



Preparing our young people for
the world of work after school

CAREER EDUCATION THAT WORKS

The Career Education Partnership (CEP) is a collaboration between the North Central LLEN, Birchip P-12 School, Boort District School, Charlton College, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 College, Pyramid Hill College, St Arnaud Secondary College, Wedderburn College and Wycheproof P-12 College.



North Central LLEN

Creating opportunities for all children and young people to be confident, resilient and to thrive in education, work and life



A rapidly changing world of work

Change has always been a constant in the world of work, however automation, globalisation and flexibility has led to unprecedented levels. Technological advancement has made us part of an increasingly global economy where geography no longer matters as long as workers have a computer and an internet connection.

According to the Foundation for Young Australians, the number of young people in casual full-time employment has more than doubled since 1992 and almost one in five are juggling multiple jobs to work full-time hours.

The combination of these factors means that today's 15-year-old may need to be able to negotiate an average of 17 jobs over five careers in their lifetime.

So how do we prepare young Australians for the future?

By partnering with schools and the community we aim to help young people build a portfolio of hard and soft skills.

'Hard' skills are the technical skills required to undertake a particular role in the work place - for example a construction worker needs to know the fundamentals of building, while 'soft' skills are transferable skills that workers can use in all workplaces, such as problem solving.

Increasingly employers are looking for a set of generic skills on top of those related to a specific field.

The World Economic Forum has identified six 'soft' skills that all workers will need to possess if they are to be successful in the future - **creativity, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, active learning with a growth mindset, judgement and decision making, and interpersonal communication skills.**

While at school young people need to work out what they enjoy and might be good at, and the pathways that could lead them to jobs that suit them. They do not need to know exactly what they want to do, but they do need practical job search skills, work experience, and networks with the world of work.

Supporting young people to navigate and access these is a key support we provide.

Our individual Career Action Plans help young people plan for success

In partnership with schools we work with students to explore different pathways, identify skills and interests, and help them define their own career journey.

We provide students with a Career Development Practitioner to help them develop a pathways plan, select subjects, and encourage them to be involved in activities outside school. This helps them make a positive transition from school to further education, training or employment.

We also aim to keep contact with young people for up to 24 months after they leave school and offer support if required.



What we do

Our Career Development Practitioners work with students to help them make informed decisions about their future education and career opportunities through a four step process to create and implement an individualised career action plan (CAP).

1

In Year 10 we meet students one-on-one and do a "get to know yourself" exercise to start an individualised plan.

This can involve:

- examining career possibilities and required skills;
- subject and VCE/VCAL/VET selection from Year 10;
- job search skills such as resume writing and mock interviews;
- work experience;
- volunteering; and
- coaching.

Career plans are shared with families to encourage further conversations.

"The program was fantastic, as I was very unsure about my options. I kept changing my mind so it was very beneficial."

"It helps students see the wide world around them."

2

We discuss opportunities for young people with school staff and link students to other programs including Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and support services for students at risk of leaving early, or who need extra support.

It might also involve work experience, or anything a young person is interested in that will help them in life and work.

"It was good to talk about a homework schedule for my apprenticeship."

"It helped me think about back up plans."

3

We facilitate and support education and training information sessions and future education pathways.

Partnering with schools we bring universities, training and employment providers into our area to talk to students and provide information.

In addition we link students, schools and families to a range of external resources and programs to meet their needs.

"It was really great for talking with Universities and about courses."

"The program was a fantastic help. It was difficult to work things out. I wouldn't have been bothered filling out the forms if I had to do it on my own."

4

We maintain a Facebook page to support students, families and schools. By keeping in touch with young people and posting relevant information on education and careers throughout and beyond their final years of schooling we can continue to support them as required.



Why it works

... by jointly contributing to this partnership, schools have sustainable access to specialist career support.

This brings in expertise around the labour market, diverse education pathways, and options for young people with a disability or additional needs.

"We value our CEP model. Our young people get much more in the way of pathways support through this model than they would if we had to deliver something independent of the partnership"

(Principal Charlton P-12 College and Trade Training Centre)

... young people appreciate having a trusted person with specialist knowledge from outside their schools and families to talk to about their futures and careers. Having an external champion who builds relationships with young people is critical to our success.

"It was good to have someone different to talk with."

... the Career Development Practitioners are part of the North Central LLEN team, and a Victoria-wide network which allows them to link students and schools to a broad range of capacity building opportunities.

These include support services, personal development opportunities, work experience, Structured Workplace Learning, further education options, and mentoring programs.

"It was very helpful as I had no idea what I wanted to do. It helped a lot."

Who we are

The Career Education Partnership (CEP) is brokered by the North Central LLEN (NCLLEN).

LLEN's are place-based, independent incorporated organisations made up of education and training providers, business, industry, community agencies, and parent and family organisations.

They create strategic partnerships to enable better education and transition pathways for all young people, as well as providing additional assistance to young people at risk of disengagement.

For more information, please visit our website www.ncllen.org.au or contact us on 03 5491 1144.

Career Action Plans (CAP)

allow students to have a one-on-one conversation with a Career Development Practitioner to identify their strengths and interests, explore vocational pathways, university pathways and how to prepare for employment after school.

A better understanding of the opportunities that are available beyond school can motivate and inform students and families. This can provide clarity when it comes time for subject selections and post-school applications for training, higher education, or employment.





We are making a difference...

Since it began in 2002, the Career Education Partnership has been consistently rated as 'high value' by Principals. They report the model is effective and delivers positive outcomes for students.

Students also report the program helps them explore a diverse range of options and pathways. More young people are completing school and transitioning into further education and/or work.

For a rural area with no locally accessible TAFE/university options and a declining population, we have high rates of students going on to further study, training or employment.

Are you a young person?

Jump online and start exploring at these great careers sites:

<https://myfuture.edu.au>

<https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/getvet>

Also, follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by searching for NCLLEN.

This way you will receive all the latest careers and pathways news for young people in the north central region.



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