huggins:

Hey there, and welcome to another episode of EPPP TV. I'm your host, Jazmine Huggins, and this week, we're exploring opportunities right across the Northern Rivers and South-Western Sydney. Today, we're going to get some great insight into job growth areas across the state. From film to construction, transport and retail, this is a really great time to be choosing an SBAT pathway and tailoring it to your interests. TAFE New South Wales are going to give us a peek into their taster programs in the Northern Rivers, and Jo Vaughan from Western Sydney Airport is going to tell us all about job opportunities coming up from construction to professional services and more. We'll also meet Tom from South Grafton High School. But first, let's meet Deah and Euro, two best mates doing their SBAT together in cookery. Let's find out how they've made it work.

Euro:

Hey, my name is Euro. I'm from Ballina Coast High School, and I'm doing a Certificate III in Hospitality.

Deah:

Hi, my name is Deah, and I'm also from Ballina Coast High School, and I'm doing Cert III in Hospitality.

Euro:

Deah and I have been friends since year 7, from then till now, a long time.

Deah:

We've always enjoyed cooking together at school from year 7 to year 11. We got in contact with our year adviser for apprenticeships, and she led us to Toni, and that's how we got our apprenticeships at Cherry Street Bowling.

Keith Windsor:

My name's Keith Windsor, and I'm currently head chef of Cherry Street Sports Club. Deah and Euro are good boys. They're keen. They enjoy working in the kitchen. They're really working with the kitchen environment pretty well. They're new to it, obviously. They take direction well. They enjoy what they're doing, and they're keen to jump in and work and do exactly what they're told. So it's a great start for them in their career.

Keith Windsor:

Certainly, one of the things I look for, especially with youngsters, is their attitude and how they're going to fit in the kitchen. Teaching skills, learning skills, cooking skills can be taught. That's not a problem. They need to be able to fit and have the right attitude. Excitement about the industry, excitement about food and cooking and about what you're doing.

Deah:

A day in the kitchen here is usually, for us, prepping cucumbers, tomatoes, lemons, or julienning carrots and beetroot. After we've done our prep, sometimes we're allowed to help them in the fire section or grill section, helping them out, making fish nuggets or fish. The hardest thing in working in the kitchen is probably the rush. Like when it gets really busy, you don't have time to really think about it, you just have to do.

Euro:

Just the flash, just think of the flash. That's where you have to be. Pick up the pace, stay calm, it'll be over soon.

Keith Windsor:

Students, apprentices, any chefs need to move around and try lots of different kitchens. Lots of different styles of food. Whether that's small little cafes, big hotels, anything. So, moving around and trying things. Get out there and get some experience. Eventually get overseas and do some overseas work. It's a great grounding, and a great rounded career.

Euro:

I started cooking at home with my mother. I just love her food, tastes amazing. She just motivates me and everything. She taught me how to cook. That's the way it started.

Deah:

As a kid, I watched my mum cook, and I wanted to learn from that. And I decided to go to TAFE, with Euro, to learn about how to cook. So one day we could open up a restaurant.

Euro:

Together.

Deah:

Together. Yeah.

Euro:

My parents are definitely happy about it, especially my dad, he supports everything.

Deah:

My parents were really excited when I told them I'm doing apprenticeship here, and they were happy that I found my career so early.

Keith Windsor:

You've got to have that passion. And if your school offers school-based apprenticeship and traineeship, get in there and do that. That is the way to go. It's going to give you the opportunities to get out into a commercial kitchen. It's going to give you training at school. It's going to give you time to get out there and try real commercial kitchen and see what's like.

Jazmine Huggins:

It looks like Euro and Deah have a lot of fun working together. I'd love to see what fusions they cook up when they have their own restaurant one day. There's lots of great opportunities to explore different careers in the Northern Rivers. In fact, TAFE New South Wales runs the Youth Engagement Strategy Plus Program, or YES+ for short. YES+ gives you the opportunity to try taster courses in several different industries and experience learning in simulated industry environments at TAFE New South Wales. Let's

head to the TAFE, New South Wales Wollongbar campus to have a sneak peek into a fashion and costume design YES+ class in action.

Kristie Hedley:

I'm Kristie Hedley. I'm the Head Teacher of Career Pathways, Aboriginal Languages and Employability Skills at Kingscliff and Wollongbar campuses on the North Coast. So the YES+ program. YES stands for Youth Engagement Strategy. And what we're looking at is targeting kids who aren't sure about their career pathway after high school. And the program is aimed at giving them a taste of TAFE and what VET has to offer. It's also really targeting industry areas where we know there's growth in that particular area. And there's actually going to be jobs at the end of it.

Kaitelyn:

My name is Kaitelyn, and today I'm doing textiles, and learning how to sew a bag. With this program we get a different experience with different courses. So you get a taste of what... some things you wouldn't really think about what you want to do. I've done... Before this one is makeup and beauty. So we did that last week. And then after this, we have child services and health.

Mya:

My name is Mya, and we are sewing a bag today. The idea of having this program is to give us an advance of subjects you might want to choose as long term careers.

