

Information for parents and carers

What is the Year 9 Career Taster Program?

The *Year 9 Career Taster Program* (CTP) is an exciting and innovative program, designed to inspire Year 9 students to become 'career curious' and extend their thinking through practical activities and meaningful experiences with the world of work. It will help students to make connections between education and post-school opportunities and to make more informed decisions about their subject selections in Years 10, 11 and 12.

The CTP is a Statewide program that can be delivered by all school sectors. It provides schools and industry the flexibility to design career exploration experiences that allow students to learn about different industries, current and emerging occupations and career pathways and the skills required for them.

When will the program be available?

The CTP commenced in Term 1 of 2022 and will run over four years through to 2025.

What does the program involve?

The CTP provides a framework of opportunities from which schools can 'pick and mix' to design a career exploration program to suit their students' interests and learning needs, and integrate it into their Year 9 school program.

There are two components to the CTP framework; exploration and experience, and career development training. Both components can be tailored to ensure students are able to participate meaningfully.

1 Curriculum

The *Course in Early Career Discovery* will lead students through the stages of early career exploration, to help them understand the process of career development and to introduce career planning. The course focuses on three key areas:

- » self-awareness and discovery of career interests;
- » an exploration of pathways to contemporary and emerging skills and careers; and
- » identification and use of career planning tools and activities.

The course can be delivered as a formal accredited vocational education and training (VET) course by WA TAFE colleges. Students who successfully complete the accredited course receive a nationally recognised VET qualification.

Alternatively, teachers may use the curriculum, teaching and learning resources as a framework to guide delivery of career development and exploration activities to students, without having to formally assess the students at the end.

This means that students can still receive the same benefits from the curriculum component of the program independent of how the school is able to deliver it. The only difference is, students who complete the course without formal assessment will not receive a VET qualification.

Exploration and experience

The CTP offers a range of activities to enable students to try, see and do, and build their understanding of a range of industries and career pathway options. The industry experiences are focused on being practical, fun and engaging, and highlight the wide range of potential occupations across many industries.

Employers and industry are encouraged to partner with TAFEs and schools to deliver key events. A Career Taster Portal is available via jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/careertaster to help industry stakeholders promote industry experiences, and for schools to search through the industry experiences available across the State.

How will students be able to participate?

There is no set model for how a CTP should work. Each school can design and tailor a CTP to suit their students' learning needs and interests. A CTP can include one component, or any combination of components from the available taster experiences and curriculum. The focus for schools will be to take their students through a process of self-discovery and broad exploration of a diverse range of industries and occupations.

The Career Taster Portal helps schools to identify industry-based taster events and experiences that are suitable for Year 9 students and that work with their program.

What will students gain from participation in the CTP?

The CTP has been designed to help Year 9 students:

- » gain experiential and engaging exposure to the world of work through trying hands-on activities, seeing occupations in action, participating in virtual experiences, and more;
- » discover different industries and occupations and get information about their education and training pathways;
- » learn about local and regional opportunities and emerging industries; and
- » kick-start career planning and thinking about subject selections for Year 10 and beyond.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the *Year 9 Career Taster Program*, visit the Jobs and Skills WA website at jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/careertaster or talk to your school's VET coordinator or career practitioner to find out what career taster activities they have planned.