

## Ways to support your child in developing skills to make career decisions

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### Help students recognise the relevance of school to their future life

- Maths and reading are important no matter what you do in life.
- Clear written and spoken communication are basic skills for life.
- School is where you practice the life skills that you will always need. Team work, attitude, reliability, communication, IT skills and planning are highly valued by all employers and can be practiced in the school setting.
- Discuss and monitor student reports. Potential employers sometimes ask to see the last three school reports. Your involvement and support may make a big difference in encouraging better reports.
- Start conversations about possible subject choices early – many find this area confusing so it's good to give yourself a year (or two) to play around with possible choices and the consequences of these choices before you have to make decisions.

### Expect and encourage productive work habits in your children

- **Punctuality:** Being at school on time
- **Organisation:** Being organised with what they need for the day at school
- **Time management:** Finishing work tasks on time
- **Effort:** Knowing they are expected to do their best. This does not mean being the best at everything. It means trying to the best of their ability at all times

### Know what's happening in the local job scene

- Many apprentices get their job by being an excellent work experience student. Make sure your child understands the importance of work experience and uses it to give themselves a good reputation and an insight into a possible career direction.
- Many apprentices are engaged at the start of the calendar year, so starting the search for a suitable apprenticeship needs to take place six months before that.
- Look at the job vacancies and discuss them, so that your family knows what is available in the region. The CDC website at [www.cdc.org.au](http://www.cdc.org.au) lists regional vacancies daily.
- Find out about work experience, the annual career expo, guest speakers and workshops and show some interest in what can be learnt from these.

### Be an example

- Demonstrate positive work attitudes and encourage a strong work ethic.
- Teach them to do jobs well, and expect them to do so (without unrealistic expectations for their age).

*Adapted from Central West Group Apprentices Ltd website [www. http://www.cwga.com.au](http://www.cwga.com.au)*