



MEDIA RELEASE

North Central LLEN

3 July

Pathways to the future of Work – Options to experience different industries

The North Central LLEN (NCLLEN) is working on a range of initiatives to help inform students, parents, businesses, and industry about the changing world of work and how young people can prepare for the future.

This week we are looking at some of the programs available to assist young people in St Arnaud obtain practical experience, by partnering with local industries to enable them to explore different careers and pathways.

The Broader Horizons program allows Year 9 students at St Arnaud Secondary College to explore a diverse range of career opportunities in either Health, Local Government, or Agriculture.

According to Broader Horizon's Facilitator Mary-Ann Sait, students are given exposure to, and experience in, a wide range of career pathways from industry professionals onsite in their workplace within their chosen industry.

"The program runs for a total of four weeks (one day per week) with students visiting workplaces and connecting with employers and staff in their chosen industry for the first three weeks."

"Through these networking opportunities students are able to hear about the many and varied career journeys available within the health, local government and agricultural sectors," she said.

On week four, students are given the opportunity to have tailored tertiary tours, with those in Health and Local Government visiting La Trobe University and Bendigo TAFE, whilst the Agriculture group are given a tour of Longerenong College.

"Students are able to learn about courses available, visit the training facilities, and view campus accommodation," said Mrs Sait

The Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) program provides students with the opportunity to integrate practical on-the-job experience and learnings in industry with nationally recognised VET undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL; VCE Industry and Enterprise; or VCAL units.

Ms Sait says it provides the context for enhanced skill development through the practical application of industry knowledge, and can also enhance student employment opportunities.

"The SWL portal supports both Students and Employers explore placement possibilities, with the North Central LLEN Program Manager providing direct support to schools, students and employers in navigating the system and in preparing, applying, and accessing SWL opportunities," she said.

School Work Experience Programs are a great way for students to get a "feel" for a particular career and whether it is the right one for them.

St Arnaud Secondary College offers students in Years 10 the opportunity to undertake week-long work experience placement as part of their Careers and Pathways program, with many seeking to work in local St Arnaud businesses.

For more information about Broader Horizons, Structured Workplace Learning, and the North Central Careers and Pathways partnership visit www.ncllen.org.au