

5. Year 12 school leavers

Go to work – How can I get a job?

Here are some starting ideas:

* seek help from your personal networks of friends, family and acquaintances
* talk to your school careers adviser
* search advertised job vacancies
* contact employers in industries where you would like to work. Some employers prefer face to face contact, so call them and set up an interview.

Combine work and study

Combining work and study means you are planning to do one, or both, part-time or enter a program which includes learning in the workplace. The combination is likely to increase your current and future success as a student and also as a worker.

Apprenticeships, cadetships, traineeships and scholarships

[Australian Apprenticeships](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au) offer opportunities for you to train, study and earn an income at a variety of qualification levels in most occupations as well as in traditional trades.

[Smart and Skilled](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/) is a NSW Government initiative helping people in NSW get the skills they need to find a job and advance their careers.

[Training Services NSW](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/) in the NSW Department of Industry is responsible for government-funded vocational education and training (VET) in NSW.

[Australian Government](http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/jobs-and-workplace/australian-government-jobs/cadetships-scholarships-work-experience) departments and agencies also offer cadetships, scholarships, and work experience opportunities.

Career information and jobs

The following websites and services are a starting point for everything work-related including making career decisions, finding jobs, writing applications and resumes, preparing for interviews and knowing your rights at work.

[Australian Government Department of Education and Training](http://www.education.gov.au)

[myfuture](http://www.myfuture.edu.au/)

[Department of Human Services](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/students-and-trainees)

[jobactive](http://www.jobactive.gov.au) (Australian Government)

Take a gap year

Many Year 12 school leavers take a gap year. The idea of a gap year is to take a break from study to explore life, the world, paid and volunteer work and your personal goals. In September of the following year you may need to make some decisions, re-apply or confirm a deferred university place or apply for courses at a registered training organisation.

Youth Exchange programs

There are numerous exchange programs available. Organisations such as Rotary run programs for international understanding. Remember to research any youth exchange program carefully to ensure your safety and welfare and the cost is aligned with the benefits.

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