Kristie Hedley:

So we've got the personal services stream. There are kids in that group who are doing fashion, beauty and hair, child services, and some health, allied health. And then in the trade stream, we've got plumbing for the first time ever, which is great, construction and auto electric. And in the last stream we've got aviation, art and design, and animal studies.

Kaitelyn:

I didn't think I would be doing textiles, but I'm really enjoying it so far, learning different skills that I don't previously have. So I've picked up a lot of skills. I enjoy doing this a lot more because it's more practical and hands-on from your everyday classroom, where you're just writing notes.

Mya:

I find it easier to do more hands-on, like more practical stuff than doing theory. Because, it just engages my attention more.

Kaitelyn:

So doing this course is like giving a real world idea and perspective.

Kristie Hedley:

So the students that attend the pilot school, they've been selected for the program. All they need to do is stay in touch with their careers adviser and let them know that they're keen and let their parents know and sign up. One of the great benefits of the YES program and the YES+ pilot has been watching the shift in attitudes of kids and parents in particular. So a lot of the time we've found that parents might see TAFE as a tier 2 option, but once they realise the variety of courses they've got, the

qualifications of our staff, the connections to industry, the fact that we have diploma to degree options, you can see, from the beginning to the end, a real shift in attitude. And we get great feedback, and that's demonstrated in those kids coming back and signing up to study with us full time.

Jazmine Huggins:

There are so many industries you can try through the TAFE New South Wales, YES+ Program. Why not grab a friend and try some out? It's pretty cool how growth in one industry can open up so many opportunities across several different industries. Like the new Western Sydney airport, from construction to rail, retail and professional services, the new development is creating a jobs boom. Here's Jo Vaughan to tell us more.

Jo Vaughan:

I'm Jo Vaughan. I'm the Chief People and Culture Officer for Western Sydney Airport. And along with my team responsible for oversight in the direct and indirect workforce, particularly in terms of attracting, upskilling, and growing our workforce both now and into the future. So from establishment, late in August, 2017 we're due to open in late 2026. This is really exciting. So in terms of jobs, we've got different phases, and because of the breadth and scale of what we're doing, there's a large variety. So we think about airport design and construction. And we think about all of the jobs that will bring, whether they be professional or trades jobs, highly specialized jobs. And most importantly, I think are apprenticeships. So we are setting some very ambitious targets around 1 in 10 trades positions working at the airport will be an apprentice. And that will really start to grow and kick off as we commence the build of the terminal and other construction activities in 2022.

Jo Vaughan:

So I think this is a very exciting time to be a student as we're developing this airport here in Western Sydney. So the core skill sets are really broad, and we need a variety of different skills, both in terms of constructing and operating the airport. And then also the types of skills that we'll need to come in around that from other industries and other businesses. You think about just this construction phase. So we need to design, we need core skill sets around that, around innovation, around construction, around technology. And then we looked forward to operations, and we think about air side operations and airfield roles. You think about terminal and landside roles, and security, customer service, asset management. I mean, the list just goes on.

Jo Vaughan:

We've set some actually very ambitious targets around the workforce. So we set us as a target of 30% during construction to live here in the local area in Western Sydney, and then at operations that at least 50% of the workforce would be from Western Sydney. At the moment, we're exceeding 50%. So very exciting times. So Western Sydney is a great place to live, but this airport is going to make it even better.

Jazmine Huggins:

Wow. There are so many opportunities coming. If there's something there that interests you, then chat to your careers advisor and see how you can tailor a pathway to meet your goals. You can also check out the careers page on the Western Sydney Airport website to see what other opportunities are coming up. Nothing is out of the realm of possibility. Now let's head out to the Northern Rivers, and meet Tom from South Grafton High School. He started his SBAT in year 12, doing a Certificate II in Horticulture with Clarence Valley Council. Let's see how he's adapted the program with the later start.

Tom:

My name is Tom, I'm in year 12 at South Grafton High School, I'm doing a Cert II in Horticulture with the Clarence Valley Council. I chose to study horticulture mainly because I live in bush, and I'm interested in trees and I'm interested in the land around us. And it's what I'm passionate in. Yeah, at home, I've got a fairly decent size garden area and working in that since I was fairly little. Started my traineeship in year 12, because I'm really passionate about this sort of work and much more of a hands-on learner. So I work two days a week down at the Council, and I do three days a week at school. If I need the help catching up with my work, there's plenty of teachers around to help me out. In the horticulture industry you need to be able to work with teams well and have good team working skills.

Tom:

And it's not too hard. You need to be able to learn. You need to be able to be confident with what you want to do. It's a good job if you like being outdoors and you're not really an indoor sort of person. And since I've been working with the Clarence Valley Council I've learned how to identify plenty of different types of weeds and different methods of getting rid of them. I'm more interested in sort of native trees and studying different types of native trees and learning how to plant them and where they need to go. And all sorts of stuff, like how to collect all the seeds. Doing a traineeship like this really improves your opportunities getting full-time employment after school.

Jazmine Huggins:

Horticulture looks fun and how great to be able to work outdoors all day. We're super lucky in Australia to have so many opportunities available to us, an SBAT is a great place to discover these opportunities. And why not have a chat to your careers advisor and see if you can tailor your SBAT to match your interests and skills. That's it for this episode of EPPP TV. We'll see you again soon.